

The Revived Trauma

Story of Sarah Almatrabe,

“As an innocent child, I have the right to live normally, like every other child around the world!” Sarah says

A 6 year-old child from Gaza who has witnessed more than any of her peers. Sarah used to live with her parents and younger brother in a rented house, just like any other normal child, Happy, energetic, and innocent, with no illnesses or mental stress. That was Sarah before a traumatic war event that destroyed her life and killed her dreams.

Traumatic events are back:

With the current escalation (May 2023), all of the traumatic events that happened in May 2021 were revived again. The shock! The terrifying sounds! The constant fear! Made her experience all of what happened again, leaving herself and her family in a very distressing condition. This is where Atflaun’s team of psychological specialists interfered immediately to give support and guidance on how to stay calm at these hard times. Sarah is now able to feel much stronger and resilient after receiving the support, hoping that the war ends soon and she can get back to her normal life.

Trauma of 2021:

One day, on May 14th, 2021, while peacefully sleeping at her warm house and innocently dreaming of a bright future and a happy life ahead of her, an Israeli airstrike targeted their building, bombing one of its apartments and penetrating her apartment as well. The bombing left Sarah with a severe injury that caused her hemiplegia and made her permanently disabled.



The news was incredibly devastating for Sarah's family, leaving them in a shock, unable to process what had happened to their beloved daughter. What is her fault? What did she do wrong? Why would this happen to a little child at the beginning of her life?

After a long period of struggle and appeals, Sarah was transferred outside of Gaza to receive treatment, but all with no results. There is nothing in this world that can bring Sarah her legs back or bring her sweet smile again. That painful journey of treatment ended up with her going back home on a wheelchair with a lifelong disability.

After two years of living in pain, Sarah's father decided to seek help for his family and his daughter, he approached Atfaluna's Protection Program, asking for support to overcome this traumatic experience. Full of tears and heavy emotions, the father started talking about how extremely difficult it has been for him to witness his only daughter unable to smile or perform any of her favorite activities. Atfaluna has provided psychological and counseling services to him and his daughter. The supportive services they received were able to give them a shimmer of hope that Sarah could live a normal life and adapt with her disability.

After completing the psychosocial support sessions, Sarah was able to fight her disability and pave her way through life. She has become psychologically and mentally stronger, getting back to her life again and starting to perform all the activities she used to enjoy.

