

May, 2023



**ATFALUNA SOCIETY
FOR DEAF CHILDREN**

SITUATION REPORT

IMPACT OF MAY, 2023 ESCALATION ON
PERSONS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES IN THE
GAZA STRIP

Reporting
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Between the period 9th -13th May 2023

Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children:

ASDC is a local NGO, established in 1992 in Gaza City, in order to help 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 the students with hearing disability serving 27 pupils in 1992, Atfaluna now serves more than 40,000 persons with and without disabilities annually through a multitude of interventions and training programs implemented within a holistic and right-based and inclusive approaches involving children and adults with without disabilities, their families, service providers organizations, and the community-at-large.

Background

On **the 9th of May** Israeli escalation against the Gaza Strip induced catastrophic humanitarian situation in the lives of the people living in Gaza, The report of Palestinian Ministry of Health (**MOH**) on 13th May at 11:00 AM shows that more than **33 Palestinians were killed** in Gaza, (**6 children, 3 women**), more than **147 were injured**, including **32 children** and **17 women**, many of them were serious injuries and might have a long term disability that needs further intervention to be familiar with the new cases.

The initial governmental report shows that hundreds of housing units were totally destroyed or damaged, where hundreds of Palestinians have had to leave their homes in Gaza due to the ongoing air strikes targeting their homes which were completely, partially damaged or their houses at risky areas with a potential to be targeted by bombardment, multiple water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure were also damaged Beside of the current aggression against the people living in Gaza, the humanitarian situation is already deteriorated due to restrictions and the Gaza imposed siege, The recent escalation doubles the people's suffering more and more.

Introduction

Objective

The report assesses the social, economic effect of the Israeli escalation against the Gaza Strip between the period of 9th to 13th May 2023 as a result of deterioration of the security, safety, health and humanitarian situation. This report is part of the ASDC's tools and mechanisms for **identifying and prioritizing the community needs** of the families of **persons with and without disabilities**, with focus on people with disabilities, who face barriers into accessing to **the emergency interventions**, that puts them at higher risk of vulnerability during these difficult situations This report raises the impact of the political escalation on the lives of families of people with disabilities PwDs and highlight their priorities to achieve efficient interventions which helps in alleviating their suffering

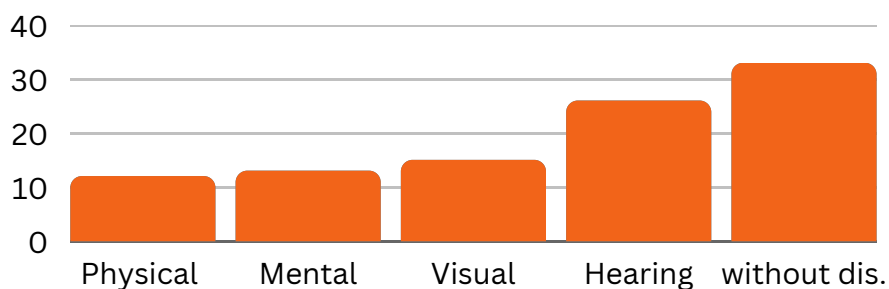
Methodology and Sampling



In order to better understand how the conflict has affected the lives of families of persons with disabilities in Gaza, **ASDCs MEAL unit** conducted a survey with **172 families** of the ASDC beneficiaries, the parents of children with and without disabilities This assessment was collected by the online survey by the ASDC and the partners social specialists and data collectors

The survey was conducted between the period **9th st 13th May 2023**

This assessment covers the Gaza Strip area, where **104 of the respondent from Gaza, 15 in north of Gaza 13 middle area 40 Khan Younis and Rafah**. The assessment targeted the families of children with and without disabilities (67.4 % with disabilities , 32.6% without disabilities) disaggregated as the below figure.

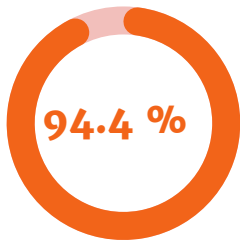




Results

Psychosocial Status of Children

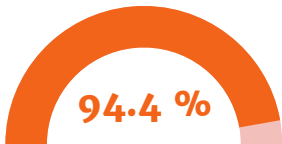
A- Psychosocial Trauma



of the mothers expressed that their children experience nightmares, sleeping disorders, behavioral changes, lack of concentration, all in severe posttraumatic stress disorder (symptoms among mostly children and women

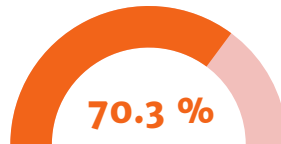
The symptoms psychosocial trauma among children

Anxious



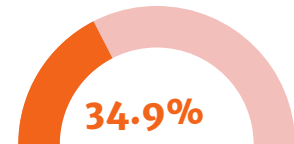
of the children reported being anxious during the escalation.

Feeling terrified



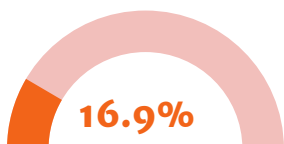
of the children become feeling terrified when hearing loud sounds such as doors closures.

Nervousness



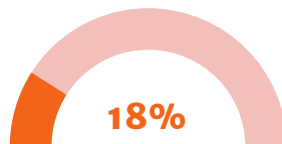
of the parents reported that their children become nervousness and aggressive.

Bed wetting



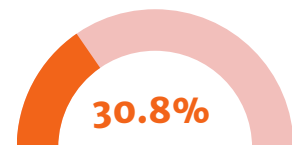
of the parents reported that their children have bed wetting.

Crying without any reason



of the parents reported that their children Crying without any reason.

lack of concentration



of the parents reported that their children lack of concentration.

RESULTS

Parental awareness and skills during the escalation

PARENTAL AWARENESS

71.5% of the families reported that they **are not aware of how to calm down their children** during the escalation and the heavy airstrikes, and they reported that they didn't use the efficient techniques to calm down their children like drawing, play with the children, talking to them, etc .

PARENTAL AWARENESS

78% of the parents reported that they need more awareness on how to deal with the children, and techniques to reduce children fears during conflict times .

THE FAMILY VIOLENCE

54.1% of the respondents reported that the family violence increased against **women and girls** during the escalation

THE FAMILY VIOLENCE

50% of the assessment respondent reported that the family violence increases against the children with disabilities during the escalation

AWARENESS TOOLS AND INTERVENTIONS

53.5% of the respondent reported that the social media (WhatsApp, and twitter) is the most popular for disseminating awareness and the health messages, while **27.3%** of the respondent prefer to use direct phone call with the PSS specialists, **8.1%** of the respondent use the radio spots and T V cannels

NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

NUTRITION AND FOOD ASSISTANCE AND HYGIENE KITS

Providing **nutrition and food assistance and hygiene kits** for the families where the families are unable to afford the basic needs of nutrition and food for their children. They reported that they are highly in need to food assistances.

GUIDANCE AND PSS SUPPORTS

Guidance and PSS supports where the children and the families are in a highly needs to the guidance and the psychosocial support where the fear, distress and trauma are increased on both the children and the adults due to the explosions, airstrike, pumps, the live/ media views of the killed persons.

INCLUSIVE SHELTERS

Shelters should be inclusive and accessible to persons with and without disabilities.

HEARING AIDS AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Providing hearing aids and assistive devices is essential for the families of the children with disabilities, there are increase in the needs of the assistive devices where many of the families couldn't have access /get the needs of hearing aids, batteries or other assistive devices and there are more than many persons changed to be with disability where they has serious injuries and might have a long term disability that needs further intervention and assistive devices to be familiar with the new cases.

HYGIENE KITS

Access to health services and medical tools where during the emergencies the families don't have access to medical clinic or health facilities as the medical clinics are closed for the urgent cases only. In addition to that many of the families couldn't move out of their houses due the security issues.

ASDC's provides inclusive emergency responses that is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UCRPD), under article 11 to take the necessary measures to protect the persons with disabilities and involve them inclusively in all interventions. ASDC promotes the inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency response and work within inclusive disaster risk reduction plans and programs.