

## This month's focus: Differently-Abled People

### What is "differently abled"?

Refers to long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

### What *isn't* "differently abled"?

It is **not** something that resides in the individual as the result of some impairment. The categorization of differently abled is the result of society's perception of people and what is considered standard or "normal".

### Disability can be physical or mental



Physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments can exist from birth (such as Autism, or physical impairments an individual is born with); they can develop over time (progressive blindness, or degenerative diseases, for instance); or can be the result of an accident or event in the individual's life (a spinal fracture which results in paraplegia). Regardless of the type of impairment, it is something that effects the way in which the effected individual is able to interact with society.

### Disabilities in the SDGs



Guaranteeing equal and accessible education by building inclusive learning environments and providing the needed assistance for persons with disabilities

Creating accessible cities and water resources, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems, providing universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces



Promoting inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment allowing persons with disabilities to fully access the job market



Underlining the importance of data collection and monitoring of the SDGs, emphasis on disability disaggregated data



Emphasizing the social, economic and political inclusion of persons with disabilities

THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT HAS MADE 2018 THE YEAR OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED, AND HAS VOWED TO FOCUS ON MAKING EGYPT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED, AND TO WORK TO BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED.



As part of International Migrant's Day 2017, and leading up to **2018 as the Year for Persons who are Differently Abled** in Egypt, IOM partnered with **Alhassan Foundation**, an Egyptian organization. IOM will be reaching out to more potential partners this year to discuss similar ways to engage with their expertise, as part of our efforts to further **mainstream different-abledness** throughout our work.



### IOM Direct Assistance Screenings of Migrants with Mental Disabilities

2013	1
2014	2
2015	10
2016	14
2017	4
2018	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32</b>



### IOM Direct Assistance Screenings of Migrants with Physical Disabilities

2013	13
2014	16
2015	25
2016	15
2017	47
2018	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>128</b>

## IOM & Differently Abled Migrants



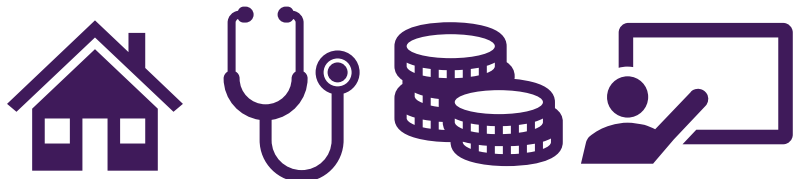
### Differently Abled Applicants for IOM Direct Assistance

2013	12
2014	15
2015	33
2016	35
2017	84
2018 (Q1)	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Since 2013

IOM has provided

162 differently-abled migrants with direct assistance



### Migrating with a differently-abled child: Akifa's story

**Akifa's** village was attacked by the militia in 2012, during which her father was killed. She had to escape and went to live in camps and on the streets. In 2014, when she was 6 months pregnant, Akifa went to help her husband at work. They were attacked by the militia and **Akifa** was attacked by multiple men while her husband was beaten and tortured. She was later sent to the hospital and delivered her baby **prematurely**; her daughter suffers from **mental disabilities** because of the incident. Akifa and her family moved to avoid the conflict, eventually reaching Egypt.

Currently, **Akifa** and her family are homeless and are staying in Cairo, where they sleep in coffee shops or at the markets at night. They do not know anyone here and do not know where to go; she is again pregnant. She is suffering from problems with her pregnancy, and her daughter, who has **mental disabilities**, is constantly sick and needs attention.

Financial and medical assistance were provided to Akifa and her baby by IOM until they registered with UNHCR.