

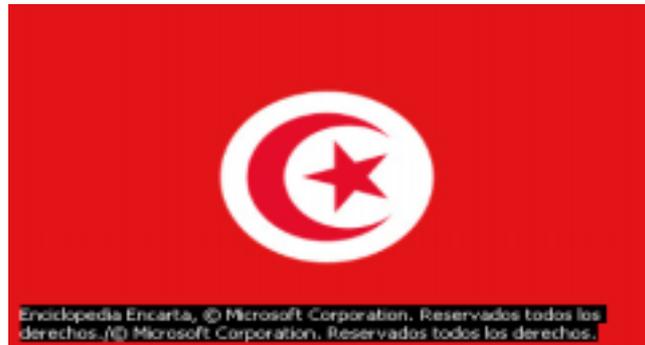
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Ministry of Social Affairs

Solidarity and Tunisians Abroad

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-Support through community Approach –  
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1.General Information

## 1-1 Name of Country : Republic of Tunisia

Tunisia is a small North African country that stands on the Mediterranean Sea. It's characterized by the richness of its natural resources and the variety of its physical features. Besides it's known by its tourist coastal towns along the northern and eastern border. Its western part however, is mountainous. And the highest mountain Shaambi belongs to the area of Kasserine where I live and work. Southern Tunisia is a desert, but tourist area.

- The location of Tunisia is very strategic because its links Africa to Europe and the historic ruins that are found everywhere on the Tunisia land show the importance of the various civilizations that lived here throughout history (Romans- cartages...)
- The Tunisian constitution identifies Tunisia as an Arab, Muslim country, however other small minorities like Berberes still preserve their own cultures in the south and west of Tunisia.

1-2 - Area(sq.km) : 162.155 Square kilometers



### 1-3 Population (Population in rural and urban area)

Tunisia includes 24 small states called its population, according to the 2004 census reached 9,910,872. The number of urban dwellers in Tunisia reached 6,429,461 in 2004 which represents 64.9% of the total population rural dwellers however were 3,481,411, that is, 35.1%.

Rural area	Urban area	Total population
<b>3481,411</b>	<b>6,429,461</b>	<b>9,910,872</b>
<b>35.1%</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 1-4- Life expectancy

The Tunisia society has witnessed a remarkable improvement at the level of health coverage and life standard which resulted in an increase in life expectancies for both sexes: 73 years for females and 71 for males (2004).

Male	Female	Average
<b>71 years old</b>	<b>73 years old</b>	<b>72 years old</b>

**1-5 Infant mortality rate: 25/1000 (2004)**

**1-6 Maternal mortality rate: 39/100,000 (2004)**

**1-7 Literacy rate**

The figures of the 2004 census show that literacy rate for Tunisian citizens aged between 10 and 29 is 94% whereas, it's 29% among citizens aged more than 55, It is worth mentioning however that citizens aged currently more than 55 had reached school age before Tunisia got its independence in 1956.

**Literacy rate according to gender  
(10 years old and above)**

Year	1956	1966	1975	1984	1994	2004
Male	5%	46.1%	57.7%	65.4%	78.7%	85.2%
Female	4.0%	17.6%	32.1%	41.9%	57.7%	67.0%
Total	15.3%	32.1%	45.1%	53.8%	68.3%	77.1%

**Decline in literacy rate  
(10 to 29 years old)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1966</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Literacy</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>94.0</b>

**1-8 Education (Compulsory)**

**Primary School: 6 years**

**Junior high school: 3 years+1year**

**1-9 Unemployment rate**

**The rate of the unemployed for citizens between 18 and 59 years old is currently 13.9% that is 432,900 of whom 292,900 are men and 140,000 are women.**

**Rate of the unemployed Aged between 18 and 59  
According to gender**

Year	Number of the unemployed in thousands		Rate of unemployment	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1994	279.6	98.8	15%	17.2%
2004	292.9	140.0	12.9%	16.7%

- **1-10 Laws concerned with persons with Intellectual Disabilities**
- **The Tunisian law is characterized by its treatment of all sorts of disabilities as equal, therefore all the physically or intellectually disabled enjoy the same facilities and services.**

**Law n ° 81-46 of May 29th 1981, gives protection care and education for disabled persons so the nation is responsible for training employment and socioeconomic integration of these persons.**

**Ø Social security: Law n ° 88-71 of June 27th 1988 is responsible for social security. It is modifies and completes the law n ° 85-12 of March 5th 1985.**

**- Organisms of insurance and social security take expenses of cares, treatment equipments and rehabilitation. Expenses are provided by the fund of social solidarity.**

**- All assured social is responsible for one or several disabled and has some right to domestic allowances to disabled children whatever their rank and age.**

## 1-11 Financial assistance for persons with Intellectual Disabilities

- Ø Program of creating small projects:
- This program is executed by the Ministry of social Affairs, Solidarity and Tunisians Abroad (MASSTE). It provides to create, commercial, agricultural and professional projects for the disabled aiming at raising their income.

A chart about the disabled benefiting from small projects in Kasserine

Year	Total number of disabled beneficiaries	Aid value	Number of the IDs beneficiaries	Aid value
2004	23	53,000D	6	12,500D

Ø Permanent disability pension in benefit of disabled persons by MASSTE

It is a direct permanent financial help for the disabled unable to work, it is provided every three months and reached 130 Tnisian Dinars for each disabled beneficiaries

A chart about the disabled benefiting from permanent disability pension in Kasserine

Year	Total number of disabled beneficiaries	Aid value	Number of the IDs beneficiaries	Aid value
2004	176	91,520D	41	21,320D

- Ø Support for the association concerned with intellectual disabled persons
- The association for the IDs enjoys a yearly grant according to their membership. This grant is about 500 Tunisian Dinars for each disabled member who is not socially-assured and 700 Tunisian Dinars for each disabled who is socially-assured.
- The Financial help provided yearly sponsors the educational and pedagogical programs determined by the ministry.

## 2. Intellectual Disabilities in My country

### 2-1 Services offered by government and NGOs

Tunisia cares a lot about human rights (education, work, medical care...) and insists that all people (the disabled included) can't be bereaved of these rights: that's why we find in Tunisia 219 institutions or more whose roles are to integrate the disabled in the social and the economic life. These institutions are governmental and non-governmental ones they are spread all over the country some of them provide education, others provide vocational training the disabled would choose training that would fit his/ her handicap. Besides the state encourages any one who employs a handicapped by reducing his taxes.

- Ø Services offered by government: Handicapped cards
- MASSTE delivers to every person known as Person with disability by the regional commission for the disabled, a handicap card. Mention "priority" written on this card and

gives them many opportunities

- The titular disabled of a handicapped card carrying important benefit:
- - The access to offices and ticket windows of administrations and public services.

The access to the reserved places to this effect in means of public transport

- The free transport of the individual device.

A chart about the beneficiaries of handicap cards in Kasserine

Year	Physical disability	Intellectual disability	Hearing Impairment	Visual Impairment	Multi disability	Total
2004	4,974	1,734	1,325	1,094	188	9,281
	53.5%	18.6%	14.2%	11.7%	2%	100%

Ø Services offered by NGOs:

The NGOs concerned with intellectual disabled persons provide the following services:

- Provide care for the IDs and help to integrate them into social and economic life.
- Early education that starts at the age of 3 to help the IDs develop independence leading to a normal behavior.
- Special exhaustive medical, psychological, social, and professional and leisure education.
- Vocational training in various specialties.

Organizes different educational, sport and Leisure activities.

- Suts the IDs to be exposed at his exterior environment.

## 2-2 Roles of government and NGOs

### Ø Roles of government

#### ❖ At a central level:

The central office for the promotion of the disabled:

- Takes in charge, develop all the necessary means, measures and programs suitable for the prevention of handicap.
- Develops special education and reeducation systems and relevant school integration policies for handicapped.

Sets all necessary measures for the employment al the handicapped and their professional integration.

- Supervises the activities rehabilitation centers
- Encourages all social and organizational action aiming at the well- being of the handicapped.
- Re-enforcement of the prevention of handicap program thorough the activities of the units of rehabilitation and early diagnoses.
- Consolidation of activities of integrating the disabled in the natural social and professional environment.
- Backing associations functioning in the domain of the disabled with annual financial help, whether their services are given in specialized centers or at home of the disabled.

#### ❖ At a regional level:

The regional commission for the disabled established under low 81-46 of 1981 meant to promote the status of the handicapped works on:

- Studying files of handicapped persons at a regional level in order to identify the nature of their handicaps and provide them with medical assistance.
- Providing the handicapped with a handicapped ID card which

enables the latter to enjoy priority services in transport, administration ...etc.

-Recommending vocational trainings and orientation for the disabled.

- Supervising measures taken for the benefit of disabled workers.

- Ø **Role of non-governmental organizations**

- **Social associations:** These associations are identified by the bill n ° 82-630 of 1982 as social associations benefiting from government financial aid to help, protect and promote the social status of vulnerable categories of the population, notably the disabled and the aged. Hence any association taking care of the disabled enjoy the full right to establish specialized education centers which offer specialized training for the trainers of the disabled in the field of education looking the neutrally and physically disabled in their homes, integrating the disabled in natural social and economic environment and animating sport and leisure competitions for the disabled.

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For example, The Tunisian Union for the support of IDs (UTAIM) takes care of IDs and promotes their physical and Intellectual

abilities. It also guides their relatives in order to provide a better care for them and sensitizes the public opinion about the abilities and the characteristics of the IDs.

#### **Ø Role of residents (people in the community)**

In Tunisia, we find many institutions interested by giving help in order to improve life condition of the PWDs. But we don't find any cooperation through different sectors and residents don't have an important role in order to participate in their self development, so they don't contribute their knowledge, experience and particular skills to the social and economic development of their communities.

### **3. Outline of My organization**

- 3-1 Background, vision, strategy, activity
- The social promotion division of Kasserine (DPS Kasserine) is governmental institution that works under the supervision of the MASSTE. It works at implementing all social promotion programs designed by the ministry in order to develop economic situation of the citizens who live in social difficulties.

The social promotion regional division is divided into 3 units:

- Social care unit
- Social promotion unit
- Social work unit

Added to this, there are 13 local units for social promotion in all over Kasserine.

**Our principal programs are:**

- Providing help to the necessities families.
- Struggle against poverty
- Helping the students who have social difficulties (familial problem, drop out, drug, delinquency and so on...) to continue their study in better condition.
- Providing treatment cards to people who are not socially assured.
- Services for the old to integrate them into the special nursing centre or into family which takes care about them.
- Services for the disabled persons (see 3-2)

- 3-2 Major programs, covered areas, and target population
- DPS Kasserine has many programs concerned with the disabled as below:
  - - Giving prosthesis
  - - Providing handicap cards and renew them every 5 years.
  - - Permanent disability pension (see 1-11)
  - - Small individual project (see 1-11)
  - All these programs are only for the PWDs who are not social assured.

### **3-3 Target group, number of beneficiaries (2004)**

**We look after all citizens of Kasserine who live in social difficulties and are not social assured.**

#### **Giving prosthesis**

Glasses	Hearing aid	Wheelchair	Others
157	27	32	26

- Providing handicap cards (see 2-1)

- Providing treatment cards

Number of beneficiaries of free treatment cards	Number of beneficiaries of treatment cards with 70% of reduction
14,367	39,650

- Permanent pension

Number of necessities families beneficiary of permanent pension	Number of PWDs beneficiary of permanent pension	Number of old people beneficiary of permanent pension
8,885	176	157

- Small individual project (see 1-11)

### **3-4 My position and duty**

I manage the social care unit which aims at the elderly and disabled care and supervises the work of the association for the disabled as regional association coordinator. There are 18 associations which concerned with all kind of disable in Kasserine. Between them, we find 4 associations only for people with I.D. In addition, 2 local associations which look after several types of handicap have also programs for the people with I.D. Some of my functions are:

- Train association members and help them to create educational programs for the benefit of the physically and intellectually disabled.
- Supervises the level of implementation of those programs and whether the objectives have reached.
- Control the activities in the special education centers.
- Control the degree of legality of the special education centers.
- Help the association to produce training programs for the educators.
- Organize seminars and sport and educational competitions for the disabled

### **4. CBR in Tunisia**

The CBR does not exist in Tunisia and all social programs are intended for the individuals and not for communities. And therefore I cannot provide you with any example.

### **5.Situation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities**

#### **5-1 Finding & Diagnosis of I.D., Early intervention**

A number of preventive measures like vaccination at birth, obligatory vaccination calendars for newborns and pregnant women and vaccination in the school environment are followed in

## **Tunisia**

### **5-1-a Prevalence of I.D. in my country / district**

- Ø Total number of the disabled: 151,423**
- Ø Intellectual disabled (ID): 42,016 that is 27.7%**
- Ø Causes of intellectual disability.**

- \*Birth defect: 56.1%**
- \*Natural illness: 35.3%**
- \*Illness caused by the nature of work: 0.8%**
- \*Work accident: 0.4%**
- \*Home accident: 0.7%**
- \*Road accident: 0.7%**
- \*Other accidents: 1%**
- \*Other: 4.9%**

### **5-1-b Person / professionals responsible to diagnoses**

**Doctor**

### **5-1-c Procedure after diagnosis**

**The doctor has to orient the disabled to rehabilitation institute in order to give them special therapy by physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, and psychotherapist and so on. If the disabled is from 6 to 30 years old, he/she will be oriented to special educational center of association.**

## **5-2 Education**

**According to the law 81-46 of May 1981, the disabled has the right to enjoy full education, rehabilitation and vocational training –It also adds that this education should be provided in ordinary education institutions unless it's not possible.**

### **5-2-a Percentage of children with I.D. attend school**

**Ø Special education:**

**This is provided by specialized professional centers supervised by the MASSTE. In Tunisia 19.4% that is 29,400 of the disabled who**

is from 6 to 30 years old receive special education. The intellectually disabled receiving such education represent 42.2% of the total number.

Ø Integrating the Intellectually disabled into ordinary schools: This program has the objective to integrate children from 6 to 10 years old and who has:

- Physical disability
- hearing impairment (hearing aid user)
- light intellectual disability

into the ordinary education environment.

The project has effectively started in 2003 and is expected to reach the waited results in 2015.

A chart about the PWDs integrated in ordinary schools in Kasse