

Children with chronic and disabling conditions

Nahla Ghandour

Sep. 26, 2019

Children in Armed Conflict

Rights, Health & Wellbeing

International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health

INTRODUCTION

This is a story of a 3 to 5 years old children with disability, who are submitted, on daily bases, to these hardships. We see no greenery, no space, no books, high risk for injury, the constant presence of police in their daily lives.

This unstable environment, does not only affects the children's physicality, but impose a long-time of un-stability, affecting the children's imagination. An imagination that speaks of the children's worries and concerns.

Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation

Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation (GKCF) was founded as a Lebanese NGO on July 8th 1974, on the 2nd commemoration of the martyrdom of Ghassan Kanafani, author, journalist, artist and spokesman for the Palestinian people.

Among its several programs, the foundation runs six kindergartens, two habilitation centers for children and youth with disabilities, three libraries & art centers and three clubs for older children in the Palestinian refugee camps and in some deprived Lebanese areas.

The organization has more than one hundred highly committed staff members and volunteers who work to achieve GKCF's goals and objectives.

VISION

The Palestinian society is empowered and effective and enjoys all its rights and is able to participate in decisions that influence its future. The Palestinian children and youth are living with dignity and have both the skills and opportunity to grow and develop in a supportive environment. Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation is a highly successful organization that has all the proper capabilities to design, implement and monitor effective and creative programs and methodologies aimed at empowering Palestinian children. The foundation has independent and committed sources of funding and its human resources are well developed and highly motivated.

MISSION

Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the educational, cultural, economic and social life of the Palestinian children by improving children and youth's capacities to develop and learn in highly educational, interactive and safe environments and by empowering children with disabilities to function and participate more effectively in society. The foundation believes that every child has the right to learn, live with dignity and explore all their potentials for a better future in a better world.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve children's capacity to develop and learn in highly educational, interactive and safe environments
- Empower children and youth with disabilities to function and participate more effectively in society

TARGET GROUP

- Palestinian and Lebanese children in addition to other nationalities (age: 3 – 18 years)
- Palestinian and Lebanese youth (age: 19 – 25 years)
- Children and youth with disabilities and special needs (age: 1 month to 25 years)
- The families of the children and youth

HABILITATION PRESCHOOL

Established in **1986 as a pilot project**, the Habilitation Preschool of Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation is a center that provides **special education and habilitation for children with multiple disabilities and learning difficulties and their families**. Its main objective is to prepare the children and their families for future integration and mainstreaming in society regardless of the sector. The Preschool accepts children from early infancy and starts the training and habilitation process according to theirs, and their families', needs. The preschool is situated in Mar Elias Palestinian Camp in Beirut. It's services covers Beirut and the near suburbs and in some projects extends to all areas in Lebanon (covering all different camps and Palestinian gatherings).

PHILOSOPHY OF INTERVENTION

1. The belief in the Human Being and his/her abilities
2. The belief in Change
3. The belief in Group Work
4. Rights of the Child with Disability
5. The belief in the right of children to stay with their families and not being institutionalized

COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

- Therapeutic Intervention of Children with Multiple Disability on a regular and intensive basis
- Start intervention as early as possible, from infancy
- Integration of children with disability in mainstreamed schools and society sectors
- Low cost services for the families

PROFESSIONAL INTERVENTION

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

- Standardized
- Non- standardized
- Methodology of Intervention: Dynamic Group Activity Centered Approach
- All areas of child's development: physical, cognitive, social, emotional, familial

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Objective: Gross Motor Activities, Balance



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Objective: Fine Motor Development, Autonomy, Functionality



SPEECH THERAPY

Objective: Communication & Language Development, Feeding Skills



Sensory Integration Intervention

Brushing



Deep Pressure



Bilateral Coordination & Sequencing



PSYCHOTHERAPY

Objective: Emotional and Social Wellbeing



DRAMA THERAPY

Objective: Expression, Imagination & Fantasy



DANCE MOVEMENT THERAPY

Objective: Body Rhythm, Body Expression, Musicality



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Objective: Cognitive Concept's Development



Discovering Material



FAMILY INTERVENTION

- - Awareness and education
- - Training
- - Family Counselling
- - Family Psychotherapy
- - Parent Support Group
- - Home Adaptations and assistive devices
- - Guidance and Referrals



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WORKSHOP

Objective: Design & Manufacture Postural Assistive Devices



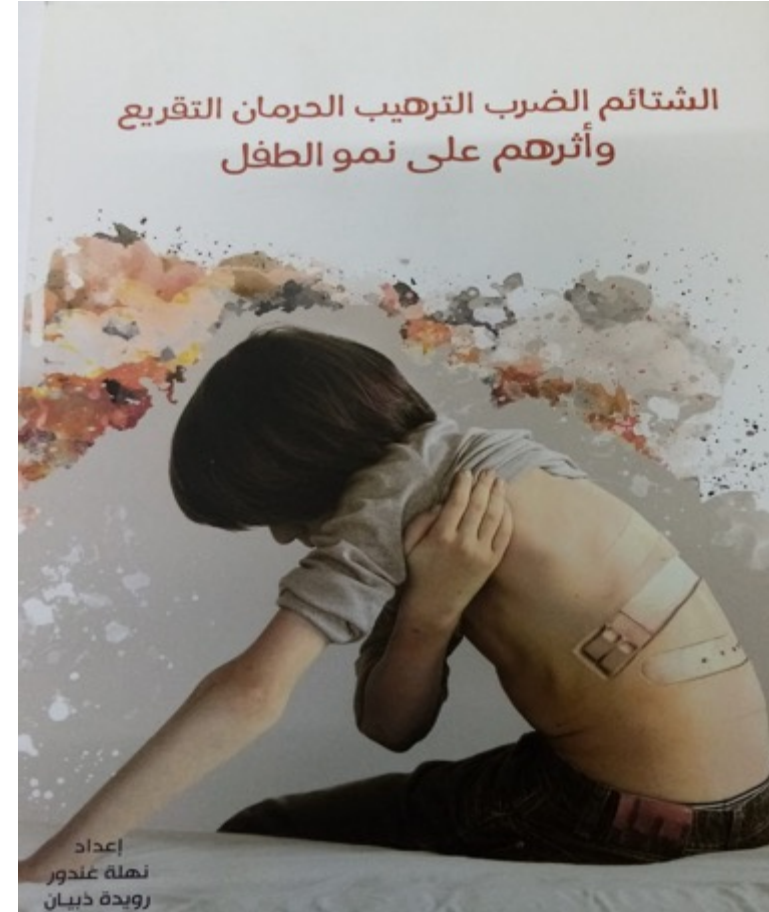
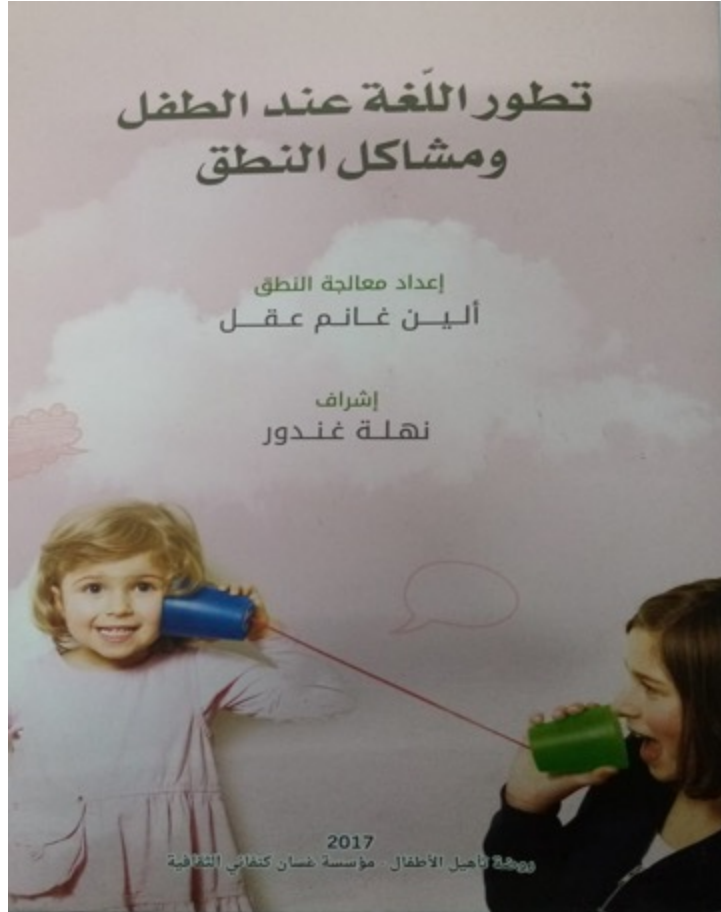






PUBLISHING MATERIAL

Objective: Accessible Scientific Information in Arabic



LOW COST MEDICAL INTERVENTION

- Family Medicine: General Health
- Orthopedic Medicine: Musco-Skeletal Health
- Dental care: with Lebanese Special Kid Dental Clinic
- Magnetic and scan tests: with local NGOs
- Network of Physicians of different specialization for consultancy, diagnosis and medicaments

CHALLENGES

DOMESTIC ABUSE

HIGH DEMAND RATE (SPECIFICALLY AFTER THE SYRIAN CONFLICTS)

Being a Refugee

Child's Age

Child's Disability

Syrian Refugees

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY & CONSTANT FUND RAISING

CHANGING STEREOTYPICAL MENTALITY ABOUT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY (FAMILIES, SOCIETY & FUNDERS)

REFERRALS FOR PARENTS WITH ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

LACK OF TIME FOR DEVELOPMENT