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**بسمة**  
مؤسسة الأميرة بسمة بالقدس



**Basma**  
The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre

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## About us

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East in the fields of education, health, and disability.

JPBC implements long-term community-based programs and has always maintained a clear vision of providing Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Inclusive Education through the Child Rehabilitation Centre and the Inclusive School.

By creating a suitable process of knowledge sharing and service provision in the field of Rehabilitation, the JPBC Child Rehabilitation Centre has always maintained a track record of quality service and accordingly has obtained the Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA) for Ambulatory Care twice, in 2015 and 2018.

JPBC is a member of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, and the main referral by the Palestinian Ministry of Health for treatment of CwD and acts as a National Resource Centre for capacity building, clinical training, dissemination of knowledge and best practices to practitioners and partner organizations.

## Our vision and mission

### Our Vision:

All Palestinian children with disabilities (CwD) have access to quality health services and inclusive education, can participate and influence, have hope and opportunities.

### Our Mission:

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, serving children since 1964, works for the integration and empowerment of CwD and their families in their communities by providing rehabilitation services, inclusive education<sup>3</sup>, through the development and dissemination of best practices, and influencing policy and legislation.



**The Basma Centre Honors The Retired Bishop Suheil Dawani**

**And Welcomes its New Chairman, Archbishop Hosam Naoum**

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) held a farewell ceremony to honor their retired Chairman of the Board of Directors Bishop Suheil Dawani, and to welcome their new Chairman of the Board Archbishop Hosam Naoum; head of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Bishop Dawani spent fifteen years in serving the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and its organizations, one of which was the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.

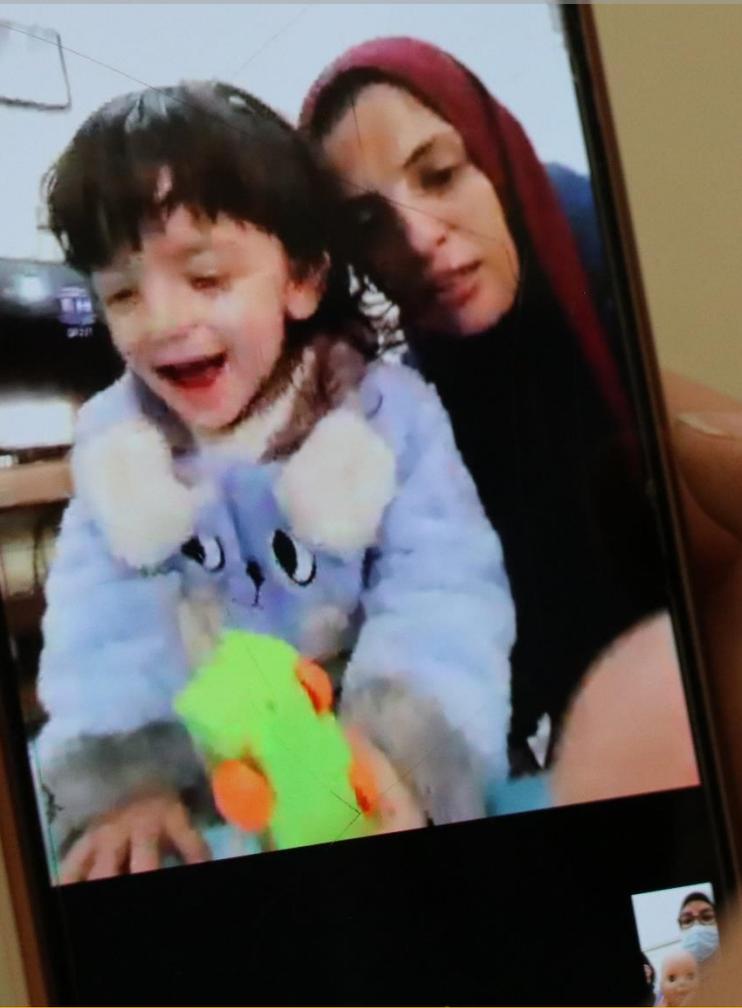
The ceremony included a speech by the Most Reverend Bishop Suheil Dawani, during which he spoke about the importance of continuing the support to JPBC because of the humanitarian role and services provided for the Palestinian children with disabilities. On the other hand, he pointed out that the developments of the Child Rehabilitation Centre and the Inclusive School

encouraged and motivated him to continue working in his mission. He also thanked the efforts of the administrative, the medical and the academic staff.

Moreover, the Most Reverend Archbishop Hosam Naoum, thanked his predecessor and stressed on the importance of Bishop Dawani’s role in the development of JPBC. The Archbishop also noted that he was fully informed on all its activities by his accompanying Bishop Dawani during the past years. adding that he will continue the support to JPBC and all the organizations of the Anglican Church.

Furthermore, the General Director of JPBC, Ibrahim Faltas, thanked the great efforts of Bishop Suheil Dawani, and his support to JPBC and all the organizations affiliated to the Anglican Church, noting that Bishop Suheil has provided an umbrella of stability that helped JPBC to sustain its medical and education services to thousands of children with disabilities. Meanwhile, he welcomed Archbishop Hosam Naoum and stressed that JPBC will continue to support Palestinian children with disabilities under the umbrella and guidance of Archbishop Hosam Naoum and the Anglican Church.

## IMPROVEMENT IS OUR MOTTO



At the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, we are always transforming challenges and threats into opportunities and success. Our Virtual Therapy Program has proven that families are in need of our support at the Child Rehabilitation Centre, in the field and also in their home environment.

Based on this, our multidisciplinary team has developed our follow-up system and JPBC has developed and introduced its own online communication technology application. Parents and staff have been trained, enabling families to reach and meet us remotely, in a confidential and straightforward way. This has created the optimal formula for our Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program, where all components of the therapeutic process work together within the child's own familiar environment, where she/he is most relaxed.

### Follow up and monitoring system

"Follow-up through the Virtual Therapy Program is very important, because no matter how much we learn at the Centre, at certain times we still need supervision, guidance, and evaluation on the way we implement the 'Home Therapy Plan'."

From my experience, the JPBC system of follow-up is really beneficial. Rawan reached a stage where she needed modifications and adjustments in her Home Therapy Plan. During the follow-up sessions, the JPBC team updated Rawan's therapy plan and this has accelerated her development."

#### Rawan's Mother

"I was trying to contact the Basma team when they called me to book an appointment for a follow-up session. My son had taken his first steps and I wanted an updated Home Therapy Plan and new instructions on how to build on this new achievement.

In this follow-up session, therapists re-evaluated Khaled's abilities and advised me on the next steps. Now I'm at the Centre continuing this extended plan and a bigger vision for my son. This success has greatly encouraged me, soon I will share his success story with everyone."

#### Khaled's Mother

"I felt that my daughter has a disability, but nobody believed me. The delay in the diagnosis resulted in my daughter not speaking until she came to the Basma Centre. This is now my second admission. But, ever since her first admission, Maram (diagnosed with ASD) has developed a lot; she interacts with the environment and people around her and speaks and understands.

The follow-up session between the two admissions has supported and furthered her progress. On many occasions I had questions that nobody can answer for me. Now the Basma team does this through these online follow-up sessions."

#### Maram's Mother

# MOTHERS FOR MOTHERS

As a leading Rehabilitation Centre in Palestine, the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre envisions that all Palestinian children with disabilities (CwD) have access to quality health services and inclusive education, can participate and influence within society and have hope and opportunities.

Within our Comprehensive Rehabilitation Service, families receive a full package of empowerment through our Mother and Family Empowerment Program (MFEP), which provides psychosocial support, education and training for families. These parents become great advocates and shadow therapists for their children with disabilities.

Creating a space for mothers to talk and share their stories can be life transforming for them and their families. By empowering parents, a new life opportunity can be envisioned and a child's future reshaped.

## Mothers as Bloggers and Influencers

When Wattan (now one-year-old) was born, the doctors did not recognize her condition. Her parents continued their search for answers until they received a diagnosis. Her mother Ishraq, describes this as a difficult time for her, feeling both lost and isolated. However, she continued in her quest for treatment for her daughter until she succeeded in getting a referral to the JPBC Child Rehabilitation Centre, one month ago.



**Speak up and share your story to help others**

**Empowerment to overcome the challenges**

Ishraq and her daughter have now received a program of intensive support and treatment by a team of therapists and professionals at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre. This is through the residential Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program, which aims to achieve the optimal rehabilitation and results for CwD.

This support has given the mother greater understanding of her daughter's needs and condition and helped her to overcome the multiple challenges associated with having a child with disabilities; in this instance, the repercussions of a wrong or late diagnoses and dealing with the stigma.

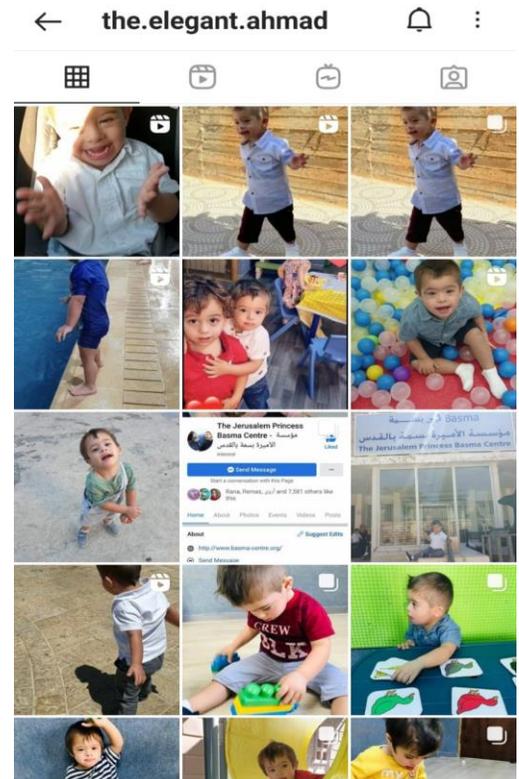
Ishraq explains: *“Despite the pain, since day one, I was determined to provide all the support my daughter needed, but I lacked knowledge and*

In another story, Ahmad (now two years and six months) was diagnosed with Down Syndrome during pregnancy, which the family describe as a time of anxiety and stress. After the birth, Haneen, Ahmad's mother, closed her clinic, isolated herself at home and started a search for information and guidance on Ahmad's condition and how best to meet his needs.

After many visits to clinics, Haneen eventually learned about JPBC Child Rehabilitation services. Ahmad was enrolled for treatment and she joined the Mother and Family Empowerment Program. As part of this journey, a social worker and therapeutic team worked with Haneen to help her gain more understanding about her situation and provided encouragement along the way. Ahmad's rapid improvement was a great source of reassurance to Haneen and all the family, who became more involved in supporting him and more hopeful and confident about his future.

Subsequent admissions followed and Ahmad flourished. Haneen expressed the pride and happiness that Ahmad had brought to the family. *“At JPBC, there were real results and not just hopes. This has opened the door wide for us to imagine a successful future for our child with Down Syndrome.”*

Following the third admission, Haneen established an Instagram page for Ahmad who in three months attracted more than 280 followers and 8000 shares for his story. *“The home therapy plan and intensive rehabilitation at the Basma Centre has revealed the truth of our child's abilities and empowered us to face society. From here, I was emboldened to share these stories online.”*



Ahmad's Instagram page

## Real Impact on the Ground

This family-centered therapeutic process has proven to impact significantly on the final results for the child, family and community. Approaching therapy with both a comprehensive and intense vision promotes a healthier environment for CwD and enables them to influence and interact with their communities. This method of intervention results in both faster medical improvement and the creation of stronger advocates and supporters for CwD.

## Even in a multi-challenging situation

### We can still do it!

Ahmad, aged nine, lives with his family in the Gaza Strip that has been under blockade since 2007. He was born with a rare genetic syndrome which prevented him from walking and he started to show signs of developmental delay at the age of one year and six months.

Along with his family, he faced problems in receiving an accurate diagnosis and it took them a long time before they met Dr. Waddah Malhees, our Medical Director, who referred Ahmad to the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre. However, because of the movement restrictions on people from Gaza, Ahmad could not leave Gaza immediately. It was a whole year before Ahmad was able to reach our Rehabilitation Centre for the first time in 2017.

People with disabilities in Gaza face multiple challenges, which are amplified within this geographical area because of the challenge to access appropriate services either because of location or cost.

Ahmad's mother believes that his situation would have vastly improved, if he had been diagnosed earlier and received his therapies at the right time. She elaborates: "We spent more than 4 years trying to understand Ahmad's case and to start receiving treatment. During that time Ahmad's condition started to decline."

During his first referral to our Jerusalem base in 2017, Ahmad received a residential package of comprehensive and intensive rehabilitation for three weeks. He was accompanied by his mother, who was enrolled on the Mother and Family Empower Program and given training and education in how best to support her son. They left with a Home Therapy Plan, which later proved to be his only access to therapy and treatment. Ahmad and his mother were not granted permission to return to our Centre after that.

His mother explains: The Home Therapy Plan was the only resource I had. Because I had been trained at the Basma Centre, I kept implementing it and developing it as much as I can, and thank God, Ahmad is responding. At least his condition is not getting worse."

Recently, therapists were able to reach Ahmad and his family online, and they are now enrolled in our Virtual Therapy Program, which provides treatment for Palestinian children and ongoing support and guidance for their families in their own environment. His mother explains; "This program has brought hope

back to our family because Ahmad needed intervention and follow-up by a professional team.”

Unfortunately, because of the financial challenges and movement restrictions that Ahmad and his family increasingly face, he is still not able to join a school. However, his family has been creative and determined in implementing his ‘Home Therapy Plan’ and now in our ‘Virtual Therapy Program’ Ahmad is making good progress. He has now started to walk using the stairs and jump on the trampoline!

Whilst these online therapy, support and medical assessments continue, hope is growing within Ahmad’s home. His mother wanted to tell us:



“These online sessions have followed Ahmad’s needs and provided him, and us as a family, with support and encouragement. This will surely empower us and guide us towards a better future for our son.”





## Clinical training at the Basma Centre

“I learned from my university colleague’s experience about the Basma Centre and that’s how I was enrolled in the Basma Clinical Training Program. Being enrolled here has two major positive benefits. First of all, there is the need to interact with parents in all therapy sessions through the ‘Mother and Family Empowerment Program.’

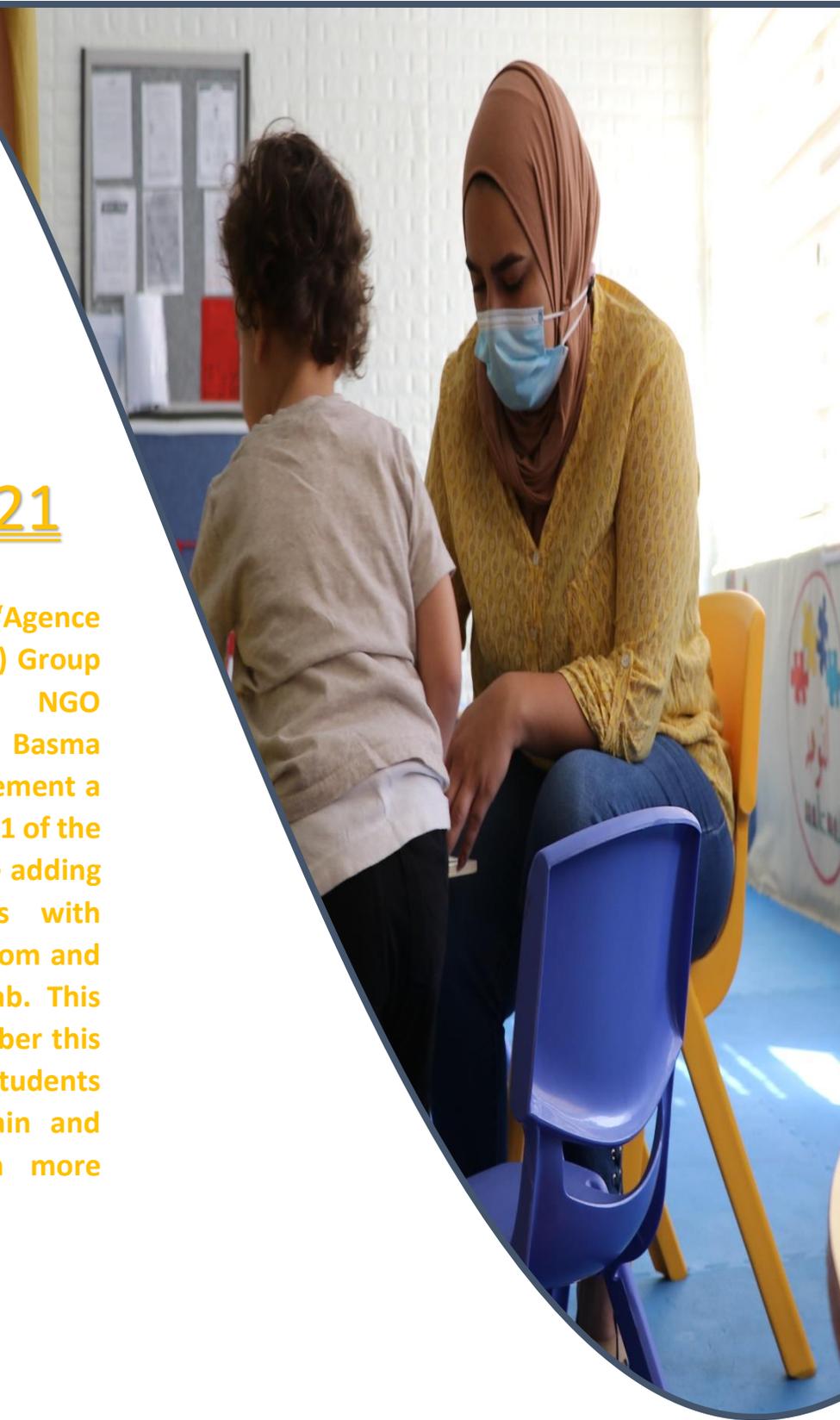
The second thing I find positive at the Basma Centre, is that the team works together in harmony. They pass the information to us smoothly and respond to all our questions giving detailed answers. I believe these two issues enhance the therapeutic process and have a great influence on the child.”

Zain Alian

Bethlehem University.

## Renovations 2021

With a generous donation from 'Agence Française de Development' (AFD) Group Funds and through the NGO Development Center (NDC), the Basma Centre can now proceed to implement a new renovation project on Floor -1 of the Inclusive School. This will include adding new classrooms for students with Autism, a Teacher's Resource Room and a state of the art Computer Lab. This renovation will begin on September this year and will further enable our students to excel and help us to sustain and expand our services to even more beneficiaries.



## Unique services and a full package of education and rehabilitation

**Our Child Rehabilitation Centre provides Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services and Child Development Services to Palestinian children with disabilities, coming from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. These services rely on a range of therapies including: Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Hydrotherapy, Sensory Therapy and Psycho-social support.**

**Whilst children are being supported through our complementary package of services, mothers and fathers receive support, education and training through the Mother and Family Empowerment Program òMFEP. To consolidate and maximize progress, our multidisciplinary team follows up with the families and their children through our Outreach Program and our new online monitoring system.**



## Despite the challenges, Momen is now fully integrated in school



Momen was finally referred to the Child Rehabilitation Centre at JPBC when he was 3 years old. As soon as he arrived, our multidisciplinary team devised for him a unique and comprehensive package of rehabilitation, whilst his mother benefited from the Mother and Family Empowerment Program.

Now, Momen is independent and enrolled in the first class at his local school, though this achievement was not easily gained. Momen's mother explains: "I was determined for my son to get educated and join other children at school, as I see this as one of his basic rights."

Enrolling Momen in a school has involved high levels of stress for his family, especially for his mother who admits to feeling depressed and anxious about the reaction from society. His mother adds: "I had huge fears about Momen's integration to school. I was deeply concerned about whether his teachers and classmates would accept him and understand his needs and different behavior."

Nevertheless, Momen's family took the first step and enrolled him at the school. Despite their fears Momen's family are now so proud, because he is fully integrated into school. His mother says: "Momen's academic score may not be excellent, but because of the intensive rehabilitation and complete integration, his personality has really developed and he is now very empowered."

In this new stage of Momen's life, he now joins his siblings in cleaning the house and feels more responsible.

Momen's mother acknowledges that on this path to success, her son will continue to experience many challenges. However, the family is determined to provide him with their total support, as his mother explains: "We faced and are still facing serious challenges related to

financial needs, stigma, acceptance and in providing a supportive environment."

However, Momen's family has full faith and confidence in him, as his mother reiterates: "We see our son as a smart, talented and capable child. We encourage the community to see him the same way, because a positive vision for children with disabilities and total acceptance of them, really accelerates children's progress of development."



# School's graduation

Under the patronage of the Right Reverend Archbishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and Chairman of the Board, Bishop Hosam Naoum, and retiring Bishop Suheil Dawani and in the presence of members of the Board of Directors of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre and families of students and partner institutions, the Princess Basma Inclusive School celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.



# Child safeguarding training workshop for teachers

As part of its strategy to support the professional development of the employees, the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre organized a training workshop on Child Safeguarding Policy, targeting all academic staff at our Inclusive School. It is worth noting that the workshop was held over two days and a wide range of topics were addressed on children's rights and best practices to interact with and protect children both in and outside of the school environment.



# Why our school is special



"I'm aware about my needs to improve my situation. I'm determined and not weak and I can (do all things)."

Abd Alrahman 9th grade

"The Jerusalem Princess Basma school is a welcoming environment for both people with disabilities and without disabilities. I feel safe in here, and no one is going to hurt me. I also feel happy because all my friends love me. I'm special and happy in this school."

Aseel Hadad 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Finally,

We will continue to envision that all Palestinian children with disabilities have access to quality health services and inclusive education, can participate and influence, have hope and opportunities.

This vision is being enhanced through our different programs that you can learn more about by visiting our website [www.basma-centre.org](http://www.basma-centre.org). Please feel free to contact us by email [info@basma-centre.org](mailto:info@basma-centre.org) or phone on +972-2-6283058.

