

Mother of a son with disabilities: Ramtha, Jordan

“I’ve been in Jordan for 1.5 years living with my husband and three children. Initially we were living with my in-laws -- sisters-in-law, their children, brother-in-law, his family, and my husband’s nephews because their parents were still in Syria. We were living in one house, and then we moved out to live by ourselves. I have a disabled son. He is 19, and suffers from brain atrophy, a mental disability. However, he is very smart.

“I am taking a class on wool [knitting]. I like it very much and I am benefitting from it. I also attend discussion group sessions because I take an [ATM] card. While I am participating in these activities at the center, I feel happy. I forget all of my worries. When I learn about other women’s problem and see that they continue to attend the sessions in spite of these problems, I feel that my problem is minor. I feel strong.

“Despite my son’s problem, I am determined that he continue to study with other non-disabled students. In fact he is currently in 6th grade, and he is very interested in electricity and computers. Anyone who deals with him would realize how intelligent he is. I’ve trained him on many things so he becomes self reliant. Although I was young when I had my son with the disability (I was 15 at the time), I continued to learn how to improve his condition. I was keen on watching TV shows related to the disabled.

“I get angry at my children often because of their studies. I want them to complete their school and become successful. Once I was about to get angry at my young children, then I remembered Ms. Haneen’s session on communicating verbally without scolding. So I told my children that I wanted them to be the best of all the people, and that I was not scolding them because I enjoyed doing so. Now they listen to what I am saying better than before.

“I want people to hear about how I’ve changed my attitude toward my children and how this change paid off, so that they would also change their ways in treating their children as well. No matter the circumstances, we can always improve our attitudes. It is important that people learn that there is no such thing as a disability, or being impossible, and that when a person is determined to do something, then he will certainly achieve it, especially if he is close to His Lord. Allah forgets no one.”

