

Atfaluna (Facebook) Updates

1/24/20206

On [#WorldEducationDay](#), we reaffirm that education is right even in times of crisis.

After two years of the ongoing war on Gaza, where schools have been damaged, families displaced, and children have suffered unimaginable trauma, Our Children's Association for the Deaf continues its steadfast commitment to holistic education. Although conflict has disrupted the education process for thousands of children, we are working tirelessly to ensure children, whether with disabilities or not, are left behind.

Our Children's Association has continued to provide holistic education services through emergency and adaptive methods, combining holistic learning spaces, sign language-based learning, psychological and social support, assistive tools and devices, and community learning spaces. For children with disabilities, education is not just about learning, it includes protection, dignity, communication and hope.

Our Children's Association provides holistic education through its field programs in fifteen educational spaces spread in various governorates of the Gaza Strip, benefiting more than 4,000 students and students from disabilities and others.

Despite lockdowns, fuel shortages, and repeated waves of displacement, our teachers, therapists and social support professionals continue to stand with children and their families, believing that education saves lives, restores normalcy, and protects the future.

Today, we salute the resilience of the children of Gaza, the dedication of the working teams, and reaffirm the right of every child, including disabilities and others, to learn, grow and thrive.

On [#International Education Day](#), we reaffirm a simple but powerful truth: education is a right, not a privilege even in crisis times.

After two years of ongoing war in Gaza, when schools have been damaged, families displaced, and children exposed to unimaginable trauma, Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children remains steadfast in its commitment to inclusive education. While conflict has disrupted learning for thousands, we continue to ensure that children with and without disabilities are not left behind.

Atfaluna has sustained inclusive education services through emergency and adaptive approaches combining inclusive learning spaces, sign-language-based education, psychosocial support, assistive devices, and community-based learning spaces. For children with disabilities, education is not only about learning; it is about protection, dignity, communication, and hope.

Atfaluna offers inclusive education through its outreach fifteen learning spaces across the Gaza Strip to more than 4,000 students with and without disabilities.

Even under siege, fuel shortages, and repeated displacement, our educators, therapists, and social workers continue to stand with children and families because education saves lives, restores normalcy, and protects the future.

Today, we honor the resilience of Gaza's children, the dedication of teams, and the right of every child with and without disabilities to learn, grow, and thrive.



1/22/2026

As part of the Hope Project in partnership with Oxfam Foundation, Our Children's Association for the Deaf is launching a peer education network, which targets young people with disabilities, without disabilities and relevant community groups.

A number of activities will be carried out within this network, including workshops and specialized training, focusing on important topics including:

The rights of persons with disabilities

Mental health and psychological social support

Psychological First Aid and Mental Health

This is aimed at promoting knowledge, building capacities, sharing experiences, and forming an effective network of advocates who are able to make a positive impact in their communities.

For those who are interested, please register through the following link:

<https://forms.gle/TVTKYdYva9ej9bj97>

Last Date to Apply: 29-01-2026

Waiting for your active participation

1/22/2026

As part of Project Activities: Inclusive Educational Activities for Persons with and Without Disabilities, Our Children's Association for the Deaf implemented holistic educational and recreational activities for children with and without disabilities. The school prepares joy-filled learning spaced with activities that include creative pottery corners, bead accessory making, and musical activities, allowing children to express themselves freely in an inclusive, safe and

welcoming environment. Implemented by Atfaluna with the support of Kinder USA, the activity reflects a shared commitment to inclusive education and joyful learning spaces where every child belongs.



1/15/2026

The announcement of the polarization of a trainer to prepare facilitators of people with disabilities and without disabilities is the project "Inclusive Transitional Community Livelihoods in the Gaza Strip" in partnership with the United Nations Development Program / UNDP/PAPP Program in the field of psychological first aid.

Our Children's Association for the Deaf would like to include quotations in a sealed condition for contracting a trainer to prepare disabled and non-disabled interpreters in the field of primary psychiatric aid within the project "Inclusive Transitional Community Neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip" in partnership with the UN Development Program / Palestinian People Assistance Program UNDP/PAP

Eligible individuals and willing to participate should come to the **headquarters of the association located in Gaza City starting at Al Yarmouk Street opposite the Directorate of Education and Education West Gaza, or at its headquarters in Deir Al-Balah Street 17 near Diwan Al-Baraka** to obtain the terms of reference for the contract, starting from Thursday, January 15, 2026 to Sunday, January 18, 2026.

1/12/2026

Mr. Amjad Al-Shawa - Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Our Children for the Deaf and Engineer Fadi Abed - Director of the Association visited Our Comprehensive Children's Camp, to take a closer look at the camp's conditions and the needs of persons with disabilities in the difficult humanitarian conditions. The visit came within the framework of keenness to assess the level of services provided, listen to existing challenges, and discuss inclusive intervention mechanisms that ensure fair and safe access to services, including the right of people with disabilities to be protected, dignified and participated without discrimination.

Our Children's Association reaffirms its commitment to continue working on developing inclusive human responses, addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, and upholding the principles of justice, inclusion and exclusion in all interventions.



1/9/2026

In Gaza, the war is creating a new generation of deaf children

A report published on [Le Monde in English](#)

By Marie Jo Sader

According to a survey by Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, 35,000 children and adults have partially or completely lost their hearing during the two years of war.

No one in the Abou Amro family knows sign language. To communicate with 12-year-old Dana, who has become deaf, her desperate parents have resorted to shouting. Only Alina, her 4-year-old little sister, has managed to connect with her by speaking directly into her ear. "Alina has become our interpreter. Otherwise, we have no way of understanding Dana's needs. It is a tremendous suffering," said their father, Ziad, age 52, reached by phone. Israel still bans journalists from entering the Gaza Strip.

Dana was not born deaf. In early September, she was resting in her room in Gaza City when the building just across from hers was hit by Israeli missiles. "The explosion was extremely violent, the door to her room was torn off and the windows were blown out," her father recounted.

The young girl survived, but in the days that followed, her family noticed a change in her behavior: Dana no longer reacted as before, no longer understood when she was spoken to. Her parents took her to consult specialists from the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, a pioneering organization that has operated in Gaza since 1992 and whose 132 employees have not stopped working, despite

the destruction of the group's main center in the enclave. "Because of the power of the explosion, the auditory nerve was severely damaged, perhaps even completely destroyed. Dana is suffering from a very severe hearing loss," they explained.

'Most often irreversible disorders'

According to a survey conducted by Atfaluna over the past two years, 35,000 children and adults have become partially or completely deaf as a result of Israeli bombings. "Hearing loss can result from injuries to the head or neck, brain trauma causing ruptured eardrums and damage to the auditory system. But it can also be caused by exposure to sound waves, even if a person was not physically injured. These hearing disorders are, most often, irreversible," explained Dr. Ramadan Hussein, an audiologist working with the organization.

Little Ayan Al-Qara was just 5 days old when an Israeli missile struck one meter from the tent his family had set up in the middle of the night. The baby was thrown and buried under the sand. "We found him thanks to his feet sticking out. He was in a terrible state; we thought he was going to die," his mother, Safa Al-Qara, also reached by phone, recounted. She had been forced to relocate the day after giving birth in May to the coastal area of Al-Mawassi, in Khan Yunis, after an Israeli ground offensive in the eastern part of the city.

The baby survived. But four months after his birth, his mother noticed something was wrong with his behavior. "Only movement got his attention, not sounds. When I played children's songs on the phone, he reacted. As soon as I hid the screen, he stopped responding. I did the test several times and understood that something was wrong," said Al-Qara.

'Devices blocked outside the enclave'

The diagnosis was given: Ayan's hearing level is zero. The child urgently needs a hearing aid, or even a cochlear implant, to avoid severe developmental delays. But, as with Dana's family, Ayan's family faces the impossibility of getting one. The entry of some medical equipment and medicine remains blocked due to restrictions imposed by Israel, especially on items deemed to have "dual use," both civilian and military. The aid that is currently allowed into Gaza is mostly food.

"For nearly a year, not a single hearing aid has entered the Gaza Strip. And even those who already have them will soon be unable to use them, because batteries are also banned," warned Dr. Hussein. Shortages are only part of the problem. Diagnostic tools, laboratories to make custom ear molds, operating rooms: Much of the infrastructure needed to treat hearing disorders has been destroyed by Israel's ground offensive. Many specialists in these conditions also left the enclave in the first months of the war, when the Rafah border crossing at the southern tip of the territory was still open.

"The situation risks getting even worse because of the dense conditions, lack of hygiene in displacement camps, malnutrition and the absence of primary care. Even minor infections, like ear infections, can cause permanent hearing loss if not treated in time," warned Fady Abed, the director of Atfaluna. "Forced displacements, continuous bombings, famine and the lack of medicine affect pregnant women and fetuses and can lead to the birth of children with disabilities, including hearing loss," added Dr. Hussein. Without proper devices, this new generation of children with hearing impairments can no longer participate in school activities or receive psychosocial support. Picture Credit: Basem Al-Habel, a Palestinian influencer who is hard of hearing, turned to social media to document the war in Gaza using sign language, Gaza, August 5, 2025. EBRAHIM HAJAJ / REUTERS



12/16/2025

As part of the “Gaza As I Want” initiative events, our Children’s Association for the Deaf carried out a series of purposeful recreational activities for children, with participation of children with disabilities and non-disabilities, in a framework that promotes inclusivity and supports children’s mental health.

The activities included creative self-release sessions, during which children expressed their hopes, desires and dreams for Gaza in the next phase through drawing and colouring, in a safe space that allowed them to express their feelings and aspirations for a better future.

Our Children’s Association for the Deaf confirmed that this event comes as part of its ongoing efforts to support children psychologically and socially, to promote their right to express and participate, especially children with disabilities, and to reach their voices and messages to the world that they are partners in dreaming of a safe and brighter future for Gaza.

Through these activities, the Association seeks to contribute to alleviating the psychological effects of children, and foster their spirit of hope and resilience, through holistic programs that support inclusion and equality.

As part of the “Gaza as I Want” initiative, Atfaluna implemented a series of recreational activities for children, involving both children with disabilities and children without disabilities, in an inclusive framework that supports children’s mental health.

The activities included creative psychosocial sessions, during which the children expressed their hopes, wishes, and dreams for Gaza in the coming period through drawings and colors, in a safe space that allowed them to freely express their feelings and aspirations for a better future.

Atfaluna emphasized that this activity is part of its ongoing efforts to support children mentally and socially, enhance their right to express themselves and participate, particularly for children with disabilities, and to convey their voices and messages to the world as partners in the dream of a safe and bright future for Gaza.

Through these activities, Atfaluna aims to alleviate the psychological impact on children and foster a spirit of hope and resilience, through inclusive programs that promote integration and equality.

