

.....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet.....

Annahda Rehabilitation Centre

How it all started

The Annahda Women's Association was established in 1925, with the aim of improving the social, educational and vocational standards of Arab women, as well as providing activities to meet the needs of the local community.

In 1972 the group began a small training centre for the many children with special needs in the area. It started with five children in one room, but soon grew and in 1980 a purpose-built Day Centre was opened. The centre now cares for over 60 children and young adults with special needs, some of whom have additional disabilities. This centre is one of the main activities of the Women's Association, serving both Christian and Muslim families.

Key facts

Founded: 1972

Location: Ramallah, West Bank

First Grant from BibleLands: 1983

BibleLands' Grant: £8,640 p.a.



Current Activities

The Rehabilitation Centre aims to provide children with the basic skills needed for their future life. It does this through two main courses – education and vocational training.

School Programme: From the age of 4 to 14, the boys and girls learn in the centre's school, learning basic skills, such as reading and writing their own names, recognising colours and counting. The children with the most severe special needs learn in classes of about five students, whilst each child, whatever their academic level, also receives one-to-one tutoring. Each student follows an individual course, designed to help them to become an independent member of their own community. Regular parents' meetings help to involve the families in their child's education and care. The centre also works with children in local mainstream schools who need some encouragement and help in their studies. Each applicant for a place at the centre is professionally assessed, and placed in the most appropriate class.

Vocational Training Programme: Once pupils reach the age of 15, they can then go on to study in the centre's Vocational Training Section, where they learn such skills as embroidery, carpentry, agricultural work and weaving. Eventually, they may find employment in the centre's Sheltered Workshops. The Toy Production and Carpentry Sheltered Workshops offer over 100 different educational toys and pieces of equipment for nursery schools in the area.

Teacher-training is a high priority, ensuring that the most recent techniques and methods are used. The centre also offers a practical placement to students from local universities who are studying social work, nursing and psychology.

The centre provides each student with two meals each day. This enables them to learn social skills as they eat together, and gives them valuable nutrition that they may not receive at home, if their families are from particularly poor backgrounds.

Parents are asked to pay school fees if they are able to, but since the beginning of the second Intifada in 2000, unemployment is now at 70% and many families are living at a subsistence level. Therefore, some simply pay a token fee, whilst many pay nothing at all.

Because of the current situation, many children cannot reach the centre by public transport. The centre therefore uses its minibus to take the children to and from school. Some of the pupils board at the centre, as they are unable to cope with the daily commute. They go home at least twice a month to spend some time with their families.



Meet 9 year-old Nabeel. Before he came to the centre, he could not write and was badly behaved. After 2 years at the centre, he can write his name and the numbers 1-4. His behaviour is also much calmer as his special needs are attended to.

The Annadah Women's Association also runs: a vocational training programme for women with courses in embroidery and sewing; a centre for people with hearing and speech impairments, offering diagnosis and rehabilitation services; an educational support programme for students with learning disabilities who attend mainstream schools; and gives financial aid to needy families.

Ramallah is a town about ten miles north of Jerusalem. The original population of Ramallah were Christians but as a result of the 1948 war, refugees from many parts of Palestine settled here. Now both Christians and Muslims live peacefully together.

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The Annahda Women's Association has no formal funding, and relies mainly on charitable organisations, such as BibleLands, to keep its programmes running. However, the staff and the Board are people of faith, who believe that God will continue to provide, as he has done for so many years. Thank you for your support of this centre, and the work that it does.

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