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| **Title of Good Practice: (highlighting the key points)**  Empowerment of Syrian persons with disabilities through sports  Type of sport: table tennis. | | |
| **Name of the organization / agency**  **Japan International Cooperation Agency ( JICA)** | | |
| **Country:**  **Jordan** | **Location**:  **Amman** | **Period of the actions**  **11/ 2015 – 3/2018** |
| **Background context in which the good practice takes place**  Since 2011, Jordan has been accepting Syrian refugees due to on-going conflict in Syria. According to UNHCR, there are some 670,000 Syrian refugees are in Jordan as of September 2018. Although there is no clear number of persons with disabilities among Syrian refugees, it is estimated that percentage of persons with disabilities among Syrian refugees are much higher than average in Jordan (11%) and many of them are living in host community  In the context of emergency, persons with disabilities are facing difficulties to access all mainstream services on an equal basis with persons without disabilities. Besides, many of Syrian refugees with disabilities were struggling to accept the current situation especially their disabilities and have tendency to be isolated  Since JICA has long experiences to work in the field of disability, JICA started program to empower Syrian refugees with disabilities as a response for the situation.  In the content of empowerment of Syrian persons with disabilities, Since 2014 JICA has been providing several training programs such as Disability Equality Training which introduce disability from social model perspective, peer counseling and writing proposals to empower them to lead the initiatives of promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities. | | |
| **Why it happened? What are the gaps to be filled?** *The reasons or factors that led to the actions in relation to disability inclusion*  During our work with Syrian refugees with disabilities in Amman while The result was based on our observation and close working with a group of Syrian PWDs  we found the following;   1. Lack of psychological support programs (peer to peer) to eliminate the effects of psychological trauma happened because of the incidence of impairment. 2. Lack of experiences among Syrians who have disabilities related to disability issues. (accessibility, mobility, transferring etc …) 3. Syrian refugees with disabilities are isolated and there are no opportunities of outdoor and social activity. 4. Lack of information about available services. 5. Nobody knew what People with Disabilities wanted.   The reason of choosing sport and in particular (table tennis)   * No opportunities for Syrian persons with disabilities to do sport. * Sport is considering as a comprehensive rehabilitation program (Physical and Social rehabilitation) * Table tennis is the most popular sport among the Jordanian peers. ( create opportunities for Syrian persons with disabilities to interact with Jordanian peers) * Will suit for many persons with disabilities. | | |
| **What happened?** *The actions taken in order to address needs of persons with disabilities and/or in disabling situation (in particular elderly and people with injuries)*  **- Key objectives:**   * Giving opportunities for Syrian persons with disabilities to participate in social activity. (reform social relationship) * Awareness raising toward disability issues;   ⮚ Invite students from high school to practice table tennis with Syrian persons with disabilities.  ⮚ Invite some organization to observe the activity.   * Giving opportunities for Syrian persons with disabilities to identify the barriers of social participation and how to overcome it. (transportation, accessibility and attitude) * Syrian persons with disabilities get chance to learn from Jordanian persons with disabilities and became effective advocates for others. * Giving opportunity for Syrian person with disabilities to practice sport for persons with disabilities. * To learn more about the importance of sport as a rehabilitation program   ⮚ **Success story**  Mr. Muhannad, who has sever disability (level of injury C6)  After five months of participating in sport activity he developed assessment sheet on how table tennis supported him to develop his activities in daily life.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Check points** | **January 2016** | **May 2016**  **(Nature of change)** | **The effect on activity of daily life** | | Serve ability | * Unable to serve * Unable to control the ball | Able to serve | Gain self confidence | | Motor coordination | Weak coordination  (unable to hit the ball at the right time) | Improve the coordination  (being able to hit the ball to the opposite side) | - Improve motor movement   * (skills of writing, dressing, eating and using mobile) | | Range of motion  And balance | Limited | The range of motion and balance improved. (became able to return most of the ball to other side) | Increased the ability of control the posture on the wheelchair |   **- The Approachor process** adopted to achieve the objectives  The sport activity of table tennis started on Nov 2015 and lasted until Mar 2018.  **Phase one:** Identify the participants  After a series of training on social model of disabilities and peer counseling, JICA could develop a potential participants of the activity:  ⮚ The majority were persons with physical disabilities (wheelchair users) and getting the impairment due to the conflict in Syria.  ⮚ The majority were males; it was very difficult to involve Syrian women with disabilities in JICA training  For the following reasons:   * Generally females from Syria are conservative regardless disabilities and they don't go aout alot. * They don’t receive the proper support from their families.   **Phase two**: Training   * Training Syrian persons with disabilities on mobility, transferring and empowerment. * Training course on sport for persons with disabilities (sport and rehabilitation, types of sport) * Train the services provider on transferring and interaction with persons with disabilities.   **Phase three:** logistic preparation   * Collecting three quotations about the venue including checking the accessibility. * Collecting three quotations about the materials of the activities. * Informing the Syrian persons with dsiabilities about the starting date of the activity   Other consideration:  According to the request from Syrian refugees with disabilities JICA allocate one day for females and another day for males.    By the end of the activity the total number of the participants was as the following;  (79 males with disabilities, 23 females with disabilities)  - **Disability, Age, Gender and other vulnerability considerations**  Disability;  The majority of participants were persons with physical impairment due to the conflict. (one person with visual impairment, one person with hearing impairment and one person with learning difficulty)  Age:  ⮚ Males;   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Age | 15 ~ 18 | 18 ~ 30 | 30 ~ 40 | 40 ~ | | Number | 4 | 49 | 21 | 5 |   The majority were from young generation, who transferred to Jordan and stayed in accommodation centers in Amman.  ⮚Females:  Age between 18 ~ 34    Gender:  Male and female | | |
| **What changed?** *The inclusion results achieved due to the actions. Focus on the positive change on the lives of persons with disabilities*   1. Through a questionnaire distributed to the participants by the end of the activity, All the participants went out of home. (it was the first experience for many of them especially for women with disabilities)   ⮚ It was starting point for many of them to be back to the community.   1. All the participants learnt about how to overcome all the challenges that hinder their participation in the community.   ⮚ Although, many Syrian persons with disabilities live in un-accessible houses and they face difficulty on transportation, but they kept joining the activity.   1. The wheelchair users learnt about mobility, transferring which reflect on positive way on their daily life activities. 2. The participants of the activity learnt about the rules of some special sport. 3. 9 organizations observed the activity (5 of them are Syrian groups) which enhancing mainstreaming of disability issues.   ⮚ After the visit of one Syrian group (Syrian Women Association),organized a training course for Syrian persons with disabilities on English, computer and mobile maintenance according to request from Syrian Persons with disabilities.  ⮚ One Syrian group hired one Syrian person with disabilities to work with as a consultant for rehabilitation program.   1. Organize table tennis tournament between Syrian with disabilities and students from regular high schools.   Learnt lesson:  Persons with dsiabilities became aware of importance of raising awareness activities to change the misconception about disabilities. | | |
| **What worked?** *The factors contributed to the success of the actions (e.g. partnerships, human and financial resources, tools and materials used). Tips for replications by other organization/agency*   * JICA encouraged the Syrian persons with disabilities to take all the responsibility to organize the activity and to monitor achieving the planned goals. * At very begging of the activity JICA asked Syrian persons with disabilities to consider how they can sustain the activity and to share the experiences with other Syrians, so we worked together to involve Syrian organizations in the activity and some of them were encouraged to promote some activities;   ⮚ Syrian Women Association Organize local table tennis tournament for Syrian and Jordanian persons with disabilities.  ⮚ Souriat Across Border set two tables for table tennis in their center according to request from their beneficiaries. | | |
| **What did not work?** *The factors hindered the success of the actions*   * The main challenge that was facing the sustainability of the activity is the financial cost. * Involving women in the activity.   **What could have been done?** *Ways in which the actions could have been done differently*   1. Sharing the cost between many organization 2. Involving international sport federation to support the Jordanian sport federation to take responsibility of insuring the sustainability of the activity ( at least support in using the facilities of Paralympic) | | |
| **What did we learn?**   * The practical experiences of PWDs in their community are the key point towards participation. * Since the experiences of Syrian PWDs in terms of disability are new, there is a need to build their skills in different topics to enable them to act as leaders to promote disability issues. | | |
| **Useful resources:** tools or materials used; videos, photos or reports presenting the good practice | | |
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\* Attach 1-2 photos that show the actions taken or changes achieved as a result of the good practice (Copy right for JICA)



