



# **ATAFUAN'S NEED ASSESSMENT REPORT CHILD PROTECTION**

**M A R C H 2 0 2 3**

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## **Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)**

Atfaluna is a local Non-governmental organization, established in 1992 in Gaza City, in order to enable persons with hearing disability in the Gaza Strip to have their chance in life through education, rehabilitation, and job training and employment opportunities. From its establishment as a small school for persons with hearing disability serving 27 students, Atfaluna now serves more than 40,000 persons annually through a multitude of services and training programs implemented within an inclusive approach. These interventions aim at providing equal opportunities for persons with hearing disability in the society.

### **Introduction**

This report is a part of the ASDC's tools and mechanisms for identifying and prioritizing the community needs, where the identification of community needs comes in the first phase of the project life cycle. The results of the community assessment are used as the bases for designing the projects and interventions. This community engagement is a part of accountability mechanism that used within Atfaluna for identifying the locations for interventions, and to assess the beneficiary's views, needs and expectations. Atfaluna strategic plan, projects and intervention are built on a sustainable approach to strengthen the interventions and make sure that women and girls with disabilities have access to services across the Gaza Strip. The Atfaluna strategic plan were structured to mainstreaming safeguarding and the child protection within all the projects and interventions. This assessment has been conducted in coordination with Bitona for Community development.

### **The assessment objective**

This assessment designed to assess the violence, exploitation and abuse against children including parental aggressive behavioral, bullying at schools and the paly spaces, violating their rights to get essential needs, and the child labor. The report make focus on the target children who are uniquely vulnerable to these abuses such as children with disabilities.

### **The assessment objective**

In coordination with the ASDC's for community development protection team, the MEAL officer developed the needed tools for assessing the child protection. For triangulation and the validity check, different techniques and tools were used for collecting the data, where 2 different questioners where used through this assessment; one completed by the parents and other questioner completed by male and female children aged 6-17 years old including children with disabilities.

The data for this assessment was collected during the 1st quarter of 2023 and then the data. A random sample of children and parents were engaged in the assessment considering the gender, age, the disability and the geographical area. Overall, 288of the parents, and 343children (224males, 119 female) with the ages 6-17 years old, out of them 221 children with disability.

The geographical area was considered, where the assessment respondents were included from North, Gaza, Middle area, Khan Younis and Rafah.

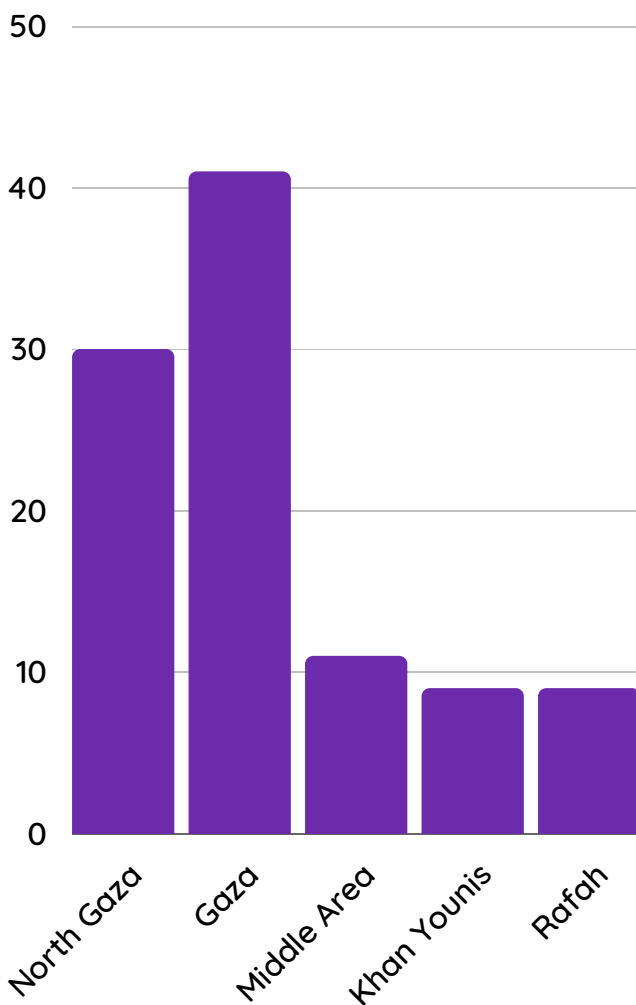
1- questionnaire no.1 :299 (153 male, 146 female) children with and without disabilities(174 with disabilities ) aged between 6-17 years old completed the questionnaire

2.questionnaire no.2: 288 parents out of them 93 with disability completed the questionnaire

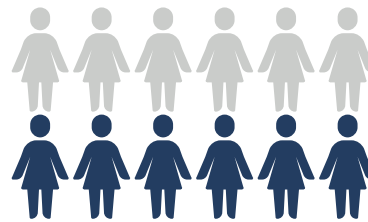
## Household (HH) and Children Demographics

### Geographical Distribution

The geographical area was considered, where the assessment respondents were included from North Gaza, Gaza, Middle area, Khan Younis and Rafah.

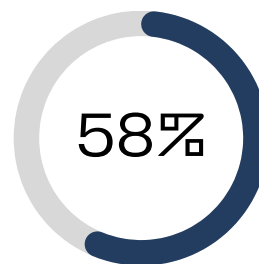


### Gender Distribution



the assessment includes 299 children with and without disability , 49% out of them are girls

### Disability Distribution

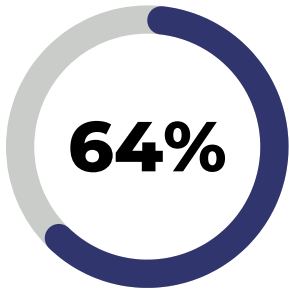


**% of the families with disabilities who were responded to the assessment**

299 children (153 males, 149 female) with the ages 6-17 years old, out of them 174 children with disability completed the questionnaire

# Analysis and Findings

## 1- Domestic Violence



% of the parents reported that they use violent daily interactions with their children

64% of the parents reported that they use violent daily interactions with their children, while 77% of the children aged between 6-17 responded that they are subjected to the violence at their home sittings. The violence rate against children with disabilities is higher and reaches 79% compared to 74% among children without disabilities, also it was noticed that boys are more subject to violence”86%” compared to 68% among girls.

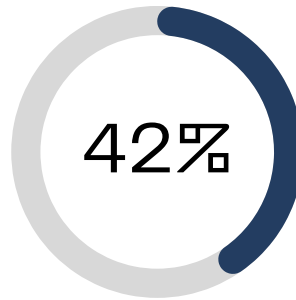
## 2- Neglect and Poor Parental Skills:



**% of the parents who have poor communication with their children**

Neglect was one of the major issues reported by children and their parents as 59% of the parents reported that they have poor communication with their children, while 62% of the children aged between 6-17 reported that their parents do not consider their needs, the neglect increased to 63% among children with disabilities compared to 53% among children without disabilities. Also, it was noticed that neglect increased to 64% among boys compared to 60% among girls.

## 3- Children’s Access to Medical Care



% of the children that they didn’t receive the medical care when they are in need of it

42 % of the children aged between 6-17 reported that they didn’t receive the medical care when they are in need of it, where this percentage increased to be 47% among children with disabilities compared to 35% among children without disabilities. The results show that 86% of girls do not have access to medical care compared to 43% among boy.

## 4-Bullying at School Environment:

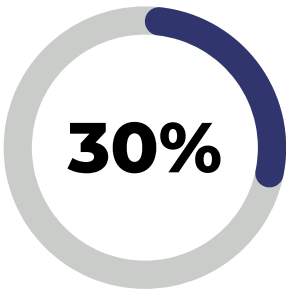


% of the children subjected to bullying at the school.

44% of the children (46% boys, 41% girls) subjected to bullying at the school while the bullying actions increased among children without disabilities, and it reached 45% compared to 42% among children without disabilities.

# Analysis and Findings

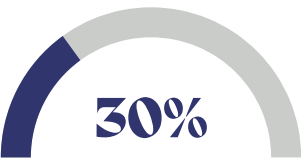
## 5-Use of Sharp Tools by Children in Schools:



% of the children reported that the schools are not safe

% 30 of the children (42% among boys, 19% among girls) reported that the schools are not safe for them where their classmate brings sharp and dangerous tools to schools.

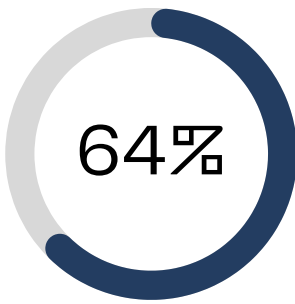
## 6- Physical Violence at Schools:



% of the parents reported that their children are subject to physical violence from their teachers at schools.

30% of the parents reported that their children are subject to physical violence from their teachers at schools, it was founded that children with disability are at higher risk of subjection to physical violence as the percentage reached to 33% among children with disabilities compared to 26% among children without disabilities.

## 7-Child Safe and Accessible Places:



% of the parents reported that there are no child safe accessible places for their children

64% of the parents reported that there are no child safe accessible places for their children, the percentage reached to 37% among children with disabilities, compared to 27% among children without disabilities (76%among boys, 51% among girls).

## 8-Risks of Children Injury due to Escalations:

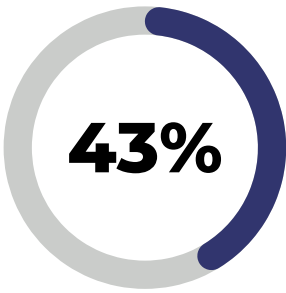


% of the parents reported that they fear that their children will be subject to death or injury due to escalations

40% of the parents reported that they fear that their children will be subject to death or injury due to escalations, they also expressed their anxiety of earthquakes after seeing the destructive scenes of Turkey and Syria earthquake, and 76% of the children with and without disabilities (82% among boys, 68% among girls”, noticing that the percentage reached 81% among children with disabilities compared to 68% among children without disabilities.

# Analysis and Findings

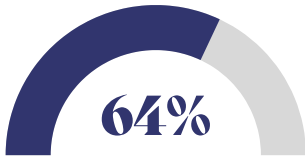
## 9-Children Speaking About Their Fears



43% of the children reported that they don't express their selves

43% of the children (42% among boys, 44% among girls) reported that they don't express their selves when they feel afraid or when they are subjected to any type violence and they don't find any one to assist them.

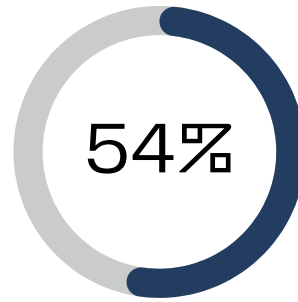
## 10- Aware of the Complaints Mechanisms :



% of parents are not aware of the complaints mechanisms to report on child protection issues

It was reported that 64% of parents are not aware of the complaints mechanisms to report on child protection issues, the problem was more dangerous among parents with disabilities in which the percentage raised to 73% among them comparing to 59% among parents without disabilities.

## 11-Child Safe and Accessible Places:



% of parents reported that their children don't have access in any recreational activities.

54% of parents reported that their children didn't participate in any recreational activities during the last 12 months “ 65% among children with disabilities, 37% among children without disabilities

## 12-Child Preferences on PSS and Recreational Activities



% Child Preferences on PSS and Recreational Activities

34% of children reported that they prefer to participate in sport related activities, 28% prefer to participate in psychodrama activities , 6% prefer story reading activities, and 23% preferred to be enrolled in psycho social support sessions while the other 8% reported that they prefer different types of activities.

# Recommendation



Ensure continued access to medical and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities during the crisis



Conduct training and awareness-raising of health workers to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities



Closely consult and work with and actively involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in framing a rights-based response to the crises that is inclusive and responsive to all persons with and without disabilities



it is highly recommended that all responses should be inclusive to meet the needs of persons with and without disabilities, children and adults, females and males

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