

## Woman Caregiver of Persons with Disabilities: Irbid, Jordan

"I am a 27-year-old Syrian woman, married to a 26-year-old man with four types of disability. We have been in Jordan for the past 2.5 years. We have two sons and one daughter. I have a lump in my stomach and I need surgery to remove it.

"I am responsible for financing the family because my husband cannot speak or hear, has weak vision in one eye, and is blind in the other. I am fully responsible for the family inside and outside the house. I perform house work, and fulfill all the household needs. Currently, I receive a 100 Jordanian dinar financial assistance card from the International Rescue Committee, but this is not enough for our daily needs. My 65-year-old mother-in-law lives with us and suffers from several ailments. I have to provide care, attention and service to all the family members, including my husband, children and mother-in-law. I alone am responsible for all the family's needs.

"In spite of the great effort I put in serving and caring the entire family, I am often beaten by my husband because he faces great difficulty in communicating with me. Because of his hearing, speech and visual disabilities, he is unable to express himself. I also face problems communicating with him. His temper is very high. I always used to escape my house to my parents' house to stay with them for a while. But I used to be pressured to return to my house.

"I participate in discussion groups held by the women's center on household economy and family financial planning as part of the financial assistance program, and in the psychological and social sessions. After attending the first two sessions, I began contemplating solutions to the problems I am facing instead of becoming sad, depressed, attempting to escape and complaining to my neighbors... I began thinking of ways to communicate with [my family]. I now wish for us to have a foundation caring about the family and that women will have courses on disability ... I wish to attend more sessions with the psychological counselor because I benefit a lot from her advice on how to deal with household chores and daily worries.

"The women's center offer a space to express one's opinion and conduct discussions on many family, women's and personal issues. My husband is deaf and suffers from weak vision and my mother-in-law is ill, so the adults in my family do not communicate with me and do not talk with me. I am in need of someone to listen to me. I feel comfort because I have found a venue to express my troubles and worries. I am certain that the specialists at the center are trustworthy, experienced people who will maintain the secrecy of the information I share. I enjoy social life and knowing new people. I am in desperate need for this due to my family situation. I benefit from constructive experiences, ideas and participations offered by the trainer, psychological counselor and friends during discussion sessions. When I share my worries with others I feel that I am not alone.

"I want all people to listen to my story so they can contemplate finding solutions to escape their worries and try to achieve a happy family that is appreciated by those surrounding them, instead of being harmed."

