Innovative Practice 2019 on Independent Living and Political Participation

# Multiple tailored solutions offer physical and financial independence

# Egypt / Alhassan Foundation

## Summary:

### The Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion is a non-profit organization active in all 27 provinces of Egypt that aims for the physical and financial independence of wheelchair users. The Foundation provides a range of services to facilitate independent living, such as customized wheelchairs and motorcycles, sport and dance opportunities, plus funding for self-employment projects. From 2013 to 2017 some 3,500 wheelchair users received services, including 520 customized wheelchairs.

## Problems Targeted:

### Physical and financial independence for wheelchair users can be a challenge in Egypt due to a lack of affordable assistive equipment, limited access to workplaces and recreation, and a lack of awareness among employers.

## Solution, Innovation, and Impact:

### The Alhassan Foundation is a disabled people’s organization where more than 50 per cent of board members and 80 per cent of employees are wheelchair users. The Foundation aims for wheelchair users to reach higher levels of inclusion and integration in Egyptian society in all aspects of life, including education, employment, and sports. Its focus is on both physical and financial independence by providing a range of services throughout Egypt.

### Physical independence is promoted by the provision of tailor-made wheelchairs, specially equipped motorcycles, sporting opportunities, videos that teach basic wheelchair skills, and more. Financial independence activities include funding for small self-employment projects, raising social awareness regarding people with disabilities, and promoting greater inclusion in employment. New members can take part in quarterly gatherings where the full range of Foundation projects is introduced.

### Between 2013 and 2017, the Foundation served 3,500 wheelchair users; measured and sourced more than 520 customized wheelchairs; produced 27 episodes of wheelchair basic training skills on YouTube, with over 1,500 views; and provided more than 70 accessible motorcycles. Moreover, it has enabled 250 children with disabilities to take part in sports, such as table tennis, weightlifting, and karate.

## Funding, Outlook, and Transferability:

### As of 2017, the Foundation is serving an additional 90 to 100 members each month. Long-term plans include expanding services for persons with all kinds of physical disabilities as well as new projects targeting issues of housing and schools. Further, starting in 2020 the Foundation will address barrier-free tourism for those living in Egypt and visitors from abroad.

### Some services such as sports and arts training are provided for free. Members who are assessed as financially able contribute towards other services, such as customized wheelchairs, where they pay between 10 and 15 per cent of the cost. Other costs are paid by partnerships with major corporations, such as the National Bank of Egypt, donations from individuals and entities, plus crowdfunding campaigns.

## About the Practice at a Glance:

### NAME OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICE: Facilitating independent living

### ORGANIZATION: Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion

### COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Egypt

## Facts and Figures:

### Between 2013 to 2017 the Foundation provided funding for 120 small employment projects.

### Some 250 children with disabilities were enabled to participate in sporting activities, such as table tennis, weightlifting, and karate

## Contact:

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### [Alhassan Foundation for Differently Abled Inclusion Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/AlhassanFDN/)

## Links and Further Reading:

### [YouTube video of Alhassan on national media (Arabic)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i22J4OdCEdM&list=PLzyJ9JYjUz06ed2ypo8y_bYeHdsTtgM5r)

## Quote:

“It feels great to become independent. Even though I am in a wheelchair, I am performing most of my daily activities with almost zero external aid to prove what I really can do!”

—Safy ElDien Araby, a Foundation beneficiary and employee

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