

Dear Friends:

It is hard for me to believe that three weeks have already passed since returning to Boston from Amman, Jordan. I have been wanting to send a communication to all of you on the summary and outputs of the hard work my team and I have put in as part of the “Toward an All-Inclusive Jordan” academic-community partnership program for the 2022 summer.

This year, we worked closely with our community partner, the Community-Based Rehabilitation center in AlBaqaa Refugee Camp in North Amman. This has been our community partner for the past 6 years, but our work was put on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. We wanted to evaluate the needs of our community partner post-Covid, so I worked with Amani AlTel, an MPH student from Columbia University on identifying that. Amani conducted a series of focus groups with the community health workers (CHWs) who identified a need for training in assessment and developing treatment plans using home programs for children with disability in the refugee camp.

Once we identified the need, I started working on creating a 2-week training for the CHWs. As part of our program, the trainings are typically delivered by our motivated graduate students in the occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) program at the MGH Institute. This year, we had 5 OTD students join us. To assist in translation, cultural immersion, and build further capacity in Jordan, I worked with Dr. Mohammad Nazzal from the Jordanian University of Science and Technology to recruit students from the Masters of Clinical Rehabilitation to work with the OTD students from the MGH Institute to ultimately develop and deliver the training material for CHW.

I will leave you with some pictures.



MGH Institute team, Day 1 in camp



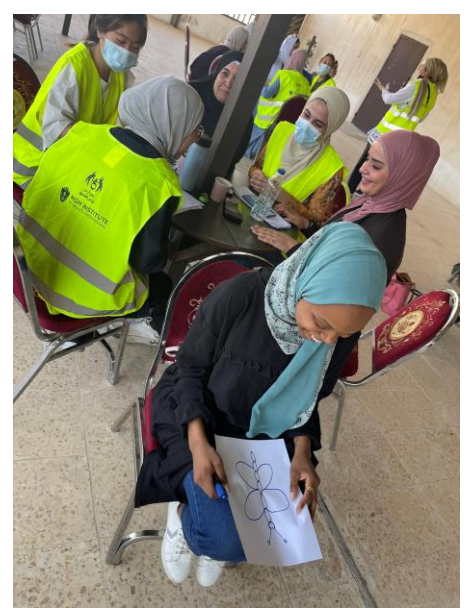
Day 1, orientation- we had five groups (1 MGH Institute student, 1-2 Jordanian students, 2-3 CHWs per group. We had 3 days of lectures and workshops and 4 days of application with families with children with disability.



*Day 3, students took over training the CHWs on treatment planning and implementing intervention, focusing on developing home programs for mothers of children with disability*



*Practical training sessions comprised of MGH Institute OTD students, Masters students in Clinical Rehabilitation from Jordan, CHWs, and the mother/family of child with disability*



*Here, we did a teambuilding activity to simplify and improve communication with team members- blind drawing- it was so much fun!*



*Some pictures of the kiddos we got a chance to work with. Their mothers were trained in-home programs tailored for their child's rehabilitation needs.*



*By the end of our work this summer, we had trained 5 MGH Institute students from the US, 7 Masters of Rehabilitation students from Jordan, 23 community-based rehabilitation workers from 3 different refugee camps, and created home programs for mothers of 20 kids with disability.*