



Algeria



Bahrain



Egypt



Iraq



Kuwait



Lebanon



# Global Survey Report WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region (WFD RSAR)



Mauritania



Morocco



Oman



Palestine



Qatar



Saudi Arabia



Tunisia



U.A.E.



Yemen

## Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People



**Global Survey Report  
WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region (WFD RSAR)  
Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People**

**Compiled by Mr Colin Allen  
Project Co-ordinator  
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Published in November 2008**

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## **1.0 Appreciation**

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR) wish to recognise the co-operation and support from organisations and individuals who contributed their valuable time to the seventh phase of the seven-region Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People. This seventh phase took place in the WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region (WFD RSAR).

The funding organisations:

- Swedish Organisations of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (Shia)
- Co-partners Danish Deaf Association (DDL), Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD), Norwegian Association of the Deaf (NDF) and Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR)

The members of the Project Steering Committee:

- Mr Tomas Hedberg, Sign Language Policy Co-ordinator, Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR)
- Mr Feliciano Sola Limia, Vice President, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Meri Hyske-Fischer, Project Manager, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Anneli Joneken, Project Co-ordinator, Swedish Organisations of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (Shia)

The members of WFD RSAR, who co-operated so efficiently:

- Dr Ghassan Shahrour, Regional Director, WFD RSAR
- Ms Hend Al Showaier, Regional Co-ordinator, WFD RSAR Global Human Rights Pre-Planning Project

The members of Regional Working Group of the Global Human Rights Pre-Planning Project in WFD RSAR:

- Mr Ali Ali Mohammed Al-Qatrefi, Yemen
- Mr Mohammad Mahmoud Nazzal, Palestine
- Ms Sana Elghoul, Tunisia

The three Ordinary Members of WFD RSAR who responded to the survey:

1. National Federation of the Deaf in Algeria
2. Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf
3. Moroccan Forum of the Deaf

The twelve countries in the Arab Region who are not WFD Ordinary Members, who also responded to the survey:

1. Bahrain Deaf Society
2. Association for Service to the Hearing Impaired (Egypt)
3. Charitable Organisation for the Deaf (Iraq)
4. The Learning Centre for the Deaf (Lebanon)
5. Association of Parents of Deaf Children (Mauritania)
6. Al-Wafa Volunteer Social Centre in Abry (Oman)
7. Palestinian Union of the Deaf
8. Qatari Social and Cultural Centre for the Deaf
9. Saudi Association for Hearing Impaired
10. Tunisian Association for Assistance to the Deaf
11. Humanitarian Services of Sharja City (United Arab Emirates)
12. Yemen Society for Rehabilitation of the Deaf

Not least, others who have supported the project:

- Mr Markku Jokinen, President, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Liz Scott Gibson, President, World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI)
- Mr Knud Søndergaard, Finance Officer, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Phillipa Sandholm, Administrative Assistant, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Carol-lee Aquiline, English Grammar Editor for the Project Reports
- Ms Corrie Tijsseling, WFD Expert in Deaf Education
- Ms Vera Jovanović, Ms Desanka Žižić and Mr Boba Milošević, Film Production Team for the DVD in International Sign
- Prince Salman Center for Disability Research, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Everyone who contributed time to the Global Human Rights Pre-Planning Project



## **2.0 Introduction**

The Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR) is the national organisation of Deaf people in Sweden and an Ordinary Member of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). SDR has been involved in 20 international projects with Deaf people in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Russian Federation, with expertise in the fields of Deaf Education, Sign Language, Deaf Women and Children, Sign Language Interpreters, Organisational Development and Income Generating Activities. SDR is a member of Shia (Swedish Organisations of Handicapped International Aid Association) an umbrella organisation for developmental co-operation of Disability Organisations. Shia was founded in 1981 in connection with "The UN Year of People with Disabilities" and when the Disability Decade began. Today there are 28 member organisations affiliated with Shia.

SDR has had contact with many Deaf organisations in developing countries and recognises that approximately 90% of the world's Deaf people have never been to school and are thus more or less illiterate. Sign language is repressed in many countries and its use is not permitted in education. The consequence is that Deaf people are not aware of the rights they have in society, but live as a highly marginalised group in most developing countries. There is usually no access to information for Deaf people, which means that they do not even know what is happening in their immediate society and even less so in the world. Of the world's Deaf people only about five percent (5%) can read and write. This is due to the fact that Deaf people have not been educated in sign language. Improving the status of sign language has consequences for all areas of life for Deaf people; it opens up possibilities for participation, information and influence, and reduction of poverty.

SDR approached WFD to become a partner organisation because WFD is an international organisation with global coverage although not all countries in the world are members. In order to reach as many Deaf people as possible in this project, WFD is a natural choice for SDR, as it is one of WFD's member organisations.

WFD was established in 1951 and acts as an interest group representing Deaf people who use sign language. WFD works in partnership with the United Nations (UN) and its agencies and member states, other international organisations, national organisations of Deaf people, Regional Secretariats and experts. With these partners WFD pursues the rights of Deaf people to participate in society, the State and other areas of life as equal citizens.

WFD has a large network with seven Regional Secretariats, national organisations of Deaf people in 130 member countries and experts within different areas: training, sign language, technology and accessibility, women's issues, human rights, health, employment and developing countries.

SDR approached the Nordic Council of the Deaf to request that the four Nordic Ordinary Members of WFD become involved as co-partners in the project; these four members are the Danish Deaf Association (DDL), Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD), Norwegian Association of the Deaf (NDF) and Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR). SDR forwarded a project proposal to Shia to carry out pre-planning survey work in conjunction with seven of WFD's regions; the proposal was granted funding for a pre-planning survey in the

- Eastern Europe and Middle Asia Regional Secretariat of the WFD (WFD EEMARS)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific (WFD RSA/P)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for South America (WFD RSSA)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (WFD MCAC)
- WFD Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Southern Africa (WFD RSESA)
- WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for Western and Central Africa Region (WFD WCAR)
- WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region (WFD RSAR)

### **Goals of the pre-planning survey**

- Compilation of an analysis of the situation for Deaf people in each of the seven regions according to a common questionnaire. Data is to be produced from three of the regions during the first year of pre-planning and from four of the regions during the second year of pre-planning.
- Production of documentation of assessment of the capacity of the national organisations and the regional structure in each region.
- Production of an education plan for three of the regions during the first year of pre-planning and for four of the regions during the second year of pre-planning.
- Development of training materials, methodologies and pre-planning organisational work to be used in the project.
- Compilation of a global training plan on human rights for the WFD organisations to use as the basis for a complete project application to be submitted to Shia during autumn 2008 for consideration for budget 2009.

### **Project Steering Committee**

A Project Steering Committee was formed to overview the survey work carried out by the Project Co-ordinator. The members of the Steering Committee are:

- Mr Tomas Hedberg, Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR)
- Mr Feliciano Sola Limia, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Meri Hyske-Fischer, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
- Ms Anneli Joneken, Swedish Organisations of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (Shia)



## Project Co-ordinator

SDR and WFD approached the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) to manage the project; and FAD appointed Mr Colin Allen to take on the role of Project Co-ordinator and oversee project management within the seven regions between July 2007 and December 2008. Mr Allen is based in Belgrade, Serbia where he has been associated with other FAD projects within the Balkan Region.

## WFD RSAR Regional Co-ordinator and Regional Working Group

The position of a Regional Co-ordinator was established for each survey region. The Steering Committee agreed to appoint Ms Hend Al-Showaier as Regional Co-ordinator for the WFD RSAR region. Ms Al Showaier, who is based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was responsible to establish a communication network with the members of WFD RSAR as well as to co-ordinate the meeting for the Regional Working Group.

Each survey region also had their own Regional Working Group and the WFD RSAR Regional Working Group had three members:

- Mr Ali Ali Mohammed Al-Qatrefi, Yemen
- Mr Mohammad Mahmoud Nazzal, Palestine
- Ms Sana Elghoul, Tunisia

The members of the Regional Working Group were responsible to acknowledge the Survey Results as they were received from 15 country members and non-members of WFD RSAR. They had a pivotal role in preparing a list of recommendations for the training project work to be carried out for their region in the next stage of the project.



*Mr Mohammad Mahmoud Nazzal*

*Ms Sana Elghoul  
Ms Hend Al-Showaier*

*Mr Ali Ali Mohammed Al-Qatrefi*

### Please note:

The pre-planning survey is a basic situational analysis that aims to collect information from relevant representatives and is not intended to be a complete in-depth analysis of the situation of Deaf persons in WFD RSAR. The data and issues presented in this report are based on the information received from these representatives and members of WFD RSAR.

### Additional notes:

Terminology used in this report is taken from the survey.

Each country's exchange rate into Euro Currency is based on the rate given on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 on the website [www.oanda.com/convert/classic](http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic).



## **3.0 Methodology**

### **3.1 Development of Survey Questionnaire**

According to the framework of the Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People, the Project Co-ordinator developed a survey questionnaire to collect information on the standard of living of Deaf people in all of the seven WFD Regional Secretariats, focussing on the areas of:

1. Status of the National Deaf Association
2. Population of Deaf People
3. Legislation and Policies
4. Access to Government Services
5. Access to the Media
6. Status of the National Sign Language(s)
7. Access to Education
8. Status of Sign Language Interpreting Services
9. Employment Status of Deaf People

The Project Co-ordinator had prior experience in survey work with Deaf people in developing countries, having conducted the FAD - Balkan Survey Project in the countries of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey between 2004 and 2006. Therefore, some of the Balkan Survey Questions were simply modified for this Global Survey work. The Project Co-ordinator also liaised with the President of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) for her guidance on relevant questions regarding the Status of Sign Language Interpreting Services.

The questionnaire was intended to ensure that all appropriate data was received from each member within the Regional Secretariat. The survey questions were approved by the Project Steering Committee prior to commencement of the Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People. The questionnaire is available at the end of this report - Appendix No 2.

### **3.2 Implementation of the Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People in WFD RSAR**

Subsequent to the appointment of the Regional Co-ordinator for WFD RSAR, the Project Co-ordinator and Regional Co-ordinator co-operated in confirming contact addresses for the seven country members of WFD RSAR and 11 non-members of WFD RSAR. The Project Co-ordinator filmed the survey questions in International Sign on a DVD that was disseminated along with the survey questionnaire in written Arabic and one questionnaire in written French. The Regional Co-ordinator prepared the survey package and arranged for it to be mailed from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to

#### **Seven (7) WFD Ordinary (Country) Members in the Arab Region:**

1. National Federation of the Deaf in Algeria
2. Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf
3. *Lebanese Association of Deaf-mutes*
4. Libyan General Federation of Deaf Societies
5. Moroccan Forum of the Deaf
6. Syrian Federation of Societies for the Welfare of the Deaf
7. *Voice of the Deaf Association of Tunisia*

*It was not possible to confirm receipt of the survey package by the Lebanese and Tunisian organisations above; the Regional Co-ordinator, however, was able to find other organisations in these countries as below:-*

- *Lebanon - The Learning Centre for the Deaf (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)*
- *Tunisia - Tunisian Association for Assistance to the Deaf (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)*

#### **Eleven (11) Countries in the Arab Region that are not WFD Ordinary Members:**

1. *Bahrain Disabled Sports Federation*
2. Association for Service to the Hearing Impaired (Egypt)
3. Charitable Organisation for the Deaf (Iraq)
4. Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (Jordan)
5. Association of Parents of Deaf Children (Mauritania)
6. *Oman Association of the Disabled*
7. Palestine Union of Deaf
8. Qatari Social and Cultural Centre for the Deaf
9. Saudi Association for Hearing Impaired
10. *Emirates Society for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped (United Arab Emirates)*
11. Yemeni Society for Rehabilitation of the Deaf

*It was not possible to confirm receipt of the survey package by the Bahrain, Oman and Emirate organisations above; the Regional Co-ordinator, however, was able to find other organisations in these countries:-*

- *Bahrain - Bahrain Deaf Society*
- *Oman - Al-Wafa Volunteer Social Centre in Abry*
- *United Arab Emirates - Humanitarian Services of Sharja City*



### **3.3 Reporting**

The Regional Co-ordinator was the central contact point for collection of the survey. Fourteen out of 15 countries who responded did so in Arabic, and one country answered in French. The Regional Co-ordinator translated the Arabic answers and Ms Hyske-Fischer translated the French answers into English for the Project Co-ordinator. The Project Co-ordinator designed a basic data programme with Excel software to record respondent country answers for all surveys received from the Regional Co-ordinator, i.e. 15 respondent countries. He was then responsible for summarising the results into categorised sections of the report, available under "Survey Results" on page 32. The Project Co-ordinator also prepared the "Executive Summary", found on page 12.

Once the report was drafted the Regional Working Group gave comments and feedback, which were then taken into consideration in the editing phase of the report.

A copy will be sent to all members of WFD RSAR, WFD, Danish Deaf Association (DDL), Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD), Norwegian Association of the Deaf (NDF), Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR), World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), Shia and other interested organisations. A compilation of the most relevant information from all reports will be available at the end of the project.

### **3.4 Regional Working Group Meeting**

The members of the Regional Working Group and the Regional Co-ordinator met with the Project Co-ordinator in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the major findings from the Survey Results and enable the Regional Working Group to identify priority issues to be acknowledged. The members of the Regional Working Group also had training on issues such as:

- a) Background of the World Federation of the Deaf
- b) Human Rights through Sign Languages
- c) Introduction of the Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People
- d) Brief Introduction to International Human Rights Instruments:
  - 1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - 2. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - 3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - 4. Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - 5. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- e) Periodic reporting, the new system of Universal Periodic Reviews and also shadow/alternative reports from NGOs
- f) UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Regional Working Group summarised the high priority issues to be addressed for further training for the members of WFD RSAR. These can be found under "Recommendations" on page 24.

The Regional Working Group asserted that this was the first-ever occasion for them to meet as Deaf representatives on behalf of the Deaf Communities in the Arab Region without any hearing people involved.



## **4.0 Executive Summary of Survey Results**

The Executive Summary of Survey Results is categorised into ten sections and is based on the detailed data results found later in the report:

1. National Associations of the Deaf
2. Population of Deaf People
3. Legislation and Policies
4. Access to Government Services
5. Access to the Media
6. Status of the Country Sign Language(s)
7. Access to Education
8. Status of Sign Language Interpreting Services
9. Employment
10. General Comments

The target members of WFD RSAR who returned completed surveys were:

1. National Federation of the Deaf in Algeria
2. Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf
3. Moroccan Forum of the Deaf

And non-members who returned surveys were:

1. Bahrain Deaf Society
2. Association for Service to the Hearing Impaired (Egypt)
3. Charitable Organisation for the Deaf (Iraq)
4. The Learning Centre for the Deaf (Lebanon)
5. Association of Parents of Deaf Children (Mauritania)
6. Al-Wafa Volunteer Social Centre in Abry (Oman)
7. Palestine Union of Deaf
8. Qatari Social and Cultural Centre for the Deaf
9. Saudi Association for Hearing Impaired
10. Tunisian Association for Assistance to the Deaf
11. Humanitarian Services of Sharja City (United Arab Emirates)
12. Yemeni Society for Rehabilitation of the Deaf

As stated earlier in the report, the survey package was originally sent to organisations in five countries (Lebanon, Tunisia, Bahrain, Oman and United Arab Emirates) that did not confirm receipt of the package; two of these countries (Lebanon and Tunisia) are WFD Ordinary Members. However, the Regional Co-ordinator managed to find contact details of other services for Deaf people in all five countries. Three other countries (Jordan, Libya and Syria) did not return their questionnaires to the Project Co-ordinator in a timely manner.



#### **4.1 Background of the Country Respondents**

##### **4.1.1 Classification of Developing Countries/Developed Countries**

Reference: -

(<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DATASTATISTICS/0,,contentMDK:20420458-menuPK:64133156-pagePK:64133150-piPK:64133175-theSitePK:239419,00.html>)

Based on the World Bank's definition, four classifications were used for this analysis. Two of the 15 country respondents in the Arab Region are classified as Low Income (Mauritania and Yemen); six are classified under Low Middle Income (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia); one as Upper Middle Income (Lebanon); and six are under the category of High Income (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates).

Country	Low Income	Low Middle Income	Upper Middle Income	High Income
Algeria		✓		
Bahrain				✓
Egypt		✓		
Iraq		✓		
Kuwait				✓
Lebanon			✓	
Mauritania	✓			
Morocco		✓		
Oman				✓
Palestine		✓		
Qatar				✓
Saudi Arabia				✓
Tunisia		✓		
United Arab Emirates				✓
Yemen	✓			
Total	2 (13%)	6 (40%)	1 (7%)	6 (40%)

*Based on 15 respondents*

##### **4.1.2 Contact Details of Country Respondents**

Fifteen country respondents supplied their contact details. It was interesting to note that only nine have websites (Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates).



#### 4.1.3 Country Respondent Memberships

Only ten country respondents provided the number of Deaf members; the largest number of Deaf members is from Algeria, with 240,000 out of a total of 247,217 Deaf members in the Arab region. The lowest number of Deaf members provided was two (2) Deaf male members in Morocco. Five countries (Mauritania, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates) did not supply the number of Deaf members.

Country	Total Deaf Members	Total Hard of Hearing Members	Total Hearing Members	Total Members
Algeria	240,000 (77%)	70,000 (22%)	250 (1%)	310,250
Bahrain	200 (82%)	15 (6%)	30 (12%)	245
Egypt	954 (91%)	85 (8%)	12 (1%)	1,051
Iraq	20 (69%)	4 (14%)	5 (17%)	29
Kuwait	734 (100%)	N/A	N/A	734
Lebanon	21 (44%)	0 (0%)	27 (56%)	48
Mauritania	N/A	N/A	100 (Parents of Deaf Children)	100
Morocco	2 (22%)	2 (22%)	5 (56%)	9
Oman	16 (66%)	3 (13 %)	5 (21%)	24
Palestine	5,070 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5,070
Qatar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tunisia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Arab Emirates	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yemen	200 (80%)	50 (20%)	N/A	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,217</b>	<b>70,159</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>317,810</b>

*Please note: The Regional Co-ordinator attempted to follow up with the Deaf Association in Morocco to reconfirm their membership; unfortunately they did not reply.*

#### 4.1.4 Background of the Country Respondents

The backgrounds of the country respondents were very diverse; below is brief description of each group's background.

Country	Background
Algeria	Deaf Association
Bahrain	Educational Support Service for Deaf Community
Egypt	Association for Hearing Impaired
Iraq	Local Charity Organisation
Kuwait	Deaf Sports Club
Lebanon	Educational Support Service for Deaf Community
Mauritania	Parents of Deaf Children
Morocco	Deaf Association
Oman	Educational Support Service for Deaf Community
Palestine	Deaf Association
Qatar	Social and Cultural Centre for Deaf
Saudi Arabia	Association for Hearing Impaired
Tunisia	Educational Support Service for Deaf Community
United Arab Emirates	Local Charity Organisation
Yemen	Educational Support Service for Deaf Community

Three out of 15 country respondents (Algeria, Kuwait and Morocco) are Ordinary Members (OMs) of WFD and were established between 1975 to 2006; the oldest OM in the Arab Region is Kuwait, which was established in 1975, with the most recently-established being the one in Morocco (2006).

Twelve country respondents - Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen - are not Ordinary Members of WFD, although Qatar is an Associate Member. Eleven of 12 country respondents were established between 1993 and 2008; the oldest group in the Arab Region is that of Tunisia (1970).



All country respondents except United Arab Emirates have their own organisational statutes/constitutions, and 12 of 15 country respondents are recognised by their country's government as the association representing Deaf people. Three country respondents (Egypt, Oman and United Arab Emirates) are not recognised by their governments.

Twelve of 14 country respondents described their organisational charts; brief overviews of their structures are available on page 41.

Ten of 14 country respondents (Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen) outlined clear policy statements in the areas of:

- Deaf Education
- Improving the Standard of Living for Deaf People
- Sign Language

Egypt stated their Association has no policy statements; other country respondents (Algeria, Kuwait and Qatar) did not provide this information.

Eleven of 14 country respondents outlined the six highest priority issues or actions in their strategy action plans; the most common issues being:

- Deaf Education
- Sign Language (Dictionaries and Sign Language Training)
- Cultural Programmes
- Employment/Vocational Training
- Deaf Awareness
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Advocacy

The questions then focused on numbers of Regional and Local Deaf Associations in each country. The largest number of Regional Deaf Associations reported is in Tunisia (40); however the organisation in Tunisia is actually an educational support service that has 40 branches in the entire country. Morocco has five Regional Deaf Associations. The largest number of Local Deaf Associations is in Algeria (36). Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar and Yemen do not have either Regional or Local Associations.

Thirteen of 14 country respondents supplied information about the number of board members of their Association. The number of board members ranges between seven and 25; Iraq has the largest number with 25 members on the board. Iran also has a large number of Deaf board members with 20. Only one country respondent (Mauritania) does not have a board structure because it is a support group for Parents of Deaf children.

One question specifically asked for the number of Deaf people serving as a member on the board. Three of 13 country respondents (Kuwait, Palestine and Yemen) have 100% Deaf people on the board. Five country respondents (Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Oman and Saudi Arabia) have a majority of hearing members on their boards (between 11% and 44%). Tunisia does not have any Deaf people at all serving as board members. The general average of Deaf people serving as a board member in countries in the Arab Region is 57%.

Another question queried the number of Deaf women serving on boards. Five country respondents (Algeria, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) do not have any Deaf female board members; Egypt has only one Deaf woman who is also the only Deaf person on the board, with seven being hearing. The approximate average of Deaf women serving on Deaf Association Boards in the Arab Region is 23%.

Thirteen of 15 country respondents have committees for specific areas of interest or affiliation with other relevant independent groups as follows:

- Eleven (85%) Countries have a committee for Deaf Education
- Ten (77%) Countries have committees for Parents of Deaf Children and Sign Language Interpreting
- Nine (69%) Countries have a committee on Sports Groups
- Eight (42%) Countries have committees on Sign Language Research, Deaf Women's Groups and Deaf Youth
- Seven (54%) Countries have a committee for Deaf Seniors
- Six (46%) Countries have a committee for Deaf People with Other Disabilities
- Five (38%) Countries have a committee for Cultural Groups of Deaf People
- Four (31%) Countries have a committee for Children of Deaf Adults
- Three (23%) Countries have a committee for Deafblind
- Two (15%) Countries have other committees

None of the country respondents in the Arab Region has a group or committee for Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual Deaf people.

In reference to the employment of staff members, ten countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen) supplied this information while three countries (Algeria, Iraq and Morocco) do not have any staff members. Tunisia has the largest number of staff members, both Deaf and hearing, at 500. Kuwait has 100% Deaf employees within the organisation while Lebanon and Palestine each has a small group of Deaf employees (19%). Bahrain and Oman do not have any Deaf employees. The approximate average of Deaf employees working for Deaf organisations in the Arab region is 23%.



The final question in this section queried whether any of the countries had a Deaf Chief Executive, Executive Director or Deaf Person-In-Charge of the Deaf organisations. Four countries reported in the affirmative: Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and Yemen.

#### 4.2 Population of Deaf People

Four of the country respondents (Bahrain, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) stated that their government has an official number of Deaf people in their country as shown below:

Country	Does your country's government have any official number of Deaf people in your country?	Total Deaf people
Bahrain	Yes	Approx 600
Morocco	Yes	63,400
Palestine	Yes	14,310
Tunisia	Yes	21,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 Yes (27%)</b>	<b>99,550</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

The following shows the number of Deaf people as recorded by seven country respondents themselves (Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen):

Country	Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate figures of the number of Deaf people living in your country?	Total Deaf people
Algeria	Yes	240,000
Iraq	Yes	200,000
Lebanon	Yes	Approx 12,000
Morocco	Yes	155,000
Saudi Arabia	Yes	100,000
Tunisia	Yes	21,240 *
Yemen	Yes	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 Yes (50%)</b>	<b>731,240</b>

*Based on 14 respondents*

**Please note:** \* - Tunisia reports the same number from both the government and Deaf Association.

It is interesting to see that the official government figures and the number of Deaf people as reported by the association in Morocco differ tremendously. The association records almost 2.5 times more Deaf people than the government does.

The next question in the survey provides an essential record of Deaf people who use sign language as their primary language. Two out of 14 countries reported their number of Sign Language Users as below:

Country	Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate numbers of Deaf people who use sign language as their primary language?	Total Number of Sign Language Users
Iraq	Yes	100,000
Morocco	Yes	63,400 *
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 Yes (14%)</b>	<b>163,400</b>

*Based on 14 respondents*

**Please note:** \* - Morocco's number of Sign Language Users is the same as the Moroccan government's official number of Deaf people.

According to the response from Iraq, only half of the Deaf population uses sign language as their primary language; this is of great concern.

The survey approached all 14 countries with a clear question as to whether HIV/AIDS affected the Deaf women, men and children in their country. Eight countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) stated they do not have any information about this and six countries (Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar and Yemen) answered "No". It is a significant concern that all of the country respondents have no reliable information about the situation of HIV/AIDS within their own Deaf Community.



### 4.3 Legislation and Policies

On the first day of the Regional Working Group Meeting, the Project Co-ordinator introduced the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) concentrating on the key articles relating to the Deaf Community as follows:

Article 2:	Definition
Article 9:	Accessibility
Article 21:	Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information
Article 24:	Education
Article 30:	Participation in cultural life, recreation leisure and sport

At the time of the meeting only five countries (Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) out of 18 target countries had ratified the convention and only two of these countries (Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) had ratified the protocol. Eight countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) had signed the convention and only four of these (Algeria, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) had signed the protocol. Five countries had not signed either the convention or the protocol, these five being Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania and Palestine.

This section focussed on essential data collection about any legislation or policy relating to Deaf people in each country. The first question asked whether each country's government recognised Deaf people as citizens on an equal basis as other citizens; 11 of 15 countries (73%) responded 'Yes' with a 'No' from Morocco and Palestine; Qatar and United Arab Emirates didn't answer the question. The Project Co-ordinator asked the Regional Working Group whether this question was clear in that an "equal basis as other citizens" meant that every Deaf person has the right to be recognised by the government. After consideration, the Regional Working Group believed that most of the countries which answered "Yes" did so correctly.

The next question asked whether each country has an office responsible for services for People with Disabilities, to which 13 of 15 countries answered 'Yes'; Oman and Palestine ticked 'No'. Part of this question asked each country to provide contact details for this government office, which can be found on page 50.

Thirteen of 15 countries confirmed their government has legislation or policy for Deaf People or People with Disabilities in general, and supplied a list of the laws or policies (see page 51). Iraq and Oman stated their current government does not have legislation covering Deaf people or People with Disabilities. All of these laws or policies classified Deaf people under the larger group of People with Disabilities, and none of them addressed the needs of Deaf people as a group in itself.

Seven of 15 countries (Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) have anti-discrimination legislation for People with Disabilities (including Deaf people).

Six of 15 countries (Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) stated their national governments provide services specifically for the Deaf Community through government departments; nine countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) said their government does not provide any services for the Deaf community. For those countries where the government does provide services, the types of services are:

- Financial Allowances
- Free Hearing Aids
- Sign Language News Programmes
- Medical Services
- Deaf Education
- Vocational Training

The general opinion of current services offered by national governments ranges between 'not satisfied' and 'very good'; six of the country respondents, however, made the comment that access to government services needs to be improved, especially the lack of professional interpreters.

Thirteen of 15 country respondents have contact with their country's current government. The type of contact is supervision of association work; provision of financial support for a sign language dictionary project; and to deal with issues confronted by Deaf people in Deaf education. One country (Egypt) does not have any contact with their government; and United Arab Emirates did not answer the question.

Nine of 14 country respondents (Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen) receive funding from their national government with five (Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Oman and Palestine) not receiving any government financial support at all. Oman is a high income country according to the World Bank classification; therefore the lack of funding for their association indicates a lack of interest in the association's work rather lack of funds. Again, United Arab Emirates did not answer the question. Those countries receiving government funding provided the annual amount they received (see page 54) and explained the purpose of the financial support.



The last five questions of this section were to ascertain whether Deaf people have a right to vote in national, regional and local elections; are permitted to obtain a driver's licence; can marry Deaf or other partners; are allowed to have children; and can adopt children. The results are as follows:

Country	Right to vote in national, regional and local elections?	Allowed to obtain a driver's licence?	Allowed to marry Deaf or other partners?	Allowed to have children?	Allowed to adopt children?
Yes	14 (93%) *	10 (67%) **	15 (100%)	15 (100%)	10 (67%)
No	1 (7%)	5 (33%)	0	0	2 (13%)
Not available	0	0	0	0	3 (20%)

*Based on 15 respondents*

**Please note:-**

\* - Deaf women are not allowed to vote in Saudi Arabia.

\*\* - No women, whether hearing or Deaf, are allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia

As many as 33% of the countries that replied to the question about whether Deaf people are allowed to obtain a driver's license answered that in their countries Deaf people cannot drive.

#### **4.4 Access to Government Services**

When asked whether Deaf people have access to government services such as education, health care, employment, social welfare and other general government services, 13 of 15 country respondents ticked 'Yes'. To the question how Deaf people access these government services, there was a common thread that Deaf people make contact through their Associations, Vocational Rehabilitation or Deaf Schools.

Another aspect of access to government services was whether Deaf people were entitled to any financial assistance from the government, to which ten of 15 country respondents (Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) answered 'Yes'. The national government does not offer any financial assistance for Deaf people in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania and Morocco. The types of financial assistance offered to Deaf people are shown in the table below:

Disability Allowance	General Pension	Disability-Specific Pension	Other
3 Countries (20%)	4 Countries (27%)	5 Countries (33%)	5 Countries (33%)

*Based on 15 respondents*

#### **4.5 Access to the Media**

Following are the results of access to the media for Deaf people in these 15 countries, based on three main questions:

- 1) Does the government provide sign language services for news and/or current affairs programmes on public television?

Ten countries (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) stated their government provides sign language services for News Programmes on television. The length of time for sign language programmes on television ranged between a ten-minute daily news bulletin to news programme provided for at least seven hours everyday.

- 2) Does the government provide subtitles/captions for news and/or current affairs programmes?

No news or current programmes have subtitles/captions in the Arab Region according to 15 country respondents.

- 3) Does the government offer any governmental documents in sign language?

None of the governments provides access for Deaf people to receive governmental documents in their sign language.



#### 4.6 Status of the National Sign Language(s)

These questions aimed to gather vital data on the status of national sign language(s) with findings as follows:

- Eleven of 15 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) stated their national sign language is formally recognised by their government
- Four of 15 countries (Egypt, Mauritania, Palestine and Tunisia) stated their sign language is not recognised by their government
- For the eleven countries whose sign languages are recognised, recognition falls under the following categories:

Country	Constitution	Legislation	Guideline	Other
Algeria		✓		
Bahrain			✓	
Iraq			✓	
Kuwait	✓	✓		
Lebanon				✓
Morocco		✓		
Oman			✓	
Qatar	✓			
Saudi Arabia			✓	
United Arab Emirates	✓			
Yemen			✓	

- Thirteen countries continue to actively lobby their national government to recognise their sign languages
- One country (United Arab Emirates) did not state whether they lobby for recognition of their sign language or not

Ten of 15 countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen) have a dictionary of their national sign language.

The Regional Working Group wished to express their great disappointment about a development related to sign languages in the Arab Region, namely the unification of Arab Sign Languages initiated by sign language interpreters and hearing educators. The Regional Co-ordinator prepared a brief report on the Unification of Arab Sign Languages, which is attached as Appendix No 3.

#### 4.7 Access to Education

The most important part of this survey was to ascertain whether every Deaf person was entitled to and had access to good quality education. There were eight questions, the first of which asked whether governments recognised that Deaf children and Deaf students have the right to receive an education. All 15 countries stated 'Yes'. Only 12 of 15 countries responded 'Yes' to the question asking if the government has legislation or a policy on Deaf Education; Mauritania, Morocco and Oman stated 'No'. These 12 countries were able to provide the specific name of the legislation or policy relating to Deaf Education, the list of which is available on page 63.

The next aim was to collect information on educational settings for Deaf children and Deaf students in each country (15 countries) as shown below:

Early Intervention	Kindergarten	Primary Education	Intermediate Education	Secondary Education	University Education	Vocational Education/Training
8 Countries (53%)	10 Countries (67%)	14 Countries (93%)	11 Countries (73%)	9 Countries (60%)	4 Countries (27%)	9 Countries (60%)

*Based on 15 respondents*

Three countries (Algeria, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates) have educational settings from Early Intervention right up to University Education, as well as Vocational Education and Training. Three countries where education for Deaf children is limited to primary education are Iraq, Mauritania and Morocco. One country (Yemen) offered two educational levels - Primary and Secondary.

Another question addressed Bilingual Education offered by the government, and use of the national sign language(s) for Deaf children and Deaf students. Four out of 15 countries (Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates) provided information about which levels of education are provided bilingually:

Early Intervention	Kindergarten	Primary Education	Intermediate Education	Secondary Education	University Education	Vocational Education/Training
2 Countries (50%)	2 Countries (50%)	4 Countries (100%)	4 Countries (100%)	4 Countries (100%)	2 Countries (50%)	3 Countries (75%)

*Based on four respondents*



The Regional Working Group wished to comment that they questioned whether Kuwait and Lebanon actually have bilingual education in any setting because these two countries have a strong oral education philosophy. They were also not certain about the programmes available in Algeria and United Arab Emirates.

According to responses received Deaf people can attend University classes in four countries; however a closer look reveals that bilingual education on this level is actually available in only two Universities. Since the interpreter services are often poor we could question whether Deaf people can truly follow an education programme that in theory is available to them.

The next question had the aim of recording the number of schools specifically for Deaf children and Deaf students; all 15 countries provided replies. The largest number of Deaf schools is in Egypt, which has 113; and the smallest numbers are in Mauritania and Oman, which each has only one. The total number of Deaf schools in all 15 countries is 330; as well there are 32 Special Schools for a total of 362 Deaf and Special Schools in the Arab Region. Two countries (Kuwait and Yemen) stated they have no school for Deaf children; Deaf students are educated by inclusion in the public schools.

Another question approached the type of educational communication methods for Deaf children and Deaf students at the Deaf schools. Thirteen countries provided this information; the summarised results are:

Bilingual Education <sup>1</sup>	Oral Method <sup>2</sup>	Cued Speech <sup>3</sup>	Oral and Sign Language (Total Communication) <sup>4</sup>	Auditory Verbal <sup>5</sup>	Other
1 Country (8%)	7 Countries (54%)	1 Country (8%)	10 Countries (77%)	2 Countries (15%)	1 Country (8%)

*Based on 13 respondents*

The Regional Working Group expressed strong concern that no country in the Arab Region understood that the definition of Bilingualism for Deaf students means using the national sign language(s) in their schools. They also pointed out that responses received could not be correct because there is a conflict in answers between this section and the previous section (7.8.4); in the previous section, four countries said they offered Bilingual Education whereas in this section only one country said they did, and this was a different country from the four in the previous section.

Overall, the dominant educational communication method in the Arab region is Oral Education, indicated by the averages between 54% and 77% for the Oral Method, and Oral and Sign Language.

The following questions were asked: 'What is the general opinion of the level of education received by Deaf children and Deaf students?' and 'What is the general opinion of the current literacy level of Deaf children and Deaf students?' Full details as provided by all countries can be found on page 67.

At the higher level of education, the survey questions sought information as to whether Deaf people have access to University education and also asked each country to supply information about the number of Universities which offer study placements for Deaf people. Only five of 15 country respondents (Algeria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates) have places for Deaf people to access University education. The full details can be found on page 67.

In those countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar and Yemen) where Deaf people do not have access to University education, four different reasons were provided:

1. Deaf students have not completed the highest educational level
2. No Secondary School(s) for Deaf students
3. Most Deaf students who graduate are illiterate

The last question of the Education part of the survey asked about Sign Language Interpreting Services offered for Deaf students in University. In none of the 15 countries do Deaf people have full access to sign language interpreting services for University.

<sup>1</sup> **Bilingual Education:** Sign language is considered to be the natural language ('mother tongue') that will be acquired as a first language. Spoken language, which is not acquired naturally by Deaf children, will be learned as a second language as the child becomes cognitively/developmentally ready. Both languages are used throughout the child's entire education.

<sup>2</sup> **Oral Education:** Spoken language is assumed to be the basis for standard social and academic communication, and the human system is assumed to be designed (pre-wired) to learn language expressed in speech. Children learn about and from spoken language. Also known as auditory-oral, aural/oral education. Emphasis on speech.

<sup>3</sup> **Cued Speech:** A visual mode of communication that uses hand shapes and placements in combination with the mouth movements of speech to make the phonemes of a spoken language look different from each other, resulting in a visual counterpart of a spoken language.

<sup>4</sup> **Total Communication:** All forms and modes of communications are used. This includes natural gestures, sign language, manually-coded spoken languages, sign systems, mime, audition and speech.

<sup>5</sup> **Auditory Verbal Education:** Supposes that even minimal amounts of residual hearing can lead to the development of spontaneous speech and language, if that residual hearing is stimulated. Children learn to process language through amplified hearing. A method of oral education with an emphasis on listening.



#### 4.8 Status of Sign Language Interpreting Services

The Regional Working Group made a general comment about Sign Language Interpreting Services and Training Programmes in the Arab Region: in spite of some responses received, there are no interpreters who have received full training to become professional or qualified sign language interpreters. There is a training programme on the Unification of Arabic Sign Languages (see [Appendix No 3](#)) that both Deaf people and hearing people can attend for five or ten days. The training is to learn Arabic Signs from the Unification dictionary. Hearing people who complete the training receive a certificate as a sign language interpreter, and can also become a trainer for other hearing people in their own country.

To questions focusing on the status of sign language interpreting services, 14 out of 15 countries reported that they have sign language interpreters. The next question asked them to provide the number of sign language interpreters, to which the response ranged from five each in Bahrain, Morocco and Palestine to 300 in Algeria.

The survey next aimed to gain specific information as to whether any of these sign language interpreters are appropriately qualified, to which seven out of 14 countries responded (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Tunisia). When asked where people go to obtain training to become a qualified sign language interpreter the answers were:

University	National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group	Others
1 Country (14%)	6 Countries (86%)	2 Countries (29%)

*Based on seven respondents*

The length of training available is detailed on page 70.

The current number of sign language interpreters with formal interpreting qualifications starts with only one qualified interpreter in Iraq up to 60 interpreters in Tunisia. Egypt and Kuwait did not report the number of qualified sign language interpreters in their countries. The Regional Working Group stated there are no qualified interpreters in Tunisia; this was confirmed by a member of the Regional Working Group who is herself from Tunisia.

When queried about how Deaf people access sign language interpreting, seven countries stated such services are accessed through their Deaf Association or Deaf Centre, and their contact network with sign language interpreters. Another question designed to collect information about who is responsible for providing sign language interpreting services for the Deaf Community, answered by 12 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) resulted in the following findings:

Government	National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group	Private Sector	Other
5 Countries (33%)	10 Countries (67%)	1 Country (7%)	1 Country (7%)

*Based on 15 respondents*

The types of sign language interpreting services offered to the Deaf community in ten countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) are:

Sign Language Interpreting Services	Country/Average Percentage
Court Services	9 Countries (90%)
Educational Services	8 Countries (80%)
Social Services	5 Countries (50%)
Health/Medical Services	5 Countries (50%)
Entertainment	4 Countries (40%)
Counselling Services	3 Countries (30%)
Employment Services	3 Countries (30%)
Funerals/Weddings	2 Countries (20%)
Financial Institutions	2 Countries (20%)

*Based on ten respondents*

Twelve out of 15 respondents provided their general opinion of these sign language interpreting services. The broad opinion is that most services are good or excellent; however other countries stated there is lack of interpreters to meet Deaf people's demands for the interpreting service needs or that not every interpreter is fluent in their sign language(s).

Ten out of 15 respondents stated that sign language interpreters receive payment for their interpreting assignments, with the responsibility for remitting payment as follows:

Government	National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group	Deaf People	Others
6 Countries (60%)	5 Countries (50%)	3 Countries (30%)	2 Countries (20%)

*Based on ten respondents*



- Six country's governments, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, are responsible for payment of interpreting services
- In five countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia) the National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group provides funding for the service
- Three countries (Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine) stated that Deaf people themselves pay for the service

Two countries detailed the provision of funding for interpreting services from other sources; this information can be found on page 71.

Ten out of 15 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) responded to the question asking the average rate per hour for sign language interpreters. The lowest rate is 17.60€ paid for one hour of service in Iraq; and the highest hourly payment is 57.87€ per hour in Saudi Arabia. (Payment scales can be found on page 73).

Ten countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates) stated their sign language interpreters provide voluntary services for all assignments and one country (Saudi Arabia) stated that their interpreters do voluntary services sometimes; three countries (Kuwait, Mauritania and Yemen) state that their sign language interpreters never provide voluntary services for interpreting assignments. Lebanon did not answer the question.

The question seeking whether each country has a National Association of Sign Language Interpreters brought to light that only one country (Algeria) has a national organisation for Sign Language Interpreters. Only one country (Qatar) out of 15 country respondents has their own national Code of Ethics for Sign Language Interpreters.

The last question for this section sought information about legislation or policies which state the government has a responsibility for the provision of sign language interpreting services. None of the 15 countries has any legislation or policy for provision of such services by the government.

#### **4.9 Employment**

This survey sought to gather information on employment settings for Deaf people in the Arab Region. The first question was to confirm whether the government considers that Deaf people have a right to be employed and earn a standard salary. Two out of 15 countries (Mauritania and Palestine) stated 'No'; the other 13 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) stated 'Yes'. Not all country respondents provided the number of Deaf people who are unemployed; only Iraq gave a number, stating that 100,000 Deaf people are unemployed. However country respondents frequently comment that Deaf people are out of work due to poor literacy or because they do not have access to sign language interpreting services for job interviews or on-the-job training. The next question was whether any of the national governments have anti-discrimination laws in the area of employment, especially for Deaf people or People with Disabilities. Only nine countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine and Qatar) do not have laws against discrimination of Deaf people or People with Disabilities. Six countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) provided a list of the legislation or policies relating to anti-discrimination in employment (found on page 76).

Information on the official figures of the number of Deaf people in paid employment was supplied by two countries (Bahrain and Qatar). Four countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait and Morocco) ticked the most common areas of work for Deaf people in their country (found on page 77). The question aiming to find out the reasons for Deaf people's unemployment was responded to by only one out of the 15 country respondents (Iraq).

The final question asked if there were any employment services to assist unemployed Deaf people to find positions and also asked who is responsible for this service. Nine out of 15 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates) have specialised services offered by both the Government Employment Service and the National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group to assist Deaf people to gain employment.

#### **4.10 General Comments**

Five issues of common concern faced by every National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group globally were listed, and all 15 countries prioritised these issues for the Deaf community in their country. Please note: the majority of the countries ticked more than one 'highest priority'. The results are:

Highest Priority Issues	Country/Average Percentage Based on 15 respondents
Better quality of Deaf Education	13 Countries (87%)
Equal Opportunity in Employment	10 Countries (67%)
Better Sign Language Interpreting quality and services	9 Countries (60%)
Improved quality and access to Government and Community Services	8 Countries (53%)
Recognition of your country's Sign Language(s) by your country's Government	7 Countries (47%)
Others	2 Countries (13%)



The final part of the survey provided the opportunity for each country to list any other concerns about the standard of living of Deaf people. Seven countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) took the opportunity and expressed the following common areas of concern:

- Health Services for Deaf People
- Financial Support for the Deaf Association
- Urgent improvement of Deaf Education to enable Deaf students to attend University
- Vocational Training
- Employment Services for Deaf People
- Television News Programmes
- Many Deaf people are unemployed, therefore their standard of living is low



## **5.0 Recommendations**

This section is based on the recommendations prepared by the members of the Regional Working Group that met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2008 to pursue the issues highlighted in the report.

It may be necessary for the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR) to seek external support for the region, i.e. to seek project support and funding via partnerships with Shia and other relevant organisations.

The Regional Working Group discussed the general overview of the Survey Results and identified training needs after a brainstorming session on issues highlighted by the survey. They identified the following as urgent needs for the members in the Arab Region:

- Sign Language Issues
- Human Rights for Deaf People
- Sign Language Interpreting Issues
- Deaf Education, especially Bilingualism
- Deaf Studies
- Advocacy

Any or all training should be available in sign language and conducted by Deaf Trainers and Experts. The Regional Working Group has identified the major needs as being:

### **5.1 Seminar for Deaf Representatives from the Arab Region**

At the end of the brainstorming session, the Project Co-ordinator and the members of the Regional Working Group developed an **urgent recommendation** that it is necessary to organise a Seminar to be attended by at least two **Deaf** representatives (one female and one male) from each country of the Arab Region. The Seminar will provide an opportunity to introduce Deaf Human Rights issues such as:-

- Deaf Empowerment enacted by Deaf people themselves
- Sign Language
- Deaf Education
- Sign Language Interpreters

### **5.2 Leadership Training for Local Associations, Regional Associations and National Associations of Deaf People**

The process would ideally also include training of individual members and board members of every Local Association, Regional Association and National Association of Deaf People in the Arab region, and include subjects such as:

- WFD Policies
- International Network and Roles of the United Nations, WFD, WFD Regional Secretariats
- Global Models of Deaf Communities and Organisations, e.g. WFD, and their work
- Human Rights
- Gender Issues
- Deaf Education/Bilingualism for Deaf Students
- Review of Deaf Education
- Sign Language Work
- Sign Language Interpreting
- Media for Deaf People
- Deaf Employment/Vocational Training
- National Legislation/Local Government Systems
- Leadership
- Empowerment and Democracy
- Advocacy by Local Associations, Regional Associations and National Associations of Deaf People
- Deafhood (the Deaf collective existence; a process by which Deaf individuals come to actualise their Deaf identity)

### **5.3 Increase Knowledge of the United Nations Conventions**

After receiving training on the various conventions of the United Nations, the Regional Working Group considered knowledge of current conventions a powerful tool for each country's Deaf Community. Training should be provided about the:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Periodic reporting, the new system of Universal Periodic Reviews and also shadow/alternative reports from NGOs



## 5.4 Training on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Ideally each member of Arab Region should receive full training in understanding the CRPD in its entirety, to enable them to prepare for their advocacy role within areas such as:

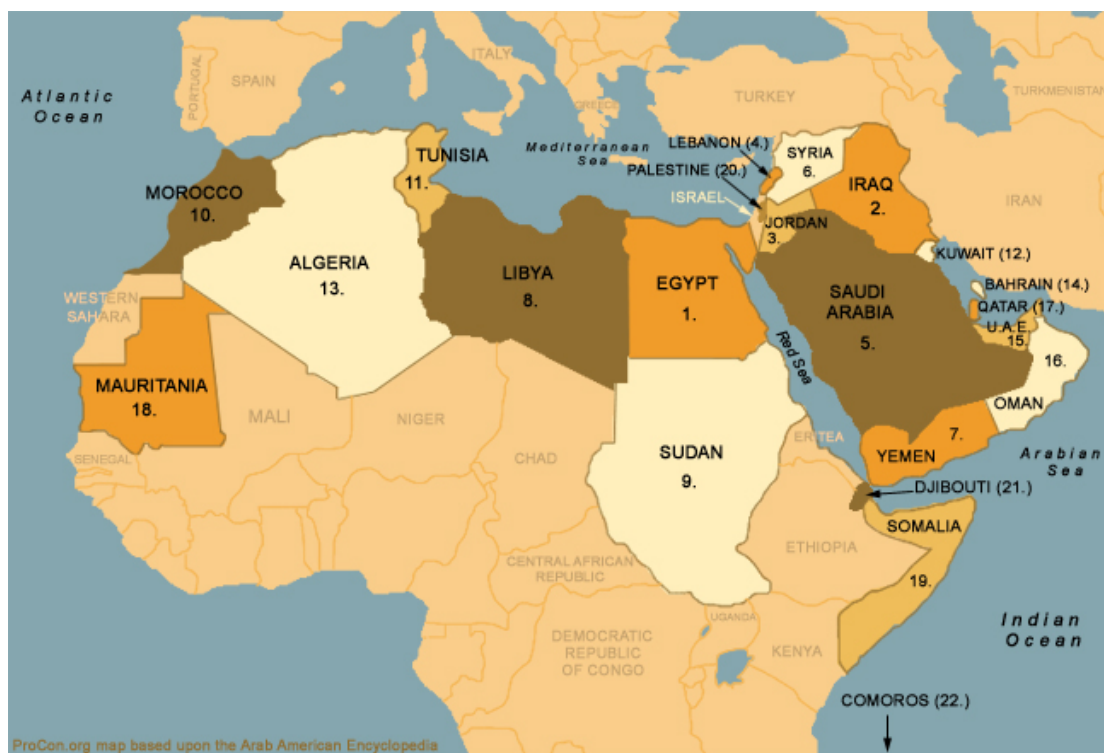
1. How to lobby Government to sign and ratify CRPD (who, how, what)
2. How the National Association of the Deaf can become an expert with their national government for the five articles of the CRPD specifically related to the Deaf Community
3. How to prepare and advise the national government about the five articles of the CRPD relating to the Deaf Community including budget preparation, advisory roles, and appropriate systems/appointments/procedures

## 5.5 Other Issues

### 5.5.1 Membership of the WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region

The representatives of the Regional Working Group wish to affirm the country members of the WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region shall be 22 members according to the League of Arab States (<http://www.arab.de/arabinfo/league.htm>). The members of the League of Arab States and the year of their admittance are:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Egypt (Founding member 1945)        | 12. Kuwait (1961)               |
| 2. Iraq (Founding member 1945)         | 13. Algeria (1962)              |
| 3. Jordan (Founding member 1945)       | 14. Bahrain (1971)              |
| 4. Lebanon (Founding member 1945)      | 15. United Arab Emirates (1971) |
| 5. Saudi Arabia (Founding member 1945) | 16. Oman (1971)                 |
| 6. Syria (Founding member 1945)        | 17. Qatar (1971)                |
| 7. Yemen (Founding member 1945)        | 18. Mauritania (1973)           |
| 8. Libya (1953)                        | 19. Somalia (1974)              |
| 9. Sudan (1956)                        | 20. Palestine (1976)            |
| 10. Morocco (1958)                     | 21. Djibouti (1977)             |
| 11. Tunisia (1958)                     | 22. Comoros (1993)              |



### 5.5.2 Deaf Associations in Sudan and Somali

The WFD Ordinary Member in Somali and the Deaf Association in Sudan are currently members of the WFD Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Southern Africa (RSESA). The representatives of the Regional Working Group wish to request the WFD Board to consider transferring regional membership of these two countries to the WFD Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region.



## 6.0 Geography and Population

All of the following information was obtained from the Central Intelligence Agency - World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>)

### 6.1 Algeria



<b>Population:</b>	33,769,668 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab-Berber 99%, European less than 1% <i>note:</i> almost all Algerians are Berber in origin, not Arab; the minority who identify themselves as Berber live mostly in the mountainous region of Kabylie east of Algiers; the Berbers are also Muslim but identify with their Berber rather than Arab cultural heritage; Berbers have long agitated, sometimes violently, for autonomy; the government is unlikely to grant autonomy but has offered to begin sponsoring teaching Berber language in schools
<b>Religions:</b>	Sunni Muslim (state religion) 99%, Christian and Jewish 1%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), French, Berber dialects

### 6.2 Bahrain



<b>Population:</b>	718,306 <i>note:</i> includes 235,108 non-nationals (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Bahraini 62.4%, non-Bahraini 37.6% (2001 census)
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim (Shi'a and Sunni) 81.2%, Christian 9%, other 9.8% (2001 census)
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu

### 6.3 Egypt



<b>Population:</b>	81,713,520 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Egyptian 99.6%, other 0.4% (2006 census)
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim (mostly Sunni) 90%, Coptic 9%, other Christian 1%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes



## 6.4 Iraq



<b>Population:</b>	28,221,180 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab 75%-80%, Kurdish 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian, or other 5%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 97% (Shi'a 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic, Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Turkoman (a Turkish dialect), Assyrian (Neo-Aramaic), Armenian

## 6.5 Kuwait



<b>Population:</b>	2,596,799 <i>note: includes 1,291,354 non-nationals (July 2008 est.)</i>
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Kuwaiti 45%, other Arab 35%, South Asian 9%, Iranian 4%, other 7%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 85% (Sunni 70%, Shi'a 30%), other (includes Christian, Hindu, Parsi) 15%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), English widely spoken

## 6.6 Lebanon



<b>Population:</b>	3,971,941 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1% <i>note: many Christian Lebanese do not identify themselves as Arab but rather as descendants of the ancient Canaanites and prefer to be called Phoenicians</i>
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 59.7% (Shi'a, Sunni, Druze, Isma'ilite, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Copt, Protestant), other 1.3% <i>note: 17 religious sects recognized</i>
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian



## 6.7 Mauritania



<b>Population:</b>	3,364,940 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	mixed Moor/black 40%, Moor 30%, black 30%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 100%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official and national), Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof (all national languages), French, Hassaniya

## 6.8 Morocco



<b>Population:</b>	34,343,220 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab-Berber 99.1%, other 0.7%, Jewish 0.2%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 98.7%, Christian 1.1%, Jewish 0.2%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), Berber dialects, French often the language of business, government, and diplomacy

## 6.9 Oman



<b>Population:</b>	3,311,640 <i>note: includes 577,293 non-nationals (July 2008 est.)</i>
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab, Baluchi, South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi), African
<b>Religions:</b>	Ibadhi Muslim 75%, other (includes Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu) 25%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects



## 6.10 Palestine (West Bank and Gaza Strip)



<b>Population:</b>	2,407,681 <i>note:</i> in addition, there are about 187,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank and fewer than 177,000 in East Jerusalem (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Palestinian Arab and other 83%, Jewish 17%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 75% (predominantly Sunni), Jewish 17%, Christian and other 8%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic, Hebrew (spoken by Israeli settlers and many Palestinians), English (widely understood)

The map was obtained from: -  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Palestine&printable=yesMap>

## 6.11 Qatar



<b>Population:</b>	824,789 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab 40%, Indian 18%, Pakistani 18%, Iranian 10%, other 14%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 77.5%, Christian 8.5%, other 14% (2004 census)
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), English commonly used as a second language



## 6.12 Saudi Arabia



<b>Population:</b>	28,146,656 <i>note: includes 5,576,076 non-nationals (July 2008 est.)</i>
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab 90%, Afro-Asian 10%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 100%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic

## 6.13 Tunisia



<b>Population:</b>	10,383,577 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Arab 98%, European 1%, Jewish and other 1%
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 98%, Christian 1%, Jewish and other 1%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official and one of the languages of commerce), French (commerce)



## 6.14 United Arab Emirates



<b>Population:</b>	4,621,399 <i>note:</i> estimate is based on the results of the 2005 census that included a significantly higher estimate of net immigration of non-citizens than previous estimates (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Emirati 19%, other Arab and Iranian 23%, South Asian 50%, other expatriates (includes Westerners and East Asians) 8% (1982) <i>note:</i> less than 20% are UAE citizens (1982)
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim 96% (Shi'a 16%), other (includes Christian, Hindu) 4%
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic (official), Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu

## 6.15 Yemen



<b>Population:</b>	23,013,376 (July 2008 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	predominantly Arab; but also Afro-Arab, South Asians, Europeans
<b>Religions:</b>	Muslim including Shafi'i (Sunni) and Zaydi (Shi'a), small numbers of Jewish, Christian, and Hindu
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic



## 7.0 Survey Results

### 7.1.0 Contact Details

Country	Algeria (WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Lower Middle Income
Name of Association	National Federation of the Deaf in Algeria (FNSA)
Name of Association in National Language	الفيديرالية الوطنية للصم الجزائريين
Address	Route des deux Bassins Ben-Aknoun Centre familial (siege social)
Postal Address	16030/Borte Polak 172
City, Post Code	Ager, 1603
Country	Algeria
Website	www.sourdinet.dz
Email	fnsa_2006@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+213 021 91 1710 +213 021 91 1629
Telephone Mobile Number	+07 715 421 33
Fax Number	+213 021 91 1512 +213 021 91 1629
Country	Bahrain (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	High Income
Name of Deaf Group	Bahrain Deaf Society
Name of Association in National Language	جمعية الصم البحرينية
Postal Address	P.O. Box 21876
City, Code	Manamah
Country	Kingdom of Bahrain
Website	N/A
Email	Bahrain_Deaf@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+973 172 50 115
Telephone Mobile Number	+973 368 84 141
Fax Number	+973 172 50 114
Country	Egypt (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Lower Middle Income
Name of Association	Association for Service to the Hearing Impaired (ASDAA)
Name of Association in National Language	جمعية أصداء لرعاية المعاقين سمعياً
Address	87 Dara street - Saidi Jaber
Postal Address	P.O. Box 2564 Alsarai
City, Code	Alexandaria
Country	Egypt
Website	www.asdaa.org
Emails	asdaa_alex@yahoo.com asdaa1@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+20 3546 0382
Telephone Mobile Number	+20 3986 4046
Fax Number	+20 3546 0382



Country	Iraq (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Lower Middle Income
Name of Deaf Group	Charitable Organisation for the Deaf
Name of Deaf Group in National Language	جمعية الصم الخيرية.
Address	Bagdad - Alkaradah - Erssat Alhendiyah - Airport Street
City, Code	Bagdad
Country	Iraq
Website	N/A
Email	Def_dum2006@yahoo.com
Telephone Landline Number	+964 7400 150647
Telephone Mobile Number	+964 7901 502416
Fax Number	N/A
Country	Kuwait (WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	High Income
Name of Deaf Group	Kuwait Sports Club for the Deaf
Name of Deaf Group in National Language	النادي الكويتي الرياضي للصم
Address	
Postal Address	33141
City, Code	Al-Roudah, 73452
Country	Kuwait
Website	www.kuwaitdeaf.com
Email	k_c_d75@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+965 256 3204 +965 254 5094/5 +965 254 5636
Telephone Mobile Number	N/A
Fax Number	+965 254 2256
Country	Lebanon (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Upper Middle Income
Name of Deaf Group	The Learning Centre for the Deaf (LCD)
Name of Deaf Group in National Language	مركز التعلم للصم
Address	Presidential Palace Road Sacre Coeur Hospital Crossiry
City, Code	Brasilia-Baaloda
Postal Address	P.O.Box 40-211
City, Code	Baabda
Country	Lebanon
Website	www.lcd-lebanon.org
Email	lcd@lcd-lebanon.org
Telephone Landline Number	+961 5954 584
Telephone Mobile Number	+961 3700 584
Fax Number	+961 5954 584



Country	Mauritania (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Low Income
Name of Deaf Group	Association of Parents of Deaf Children
Name of Deaf Group in National Language	رابطة أهالي الأطفال الصم
Address	Avenue du President Bourguiba Ksar
Postal Address	4075
City, Code	Nouakchott
Country	Mauritania
Website	N/A
Email	medmoussa@yahoo.com
Telephone Landline Number	+ 222 524 1957
Telephone Mobile Number	+ 222 233 1900
Fax Number	+ 222 524 1958
Country	Morocco (WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Lower Middle Income
Name of Association	Moroccan Forum of the Deaf
Name of Association in National Language	المنتدى المغربي للصم
Address	B.P. 20 Doukkarat
City, Code	Fes 30000
Country	Morocco
Website	www.fmsourds.org
Email	fmsourds@gmail.com amsourds@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+212 356 01651
Telephone Mobile Number	+212 621 02415
Fax Number	+212 356 01651
Country	Oman (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	High Income
Name of Deaf Group	Al-Wafa Volunteer Social Centre in Abry
Name of Group in National Language	مركز الوفاء الاجتماعي التطوعي بعبري
Address	Kawas Street
City, Code	Abry, 115
Country	Sultanate Oman
Website	N/A
Email	moza3333@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+968 2569 2432
Telephone Mobile Number	+968 9225 0810 +968 9619 5917
Fax Number	+968 2569 2432



Country	Palestine (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Lower Middle Income
Name of Association	Palestinian Union of the Deaf
Name of Association in National Language	الاتحاد الفلسطيني للصم
Address	Al-Salam Street - Hay Kafar Saba
City, Code	West Bank - Qalqiliyah, 00972
Country	Palestine
Website	N/A
Email	paldeaf@gmail.com paldeaf@yahoo.com
Telephone Landline Number	+970 2 9294 0627
Telephone Mobile Number	+970 2 5992 11067 +970 2 5996 53378
Fax Number	+970 2 9294 5953
Country	Qatar (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	High Income
Name of Deaf Group	Qatari Social and Cultural Centre for the Deaf
Name of Deaf Group in National Language	المركز القطري الثقافي الاجتماعي للصم.
Address	Alma'mourah street Beside Central Market.
Postal Address	45649
City, Code	Doha
Country	Qatar
Website	www.qdeaf.org
Email	deafcenter_qatar@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+974 469 7700
Telephone Mobile Number	N/A
Fax Number	+974 469 7711
Country	Saudi Arabia (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	High Income
Name of Deaf Group	Saudi Association for Hearing Impaired (Saudi - HI)
Name of Association in National Language	الجمعية السعودية للإعاقات السمعية (سمعية)
Address	Al-Ammariyah Street Building number 21
Postal Address	P.O. Box 7533
City, Code	Riyadh, 11472
Country	Saudi Arabia
Website	www.saudi-hi.com
Emails	Saudi.hi@gmail.com Hend220@yahoo.com
Telephone Landline Number	+966 (1) 219 5551
Telephone Mobile Number	N/A
Fax Number	+966 (1) 219 5553



Country	Tunisia (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Lower Middle Income
Name of Association	Tunisian Association for Assistance to the Deaf
Name of Association in National Language	الجمعية التونسية لمساعدة الصم
Address	10 Nahj Balhassan Bin Shaaban
City, Code	1005
Country	Republic of Tunisia
Website	www.atas.org.tn
Email	atasbn@topnet.tn
Telephone Landline Number	+216 7189 9638 +216 7189 7782
Telephone Mobile Number	+216 9837 9165
Fax Number	+216 7189 6321
Country	United Arab Emirates (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	High Income
Name of Association	Humanitarian Services of Sharja City
Name of Association in National Language	مدينة الشارقة للخدمات الإنسانية
Address	Al-Yarmook street Stretching from Al-Wehda Street
City, Code	Sharja, 5796
Country	United Arab Emirates
Website	www.schs.ae
Email	shjchs@emirates.net.ae
Telephone Landline Number	+971 566 0667
Telephone Mobile Number	N/A
Fax Number	+971 566 4461
Country	Yemen (Not a WFD Ordinary Member)
Country Classification	Low Income
Name of Deaf Group	Yemen Society for Rehabilitation of the Deaf
Name of Deaf Group in National Language	جمعية رعاية وتأهيل الصم محافظة البيضاء – اليمن
Address	Main Road Alshokeyah Region
City, Code	Redaa City
Country	Republic of Yemen
Website	N/A
Email	laa75@hotmail.com
Telephone Landline Number	+967 6550 864
Telephone Mobile Number	+967 71152 6458
Fax Number	+967 6550 670



## 7.2.0 National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group

7.2.1 Please provide the number of members your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group has in your country.

7.2.1.1 Deaf Members: -

Country	Total Deaf Members	Total Deaf Women	Total Deaf Men
Algeria	240,000	110,000	130,000
Bahrain	200	65	135
Egypt	954	514	440
Iraq	20	7	13
Kuwait	734	198	536
Lebanon	21	11	10
Mauritania	N/A	N/A	N/A
Morocco	2	0	2
Oman	16	10	6
Palestine	5,070	N/A	N/A
Qatar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tunisia	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Arab Emirates	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yemen	200	60	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,217</b>	<b>110,865</b>	<b>131,282</b>

7.2.1.2 Hard of Hearing Members: -

Country	Total Hard of Hearing Members	Total Hard of Hearing Women	Total Hard of Hearing Men
Algeria	70,000	20,000	50,000
Bahrain	15	10	5
Egypt	85	46	39
Iraq	4	2	2
Kuwait	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lebanon	0	0	0
Mauritania	N/A	N/A	N/A
Morocco	2	0	2
Oman	3	2	1
Palestine	0	0	0
Qatar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tunisia	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Arab Emirates	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yemen	50	20	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,159</b>	<b>20,080</b>	<b>50,079</b>



### 7.2.1.3 Hearing Members: -

Country	Total Hearing Members
Algeria	250
Bahrain	30
Egypt	12
Iraq	5
Kuwait	N/A
Lebanon	27
Mauritania	100 (Parents of Deaf Children)
Morocco	5
Oman	5
Palestine	0
Qatar	N/A
Saudi Arabia	N/A
Tunisia	N/A
United Arab Emirates	N/A
Yemen	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>

### 7.2.1.4 Summary Status of the Associations'/Groups' Memberships: -

Country	Total Deaf Members	Total Hard of Hearing Members	Total Hearing Members	Total Members
Algeria	240,000 (77%)	70,000 (22%)	250 (1%)	310,250
Bahrain	200 (82%)	15 (6%)	30 (12%)	245
Egypt	954 (91%)	85 (8%)	12 (1%)	1,051
Iraq	20 (69%)	4 (14%)	5 (17%)	29
Kuwait	734 (100%)	N/A	N/A	734
Lebanon	21 (44%)	0 (0%)	27 (56%)	48
Mauritania	N/A	N/A	100 (Parents of Deaf Children)	100
Morocco	2 (22%)	2 (22%)	5 (56%)	9
Oman	16 (66%)	3 (13 %)	5 (21%)	24
Palestine	5,070 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5,070
Qatar	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Saudi Arabia	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Tunisia	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
United Arab Emirates	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Yemen	200 (80%)	50 (20%)	N/A	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,217</b>	<b>70,159</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>317,810</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

*The Regional Working Group stated that accurate membership data may not have been supplied by every country respondent.*



- 7.2.2 In what year was your National Association/Deaf Group established?  
 7.2.3 Does your Deaf Association/Deaf Group have Statutes/a Constitution?  
 7.2.4 Does your government recognise your national organisation as the representative of Deaf people in your country?

Country	In what year was your National Association/Deaf Group established?	Does your Deaf Association/Deaf Group have Statutes/a Constitution?	Does your government recognise your national organisation as the representative of Deaf people in your country?
Algeria	1979	Yes	Yes
Bahrain	2007	Yes	Yes
Egypt	2000	Yes	No
Iraq	2006	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	1975	Yes	Yes
Lebanon	2002	Yes	Yes
Mauritania	2005	Yes	Yes
Morocco	2006	Yes	Yes
Oman	1993	Yes	No
Palestine	2008	Yes	Yes
Qatar	2005	Yes	Yes
Saudi Arabia	2000	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	1970	Yes	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Yemen	2007	Yes	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>14 Yes (93%)</b>	<b>12 Yes (80%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

- 7.2.5 Please list some of the areas in which your association/group has adopted a policy statement.

Country	Please list some of the areas in which your association/group has adopted a policy statement.
Algeria	No information supplied
Bahrain	1. Conducting a survey with the cooperation of Bahrain Centre for Research 2. Computer training course for the Deaf 3. Presented a historical play for the first time in the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council
Egypt	There is NONE
Iraq	Our association participated in protecting the rights of disabled people by writing a constitution to help them.
Kuwait	No information supplied
Lebanon	Empowering the Deaf through education.
Mauritania	1. Inclusive education 2. Health care of deaf children
Morocco	Our mission in the Association is to develop strategic plans to better the living conditions of the Deaf in Morocco. The Moroccan Forum of the Deaf is engaged in a number of campaigns to raise the standard of living of Deaf people in Morocco. There is a growing public interest in the use of sign language in the various social domains where Deaf people are involved. These include courts of law, educational institutions, police stations, and various places of work. Some outstanding examples of this association's dedication to empowerment of Deaf people are a special education training for educators in May 2007, sign language training for police officers in October 2007 and two summer camps for Deaf youth that were held in Rabat (August 2006) and Salé (August 2007). These camps gave the Deaf youth of Morocco a chance to interact with one another and to build life-long friendships. As well we have taken the first steps in building cooperation and participation among Deaf associations in Morocco.
Oman	1. Conduct training sessions in sign language 2. Participation of the Deaf in the Olympiad in Sultanate Oman
Palestine	1. Participation in preparing the Disabled People Law which was approved in 1999 2. Participation in developing Statutes for the Sports Federation of Disabled People 3. Wrote Statutes to form the Palestinian Union of the Deaf 4. Conducting training sessions in sign language
Qatar	No information supplied
Saudi Arabia	1. Organising and participating in conferences, workshops and symposiums 2. Participating in festivals and national events 3. Dissemination of information and data about Deaf people through pamphlets, newspapers and television



Tunisia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since 2001 we have provided a clear, practical strategy, which has been officially approved and in effect for more than 5 years, to integrate Deaf students in public schools</li> <li>2. Our association was, and still is, a member of the National Committee for Inclusion of Disabled Students in public schools</li> <li>3. Our association participated in writing the National Strategy Plan for Inclusion of Disabled Students in Mainstream Schools with a national committee which bears the same name</li> </ol>
Yemen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The association fights and defends Deaf rights in its region (Radaa Region)</li> <li>2. The association established Al Amal School for the Deaf, where they teach Deaf students under the supervision of the association</li> <li>3. Spread Deaf awareness and awareness of the responsibility of society toward Deaf people in its region</li> <li>4. Managed to preserve Yemeni Sign Language and stopped spreading any foreign sign language (i.e. stopped using the so-called Unified Arabic Sign Language Dictionary)</li> <li>5. Managed to unite Deaf people especially Deaf adults</li> </ol>

#### 7.2.6 Please list the six highest priority issues/actions in your strategic action plan.

Country	Please list the six highest priority issues/actions in your strategic action plan.
Algeria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training of interpreters for deaf people</li> <li>2. Integrating deaf children in vacation centres</li> <li>3. Special TV programmes for deaf people</li> </ol>
Bahrain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educational programmes</li> <li>2. Cultural programmes</li> <li>3. Social programmes</li> <li>4. Find jobs for unemployed Deaf</li> <li>5. Integrate the Deaf into society</li> <li>6. Arts programmes</li> </ol>
Egypt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening resources of the association</li> <li>2. Prepare a plan to attract and direct volunteers</li> <li>3. Programme to spread sign language</li> <li>4. Programme to teach computer skills in sign language supported with specialised publications</li> </ol>
Iraq	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compiling a contemporary Arabic Iraqi Sign Language Dictionary</li> <li>2. Conducting training sessions of the "Unified Arabic Sign Language Dictionary"</li> <li>3. Training for soccer team to participate in soccer competitions</li> <li>4. Submitted a request to build a cultural centre for Iraqi Deaf</li> <li>5. Development of the theatre company of the association</li> </ol>
Kuwait	No information supplied
Lebanon	Raise the status quo of the Deaf through education
Mauritania	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education for the Deaf children</li> <li>2. Integration of Deaf people</li> <li>3. Rights of Deaf</li> <li>4. Medical Help for Deaf Children</li> <li>5. Help parents (sign language training for parents)</li> </ol>
Morocco	No information supplied
Oman	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exchange visits between Sultanate Oman centre and United Arab Emirates centre</li> <li>2. Organising Deaf events</li> <li>3. Establish a vocational project for Deaf women</li> <li>4. Hiring and inviting professionals to the centre</li> <li>5. Send Deaf students to study in Kuwait</li> <li>6. Send Deaf students to Al-Khawdh Centre in Muscat (The Capital)</li> </ol>
Palestine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the appropriate education for the Deaf and raise the educational level to high school</li> <li>2. Provide vocational training for the Deaf</li> <li>3. Find employment opportunities for the Deaf</li> <li>4. Work with people with disabilities to obtain Deaf rights</li> <li>5. Spread sign language among the Palestinian society</li> <li>6. Support and activate the committee of Deaf women</li> </ol>
Qatar	No information supplied
Saudi Arabia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integration of the Deaf in society</li> <li>2. Rehabilitate the Deaf in various fields</li> <li>3. Locate suitable jobs for the Deaf and encourage companies and institutes to employ them</li> <li>4. Provide training and teaching for the Deaf to improve their skills and experience</li> <li>5. Provide more educational opportunities for the Deaf especially in colleges and universities</li> <li>6. Increase the opportunities of the Deaf to participate in activities and events</li> </ol>



Tunisia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Represent Deaf people and work toward their betterment</li> <li>2. Ensure the educational rights of the Deaf in mainstream schools</li> <li>3. Provide rehabilitation for those Deaf students who couldn't continue academic studies through vocational training which ensures their integration vocationally and socially</li> <li>4. Spread Deaf awareness among parents by assisting them in supporting their Deaf children and preventing any delays in their education and rehabilitation</li> <li>5. Contributing in early intervention of Deafness</li> <li>6. Strengthening Deaf rights to access information by disseminating the information in sign language and showing the benefits from spreading sign language</li> </ol>
Yemen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fighting for Deaf rights</li> <li>2. Establishing Al Amal Deaf schools to teach the Deaf reading and writing and general education</li> <li>3. Professional training for teachers of the Deaf</li> <li>4. Establishing interpreter training programmes in Yemeni Sign Language</li> <li>5. Inclusion of the Deaf in society and in public schools</li> <li>6. Establish relationships between the association and other Deaf associations locally, nationally and internationally to exchange information and experiences and protect the human rights of the Deaf</li> </ol>

**7.2.7 Please describe the structure of your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group (e.g. congress/annual meeting/board/executive/districts/local associations and so forth).**

Country	Please describe the structure of your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group (e.g. congress/annual meeting/board/executive/districts/local associations and so forth).
Algeria	Main organisation is the General Assembly composed of representatives from every basic structure affiliated with the Federation.
Bahrain	Board Members meet every two weeks with task-oriented committees.
Egypt	Provided organisation chart
Iraq	Monthly meetings
Kuwait	No information supplied
Lebanon	LCD is an independent association. It has members of the General Assembly who elect the Board of Directors.
Mauritania	Our association depends on volunteers. We meet every time we want in the local deaf school. Sometimes every week, or everyday.
Morocco	No information supplied
Oman	<p>There are several specialised committees such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Guidance Committee</li> <li>• Entertainment Activities Committee</li> <li>• Public Relationship Committee</li> <li>• Health Committee</li> <li>• Nutrition Committee</li> <li>• Sports Committee</li> <li>• Administration Committee</li> </ul>
Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Assembly (GA) - the GA holds its meeting annually</li> <li>• Executive office holds its meetings periodically and monthly</li> </ul>
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board consists of 8 persons who meet once a month</li> <li>• The Executive Office consists of 4 persons who meet once a week</li> </ul>
Saudi Arabia	<p>The structure of the Saudi Association for Hearing Impaired consists of nine (9) Board Members</p> <p>Executive committee consists of five of the Board Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Headquarters is in Riyadh</li> <li>• One branch in Jeddah (Mekkah Region)</li> <li>• One branch in Dammam (Eastern Region)</li> <li>• Cultural Centre for Deaf Women in Riyadh and one in Dammam</li> <li>• Development Centre in Riyadh</li> </ul>
Tunisia	<p>The public session for the national office (more than 150 board members of 40 branches)</p> <p>The administration body for the national office</p> <p>The executive office for the national office</p> <p>Public sessions for 40 branches</p> <p>The administration bodies for branches</p> <p>The executive offices for branches</p>
Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive officers are responsible for managing the association, planning and carrying out the instructions of the Board Members</li> <li>• Committee of Supervision and Inspection is responsible for supervising and evaluating the activities of the association</li> <li>• General Assembly Meeting (GAM) is every 3 years. Financial and administration reports are evaluated during the GAM. The reports may be adopted or rejected. Also during the GAM new Board Members and new members of the Committee of Supervision and Inspection are elected to serve for 3 years</li> <li>• Parents Council is responsible for overall supervision of the association activities and to prevent anybody from hindering association activities</li> </ul>



### 7.2.7.1 How many affiliated regional and/or local Deaf Associations are part of your National Association of the Deaf?

Country	Regional Associations	Local Associations
Algeria	3	36
Bahrain	1	1
Egypt	0	0
Iraq	0	0
Kuwait	0	1
Lebanon	0	0
Mauritania	1	1
Morocco	5	35
Oman	0	1
Palestine	0	5
Qatar	0	0
Saudi Arabia	2	0
Tunisia	40	0
Yemen	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>80</b>

### 7.2.8 How many members of your board are Deaf?

Country	How many members of your board are Deaf?	Total number of Board Members	Percentage of Deaf on the Board
Algeria	9	15	60%
Bahrain	3	9	33%
Egypt	1	7	14%
Iraq	20	25	80%
Kuwait	9	9	100%
Lebanon	3	5	60%
Mauritania *	0	0	0%
Morocco	4	9	44%
Oman	5	16	31%
Palestine	11	11	100%
Qatar	6	8	75%
Saudi Arabia	1	9	11%
Tunisia	0	12	0%
Yemen	12	12	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>57%</b>

**Please note:** - \* - The group in Mauritania is a support group for Parents who have Deaf children; no Deaf parents of Deaf children are members of this group therefore it follows that there are no Deaf people on their board. In responding to the survey, they stated all 100 of their members serve on the Board. The Regional Co-ordinator and Project Co-ordinator were unable to confirm the actual number of board members or whether there is indeed a formal board at all.



### 7.2.9 How many members of the board are Deaf women and how many are Deaf men?

Country	Deaf Women Board Members	Deaf Men Board Members	Percentage of Deaf Women on the Board
Algeria	0	9	0%
Bahrain	1	2	33%
Egypt	1	0	100% *
Iraq	7	13	35%
Kuwait	0	9	0%
Lebanon	1	2	33%
Mauritania	0	0	0%
Morocco	0	4	0%
Oman	3	2	60%
Palestine	2	9	18%
Qatar	2	4	33%
Saudi Arabia	0	1	0%
Tunisia	0	0	0%
Yemen	2	10	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>23%</b>

**Please note:** - \* - There is only one Deaf person, who is also female, on the Board.

### 7.2.10 Does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group have committees for specific areas of interest or affiliation with any other relevant independent groups in your country?

Does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group have committees for specific areas of interest or affiliation with any other relevant independent groups in your country?	Country/Average Percentage <i>Based on 13 respondents</i>
Deaf Education	11 (85%)
Parents of Deaf Children	10 (77%)
Sign Language Interpreting	10 (77%)
Sports Groups	9 (69%)
Sign Language Research	8 (62%)
Deaf Women's Groups	8 (62%)
Deaf Youth	8 (62%)
Deaf Seniors	7 (54%)
Deaf People with Other Disabilities	6 (46%)
Cultural Groups of Deaf People	5 (38%)
Children of Deaf Adults	4 (31%)
Deafblind	3 (23%)
Other Committees	2 (15%)
Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual	0 (0%)
Country	Other Committees/Groups
Palestine	We are in the process of establishing committees and organising the administrative work for the Palestinian Union of the Deaf as it is newly established.
Tunisia	National committee to strengthen the association, with regional committee involvement.



Country	Does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group have committees for specific areas of interest or affiliation with any other relevant independent groups in your country?
Algeria	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Cultural Groups of Deaf People
	Sports Groups
	Deaf People with Other Disabilities
Bahrain	Sign Language Interpreting
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Sports Groups
	Deaf Youth
	Deaf Women's Groups
Egypt	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Deaf Seniors
	Deaf Youth
	Deaf People with Other Disabilities
	Deaf Women's Groups
Kuwait	Children of Deaf Adults
	Sign Language Interpreting
	Deaf Education
	Deaf Seniors
	Deafblind
	Deaf Youth
	Cultural Groups of Deaf People
	Sports Groups
	Deaf People with Other Disabilities
Lebanon	Deaf Women's Groups
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
Mauritania	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Sports Groups
Morocco	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Deaf Seniors
	Deaf Youth
	Cultural Groups of Deaf People
	Sports Groups
	Deaf People with Other Disabilities
	Deaf Women's Groups
	Children of Deaf Adults



Oman	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Deaf Seniors
Palestine	Deaf Youth
	Deaf Women's Groups
Qatar	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Youth
	Deaf Women's Groups
Saudi Arabia	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Deaf Seniors
	Deafblind
	Deaf Youth
	Cultural Groups of Deaf People
	Sports Groups
	Deaf People with Other Disabilities
	Deaf Women's Groups
	Children of Deaf Adults
Tunisia	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Deaf Seniors
	Deaf Youth
	Cultural Groups of Deaf People
	Sports Groups
Yemen	Sign Language Interpreting
	Sign Language Research
	Deaf Education
	Parents of Deaf Children
	Deaf Seniors
	Deafblind
	Deaf Youth
	Sports Groups
	Deaf People with Other Disabilities
	Deaf Women's Groups
	Children of Deaf Adults



**7.2.11 Does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group have any paid staff members?**

**7.2.11.1 How many of the paid staff members are women and how many are men?**

**7.2.11.2 How many of the paid staff members are Deaf?**

Country	Does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group have any paid staff members?	Total Paid Staff Members	Paid Women	Paid Men	Total Paid Deaf Staff Members	Paid Deaf Women	Paid Deaf Men	Percentage of Deaf Staff Members
Algeria	No							
Bahrain	Yes	4	2	2	0	0	0	0%
Egypt	Yes	9	6	3	3	2	1	33%
Iraq	No							
Kuwait	Yes	16	6	10	16	6	10	100%
Lebanon	Yes	21	14	7	4	2	2	19%
Mauritania	No							
Morocco	No							
Oman	Yes	5	5	0	0	0	0	0%
Palestine	Yes	27	18	9	5	2	3	19%
Qatar	Yes	24	7	17	7	2	5	29%
Saudi Arabia	Yes	10	5	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tunisia	Yes	500	42	458	100	50	50	20%
Yemen	Yes	12	4	8	7	2	5	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Yes (71%)</b>	<b>628</b>			<b>142</b>			<b>23%</b>

*Based on 14 respondents*

**7.2.12 Is your Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director/Person-In-Charge Deaf?**

Country	Is your Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director/Person-In-Charge Deaf?
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	Yes
Saudi Arabia	No
Tunisia	No
Yemen	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 Yes (40%)</b>

*Based on ten respondents*



### 7.3.0 Population of Deaf People

#### 7.3.1 Does your country's government have any official number of Deaf people in your country?

Country	Does your country's government have any official number of Deaf people in your country?	Total Deaf people
Algeria	No	
Bahrain	Yes	Approx 600
Egypt	No	
Iraq	No	
Kuwait	No	
Lebanon	No	
Mauritania	No	
Morocco	Yes	63,400
Oman	No	
Palestine	Yes	14,310
Qatar	No	
Saudi Arabia	No	
Tunisia	Yes	21,240
United Arab Emirates	N/A	
Yemen	No	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 Yes (27%)</b>	<b>99,550</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

Country	Deaf Women	Deaf Men
Bahrain	Approx 300	Approx 300
Morocco	13,000	50,400
Palestine	N/A	N/A
Tunisia	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,300</b>	<b>50,700</b>

#### 7.3.2 Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate figures of the number of Deaf people living in your country?

Country	Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate figures of the number of Deaf people living in your country?	Total Deaf people
Algeria	Yes	240,000
Bahrain	No	
Egypt	No	
Iraq	Yes	200,000
Kuwait	No	
Lebanon	Yes	Approx 12,000
Mauritania	No	
Morocco	Yes	155,000
Oman	No	
Palestine	No	
Qatar	No	
Saudi Arabia	Yes	100,000
Tunisia	Yes	21,240 *
Yemen	Yes	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 Yes (50%)</b>	<b>731,240</b>

*Based on 14 respondents*

**Please note:** - \* - This number is the same as that given as the government's official number.



Country	Deaf Women	Deaf Men
Algeria	110,000	130,000
Iraq	50,000	150,000
Lebanon	N/A	N/A
Morocco	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	N/A	N/A
Tunisia	N/A	N/A
Yemen	1,000	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,000</b>	<b>282,000</b>

**7.3.3 Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate numbers of Deaf people who use sign language as their primary language?**

Country	Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate numbers of Deaf people who use sign language as their primary language?	Total Number of Sign Language Users
Algeria	No	
Bahrain	No	
Egypt	No	
Iraq	Yes	100,000
Kuwait	No	
Lebanon	No	
Mauritania	No	
Morocco	Yes	63,400 *
Oman	No	
Palestine	No	
Qatar	No	
Saudi Arabia	No	
Tunisia	No	
Yemen	No	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 Yes (14%)</b>	<b>163,400</b>

*Based on 14 respondents*

**Please note:** - \* - Morocco gave the same number for their total Deaf population (#7.3.1) as they gave for the number of Sign Language Users.

**7.3.4. Does the situation of HIV/AIDS in your country affect Deaf women, men and children?**

Country	Does the situation of HIV/AIDS in your country affect Deaf women, men and children?
Algeria	No
Bahrain	No Information
Egypt	No Information
Iraq	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	No Information
Mauritania	No Information
Morocco	No
Oman	No Information
Palestine	No Information
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	No Information
Tunisia	No Information
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 Yes (0%)</b>

*Based on 14 respondents*



## 7.4.0 Legislation and Policies

### 7.4.1 Does your country's government recognise Deaf people as citizens on an equal basis as other citizens in your country?

Country	Does your country's government recognise Deaf people as citizens on an equal basis as other citizens in your country?
Algeria	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Morocco	No
Oman	Yes
Palestine	No
Qatar	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	N/A
Yemen	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 Yes (73%)</b>

Based on 15 respondents

***Please note:** - The Project Co-ordinator asked the Regional Working Group whether this question was clear in that an "equal basis as other citizens" meant that every Deaf person has the right to be recognised by the government. After consideration, the Regional Working Group believed that most of the countries which answered "Yes" did so correctly.*

### 7.4.2 Does your country's government have an office responsible for services for People with Disabilities?

Country	Does your country's government have an office responsible for services for People with Disabilities?
Algeria	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes
Yemen	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 Yes (89%)</b>

Based on 15 respondents



**7.4.2.1 If yes, what is the name, address and website of the government office that is responsible for services for People with Disabilities in your country?**

Country	If yes, what is the name, address and website of the government office that is responsible for services for People with Disabilities in your country?
Algeria	Ministry for Solidarity and Algerians Abroad Chemin de Vergers (Birkoudou) Alger
Bahrain	No information supplied
Egypt	Vocational Rehabilitation Associations in each region in Egypt.
Iraq	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
Kuwait	No information supplied
Lebanon	The office has been constituted by law 220/2000 but it has not been established. The office would be in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Badaro, Beirut
Mauritania	(Ministry of Social Protection Du Commissariat a la Protection Sociale et a la Securite Alimentaire BP: 337 Tel: +222 529 50 36 email: hamidou_ngam@yahoo.fr Fax: +222 525 69 95
Morocco	Ministry of Social Development, Women and Solidarity Agdal rabat www.social.gov.ma
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, email: info@srdisability.org</li> <li>The Supreme Council for Family Affairs - <a href="http://scfa.gov.qa/english.asp">http://scfa.gov.qa/english.asp</a></li> </ul>
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Social Affairs - <a href="http://www.mosa.gov.sa/portal/index.php">www.mosa.gov.sa/portal/index.php</a></li> <li>The Ministry of Health - <a href="http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/index.php">www.moh.gov.sa/en/index.php</a></li> <li>Prince Salman Centre for Disability Research - <a href="http://www.pscdr.org.sa">www.pscdr.org.sa</a></li> <li>Many other associations governmental institutions and NGOs also provide services for People with Disabilities in Saudi Arabia</li> </ul>
Tunisia	Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity and Tunisians Abroad <a href="http://www.social.tn">www.social.tn</a> and <a href="http://www.handicap.tn">www.handicap.tn</a>
United Arab Emirates	No information supplied
Yemen	The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has funds for Disabled People, Social Development and Social Welfare

**7.4.3 Does your country's Government have any legislation or policies for Deaf people (or People with Disabilities in general)?**

Country	Does your country's Government have any legislation or policies for Deaf people (or People with Disabilities in general)?
Algeria	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Iraq	No
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Mauritania	Yes
Morocco	Yes
Oman	No
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes
Yemen	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 Yes (87%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*



**7.4.3.1** If yes, please list some of the policies or legislation that relate to Deaf people (or People with Disabilities) (please write the name of the legislation or policy in full).

Country	If yes, please list some of the policies or legislation that relate to Deaf people (or People with Disabilities) (please write the name of the legislation or policy in full).
Algeria	Special law related to Persons with Disabilities (published in May 2002)
Egypt	Rehabilitation of Disabled People Law number 39 - year 1975
Kuwait	No information supplied
Lebanon	Law 220/2000 for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Mauritania	Law related to Handicapped Persons
Morocco	The right to access to mental health services in sign language
Palestine	The Rights of Disabled People Law was adopted in 1999, but hasn't been implemented
Qatar	Legislation number 2 in year 2004 for Disabled People
Saudi Arabia	The Disability Code can be found at this site - <a href="http://www.pscdr.org.sa/en/Pages/DisabilityCode.aspx">www.pscdr.org.sa/en/Pages/DisabilityCode.aspx</a>
Tunisia	The Law guiding the improvement of standards for people with disabilities
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution number 26/2006</li> <li>• The UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People</li> </ul>
Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Law on Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled People</li> <li>• International Conventions on Human Rights of Disabled People</li> <li>• The Presidential Decree regarding establishing The Highest National Committee on Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled People</li> </ul>

**7.4.4** Does your country's Government have any anti-discrimination laws for Deaf people (or People with Disabilities)?

Country	Does your country's Government have any anti-discrimination laws for Deaf people (or People with Disabilities)?
Algeria	No
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	Yes
Mauritania	No
Morocco	No
Oman	No
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes
Yemen	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 Yes (40%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*



**7.4.5 Does your country's government provide any services specifically for the Deaf Community through its government departments?**

Country	Does your country's government provide any services specifically for the Deaf Community through its government departments?
Algeria	Yes
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	Yes
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	No
Mauritania	Yes
Morocco	No
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	No
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 Yes (47%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

**7.4.5.1 If yes, what types of service are provided specifically for the Deaf Community by your country's government?**

**7.4.5.2 What is the general opinion of the current service(s) specifically provided for the Deaf Community by your country's government?**

Country	If yes, what types of service are provided specifically for the Deaf Community by your country's government?	What is the general opinion of the current service(s) specifically provided for the Deaf Community by your country's government?
Algeria	1. Support for the creation of small companies 2. Sign language research group 3. Training/education of Deaf	No information supplied
Iraq	The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs provides an allowance to Deaf people.	The general opinion is it is not bad, but we look for better services to the Deaf.
Kuwait	1. Medical services 2. Communication services 3. Discount services 4. Increase in housing loans 5. Deaf people who do not work in government get a pension 6. Free hearing aids	Very, very good
Mauritania	Education: there is <b><u>ONE AND ONLY ONE PUBLIC SCHOOL</u></b> for Deaf children provided by the government	Not enough, not good, we need more from our government
Saudi Arabia	1. Deaf Education 2. Encouragement to governmental and nongovernmental institutions to employ the Deaf and disabled people 3. Vocational training for the Deaf	The Deaf are not satisfied. They want the services to be improved as there is a lack of professional interpreters. Very few colleges and universities allow Deaf students to enrol.
Tunisia	TV programmes: Evening news in sign language on the official channel of Tunisian National TV (Channel 7)	Inadequate; the interpretation isn't clear.



#### 7.4.5.3 If no, why does your country's government not provide any service specifically for the Deaf Community?

Country	If no, why does your country's government <u>not</u> provide any service specifically for the Deaf Community?
Bahrain	No information supplied
Egypt	Lack of awareness among society and the government about Deafness and the needs of Deaf people. Deaf people's low literacy makes them unable to express themselves, their needs and their rights.
Lebanon	Primarily lack of finances, awareness or interest.
Morocco	Lack of qualified personnel
Oman	Low services. We would like to have better services.
Palestine	There is no budget for the Deaf and disabled people. There is a push to advocate for Deaf people as the Palestinian Union of the Deaf is newly established. The Palestinian Union of the Deaf will give priority to spreading awareness and lobbying the government and companies to provide services for the Deaf.
Qatar	No information supplied
United Arab Emirates	No Information supplied
Yemen	The government doesn't provide any service specifically for the Deaf Community, because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't implement and practice the laws even though they exist</li> <li>• Nepotism and favouritism spoils the system</li> <li>• Some hearing people who work with the Deaf control everything and take advantage of Deaf people</li> <li>• There is a federation for all disabled people, so they don't concentrate on the Deaf</li> </ul>

#### 7.4.6 Does your Association/Group have any contact with your country's current government?

##### 7.4.6.1 What type of contact does your Association/Group have with your country's current government?

Country	Does your Association/Group have any contact with your country's current government?	What type of contact does your Association/Group have with your country's current government?
Algeria	Yes	Co-ordination meetings with the Secretary General, Ministry for Solidarity
Bahrain	Yes	Meetings and supervision of the association's activities.
Egypt	No	
Iraq	Yes	The association contacts the government to integrate the Deaf in society and to help us financially to make a sign language dictionary.
Kuwait	Yes	Sport, Social, Media and Culture.
Lebanon	Yes	Meetings concerning subsidies for Deaf children at the LCD, paper work.
Mauritania	Yes	We meet with government representatives to discuss the problems of deaf children in our country.
Morocco	Yes	They support any activities that we set up for the Deaf community in Morocco.
Oman	Yes	We contact the government to facilitate inviting and hiring professionals and experts to conduct training sessions for people working with the Deaf.
Palestine	Yes	When the General Assembly holds its meeting and election annually, the Association provides financial and administrative reports to the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs.
Qatar	Yes	Direct contact in the form of periodic meetings. The government is responsible for our centre.
Saudi Arabia	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine the activities of the association</li> <li>• To support the association financially</li> <li>• To solve problems that face the association</li> <li>• To facilitate communication between the association and other institutions inside and outside Saudi Arabia</li> <li>• To approve the organisation of conferences, exhibitions and other Deaf events</li> </ul>
Tunisia	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in meetings, round tables, seminars and all events related to Deaf issues</li> <li>• Solid cooperation and consultation regarding Deaf issues especially those which relate to education and employment</li> <li>• Request all services for the Deaf from governmental institutions</li> <li>• The government has the right to monitor the performance of the association regarding application of laws and policies, and adherence to financial principles. The government recognises our association as an "Association with a National Interest".</li> </ul>



United Arab Emirates	No Applicable	
Yemen	Yes	Co-operation to serve the Deaf.
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 Yes (87%)</b>	

*Based on 15 respondents*

#### 7.4.7 Does your Association/Group receive any financial support from your country's current government?

##### 7.4.7.1 What is the amount of annual financial support from your country's government?

Country	Does your Association/Group receive any financial support from your country's current government?	What is the amount of annual financial support from your country's government?
Algeria	No	
Bahrain	Yes	6,000 Bahraini Dinars (11,200€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008)
Egypt	No	
Iraq	Yes	When we meet governmental officers we get support, but not an annual support.
Kuwait	Yes	120,000 Kuwaiti dinars (317,084€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008)
Lebanon	Yes	In the year 2007, we received USD11,187 (7,864€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008)
Mauritania	No	
Morocco	Yes	It depends on the activities that we organise
Oman	No	
Palestine	No	
Qatar	Yes	About USD275,000 annually (193,311€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008)
Saudi Arabia	Yes	More than 150,000 Saudi Riyals (28,190€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008)
Tunisia	Yes	3,434,790 Dinar (1,937,007€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008) for 40 branches
Yemen	Yes	Not more than two million Yemeni Riyals, but it isn't enough (7,081€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 Yes (64%)</b>	

*Based on 14 respondents*

##### 7.4.7.2 What is the purpose of the financial support from your country's government to the Deaf Community?

Country	What is the purpose of the financial support from your country's government to the Deaf Community?
Bahrain	It is a financial grant for the project: "Training Deaf people on Mold Industry and Programming Hearing Aids".
Iraq	To help the Deaf and improve their standard of living as well as reducing differences between social classes.
Kuwait	To support all the club activities: sports, culture, media and participation in international events.
Lebanon	To provide subsidies for Deaf Education and accommodations.
Morocco	For the deaf schools and organisation of events.
Qatar	To promote membership and support activities necessary for the centre to achieve its goals.
Saudi Arabia	To implement programmes and services for the Deaf.
Tunisia	To cover the expenses of the association and its 40 branches: early education, pre-school, education and vocational training.
Yemen	To operate the association and pay electricity, water and phone bills. The association activities don't have funding, so the association seeks financial aid to support its activities.



- 7.4.8 Do Deaf people have a right to vote in national, regional and local elections?  
 7.4.9 Are Deaf people allowed to obtain a driver's licence?  
 7.4.10 Are Deaf people allowed to marry Deaf or other partners?  
 7.4.11 Are Deaf people allowed to have children?  
 7.4.12 Are Deaf people allowed to adopt children?

Country	Do Deaf people have a right to vote in national, regional and local elections?	Are Deaf people allowed to obtain a driver's licence?	Are Deaf people allowed to marry Deaf or other partners?	Are Deaf people allowed to have children?	Are Deaf people allowed to adopt children?
Algeria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bahrain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Egypt	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Iraq	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Lebanon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mauritania	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Morocco	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Palestine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Qatar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Yes *	Yes **	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yemen	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 Yes (93%)</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>	<b>15 Yes (100%)</b>	<b>15 Yes (100%)</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

**Please note:-**

\* - Deaf women are not allowed to vote

\*\* - Deaf and hearing women are not allowed to drive

7.4.12.1 If Deaf people do not have the right to vote, please list the government legislation or policy that specifically excludes Deaf people from having the right to vote.

Country	If Deaf people do not have the right to vote, please list the government legislation or policy that specifically excludes Deaf people from having the right to vote.
Egypt	Deaf people are considered incompetent because they can't express their opinions through writing and reading. Article number 1/60 of law number 119 for the year 1952 states that the deaf and dumb person is deficient and imperfect, because s/he has two disabilities: deaf and dumb.

7.4.12.2 If Deaf people are not allowed to drive, please list the Government legislation or policy that stops them from being allowed to drive.

Country	If Deaf people are not allowed to drive, please list the Government legislation or policy that stops them from being allowed to drive.
Egypt	Hard of hearing people who use hearing aids are allowed to drive, while Deaf people are not allowed to drive at all! We do not have any information about the Government legislation or policy that stops them from being allowed to drive.
Mauritania	They are just not allowed to take the driving licence exam.
Morocco	No information supplied
Yemen	There is no special traffic law for the Deaf. Currently, we are working on establishing such a law with the co-operation of other associations in other Yemeni regions.

7.4.12.3 If Deaf people are not allowed to adopt children, please list any specific Government legislation or policy that stops Deaf people from being allowed to adopt children.

Country	If Deaf people are not allowed to adopt children, please list any specific Government legislation or policy that stops Deaf people from being allowed to adopt children.
Egypt	In Egypt, there is no policy for adoption. Children are put in an orphanage or in government housing.
Lebanon	There is none. Not being allowed to adopt is based on religion, beliefs and tradition.



## 7.5.0 Access to Government Services

7.5.1 Do Deaf people have access to government services such as education, health care, employment, social welfare and any general government services?

7.5.1.1 If yes, how do Deaf people access these government services?

7.5.1.2 Are Deaf people satisfied with the level of access they have to the government services?

Country	Do Deaf people have access to government services such as education, health care, employment, social welfare and any general government services?	If yes, how do Deaf people access these government services?	Are Deaf people satisfied with the level of access they have to the government services?
Algeria	Yes	Through their associations that represent them.	No
Bahrain	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through special institutions</li> <li>Driving lessons and training</li> <li>Learning computer skills</li> </ul>	A little
Egypt	Yes	Through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Association for Vocational Rehabilitation for Employment and Training</li> <li>Health insurance for hearing aids and speech</li> <li>School health for hearing aids and speech</li> <li>University hospitals for Cochlear Implants</li> <li>Al-Amal schools for the Deaf</li> <li>Ministry of Defence (to exempt Deaf people from recruitment)</li> </ul>	Of course NOT!
Iraq	Yes	Through the Ministry of Labour which employs the Deaf according to their policies.	NO!
Kuwait	Yes	Deaf people access government services through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deaf schools</li> <li>Employment in all ministries and governmental associations</li> <li>Deaf people have priority in employment</li> </ul>	No information supplied
Lebanon	Yes	The same way as hearing peers.	Not very.
Mauritania	No		
Morocco	Yes	No information supplied	No
Oman	Yes	<u>Through Education:</u> The Ministry of Education implemented Deaf integration in mainstream schools; this is still under trial, though the inclusion started two years ago <u>Through Health Services:</u> Health services are provided to Deaf people as they are to hearing people, on an equal basis. In fact, there are some free services provided only to the Deaf like free hearing aids. <u>Through Employment:</u> The Ministry of Development provides assistance to the Deaf by helping them find suitable jobs. Unfortunately, not all jobs are available to the Deaf unlike hearing people who can find any job. There is some discrimination against the Deaf as they can not do any job assigned to them due to their deafness.	No! They are not satisfied.
Palestine	No		
Qatar	Yes	Deaf people access these services through special institutions such as Deaf schools and so forth.	Yes to quite a considerable degree.
Saudi Arabia	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through Deaf schools and special education programmes in mainstream schools</li> <li>Health care is provided to the Deaf just as it is to hearing people</li> <li>Employment: Due to vocational training being the focus for Deaf people and the lack of higher education, Deaf people can't attain high positions or major in fields like Medicine, Law, and so forth.</li> </ul> Sometimes there are communication barriers between the Deaf and service providers which reduce the potential full benefit of these services.	Deaf people are not fully satisfied. They want a better level of access to the government services.



Tunisia	Yes	Deaf people access government services through the associations. It is very difficult for the Deaf to request services by themselves due to communication problems.	No, because of the absence of sign language interpreters in governmental institutions. Deaf people request service through the associations, or request a hearing person to accompany them to facilitate communication.
United Arab Emirates	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Evening study</li> <li>• Integration of Deaf students into mainstream schools</li> <li>• Health services</li> </ul>	No
Yemen	Yes	<p>Deaf people access these services through education and health care only. Deaf people are deprived of employment, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't have a university degree which is required by law in order to gain employment</li> <li>• Most Deaf people are unable to read and write in Arabic (weakness in literacy)</li> <li>• Lack of good planning in Deaf education from early intervention to University level</li> <li>• Most Deaf people reach 8th grade then drop out of school, which deprives them of employment</li> </ul>	Not completely satisfied as they don't get full services especially in employment.
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 Yes (87%)</b>		

*Based on 15 respondents*



## 7.5.2 Are Deaf people entitled to any financial assistance from your country's government?

### 7.5.2.1 What type of financial assistance are Deaf people entitled to receive from your country's government?

Country	Are Deaf people entitled to any financial assistance from your country's government?	Disability Allowance	General Pension	Disability-specific Pension	Other	Description
Algeria	No					
Bahrain	Yes		✓			
Egypt	No					
Iraq	Yes				✓	The Social Protection Network gives an allowance to Deaf people every two months.
Kuwait	Yes	✓	✓	✓		
Lebanon	No					
Mauritania	No					
Morocco	No					
Oman	Yes			✓	✓	Deaf people get financial assistance to build houses and find suitable jobs.
Palestine	Yes				✓	Financial aid every three months, food ration, or health insurance, but this assistance is not for all Deaf people. It is only for specified cases.
Qatar	Yes			✓		
Saudi Arabia	Yes				✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security from the Ministry of Social Affairs, based on the individual Deaf person's living conditions</li> <li>• Monthly allowance from the Ministry of Education to Deaf people who are enrolled in Deaf schools and special programmes</li> <li>• Free hearing aids</li> <li>• Airline discounts</li> <li>• Discount from Saudi Telecommunications for sending SMS</li> </ul>
Tunisia	Yes	✓		✓		
United Arab Emirates	Yes		✓			
Yemen	Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	Special pension for disabled people, but it is low and not enough to cover their needs.
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>					

*Based on 15 respondents*



## 7.6.0 Access to the Media

7.6.1 Does your country's government provide sign language services for news and/or current affairs programmes on public television?

Country	Does your country's government provide sign language services for news and/or current affairs programmes on public television?	Please provide detailed information on how many hours or days per week Deaf people receive sign language services for news and/or current affairs programmes on public television.
Algeria	Yes	Three and a half hours per week - Algerian Television company
Bahrain	No	
Egypt	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly programme on Channel 5 for 30 minutes</li> <li>Weekly programme on Satellite Channel for 30 minutes to teach sign language to the public; this isn't for Deaf people</li> </ul>
Iraq	Yes	Al-Iraqiyah TV provides three hours of sign language interpretation for the news at 15.00
Kuwait	Yes	Every day for seven hours
Lebanon	No	
Mauritania	No	
Morocco	Yes	Ten minutes
Oman	No	
Palestine	Yes	No information supplied
Qatar	Yes	The main news is interpreted in sign language, as are some other programmes.
Saudi Arabia	No	
Tunisia	Yes	20 minutes daily
United Arab Emirates	Yes	No information supplied
Yemen	Yes	20 minutes per day on the local news programme
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>	

*Based on 15 respondents*

7.6.1.1 Which sign language do they use on public television?

Country	National sign language	Unified Arabic sign language
Algeria	✓	
Egypt	✓	
Iraq		✓
Kuwait	✓	✓
Morocco	✓	
Palestine	✓	✓
Qatar		✓
Tunisia	✓	✓
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓
Yemen	✓	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 (80%)</b>	<b>6 (60%)</b>

*Based on 10 respondents*



### 7.6.2 Does your country's government provide subtitles/captions for news and/or current affairs programmes?

Country	Does your country's government provide subtitles/captions for news and/or current affairs programmes?
Algeria	No
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	No
Mauritania	No
Morocco	No
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Tunisia	No
United Arab Emirates	No
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 Yes (0%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

### 7.6.3 Does your country's government offer governmental documents in your country's sign language(s)?

Country	Does your country's government offer governmental documents in your country's sign language(s)?
Algeria	No
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	No
Mauritania	No
Morocco	No
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Tunisia	No
United Arab Emirates	No
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 Yes (0%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*



## 7.7.0 Status of the National Sign Language(s)

7.7.1 Does your country's government formally recognise your country's sign language(s)?

7.7.1.1 What legislation/regulation formally recognises your country's sign language(s)?

7.7.1.2 When did your country's government formally recognise your country's sign language(s)?

7.7.1.3 Does your Deaf Association/Deaf Group lobby your government for the recognition of your country's sign language(s)?

7.7.1.4 If no, please explain the reason your Association/Group does not lobby your current government for the recognition of your country's sign language(s).

Country	Does your country's government formally recognise your country's sign language(s)?	What legislation/regulation formally recognises your country's sign language(s)?	When did your country's government formally recognise your country's sign language(s)?	Does your Deaf Association/Deaf Group lobby your government for the recognition of your country's sign language(s)?	If no, please explain the reason your Association/Group does not lobby your current government for the recognition of your country's sign language(s).
Algeria	Yes	Legislation	2007	Yes	
Bahrain	Yes	Guideline	No information supplied	Yes	
Egypt	No				Because the Deaf community itself needs to know and be aware of their rights and obligations.  Deaf people should learn to lobby for their rights by themselves not rely on hearing people to lobby for them.
Iraq	Yes	Guideline	No information supplied	Yes	
Kuwait	Yes	Constitution and Legislation	1960	Yes	
Lebanon	Yes	Other	2000	Yes	
Mauritania	No			Yes	
Morocco	Yes	Legislation	1994	Yes	
Oman	Yes	Guideline	Incorrect Answer	Yes	
Palestine	No			Yes	
Qatar	Yes	Constitution	2001	Yes	
Saudi Arabia	Yes	Guideline	Unknown	Yes	
Tunisia	No			Yes	
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Constitution	Constitution number 29/2006	N/A	
Yemen	Yes	Guideline	1999	Yes	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 Yes (73%)</b>			<b>13 Yes (87%)</b>	

*Based on 15 respondents*



### 7.7.2 Does your country have a sign language dictionary?

Country	Does your country have a sign language dictionary?
Algeria	No answer supplied
Bahrain	Yes
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Mauritania	No
Morocco	Yes
Oman	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	N/A
Yemen	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

**Please note:** - The Regional Working Group wished to express their great disappointment about a development related to sign languages in the Arab Region, namely the unification of Arab Sign Languages initiated by sign language interpreters and hearing educators. The Regional Co-ordinator prepared a brief report on the Unification of Arab Sign Languages, which is attached as **Appendix No 3**.



## 7.8.0 Access to Education

7.8.1 Does your country's government recognise that Deaf children and Deaf students have the right to receive an education?

7.8.2 Does your country's government have any legislation or policies on Deaf Education?

7.8.2.1 If yes, please list the specific name of the legislation or policies relating to Deaf Education.

Country	Does your country's government recognise that Deaf children and Deaf students have the right to receive an education?	Does your country's government have any legislation or policies on Deaf Education?	If yes, please list the specific name of the legislation or policies relating to Deaf Education.
Algeria	Yes	Yes	Policy on integration of the hearing impaired; joint policy between the Ministry of Solidarity and Ministry of Education.
Bahrain	Yes	Yes	
Egypt	Yes	Yes	Public Education Law number 139 of the year 1981.
Iraq	Yes	Yes	Social Welfare Constitution number 126 of the year 1980. This constitution is still valid.
Kuwait	Yes	Yes	Supreme Council for Disabled People Law 49/1996.
Lebanon	Yes	Yes	Law 220/2000.
Mauritania	Yes and No	No	
Morocco	Yes	No	
Oman	Yes	No	
Palestine	Yes	Yes	1. Ministry of Education Policy 2. Education Policy for People with Special Needs
Qatar	Yes	Yes	<u>Special Education:</u> Legislation number 2 of the year 2004 regarding People with Special Needs.
Saudi Arabia	Yes	Yes	1. Regulation Principles for Deaf schools and Special programmes for the Deaf in mainstream schools - Department of Special Education - Ministry of Education: <a href="http://www.se.gov.sa/Systems.aspx">www.se.gov.sa/Systems.aspx</a> 2. Disability Code: <a href="http://www.pscdr.org.sa/en/Pages/DisabilityCode.aspx">www.pscdr.org.sa/en/Pages/DisabilityCode.aspx</a> 3. Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan: <a href="http://portal.moe.gov.sa/openshare/englishcon/Introduction/vision.htm_cvt.html">http://portal.moe.gov.sa/openshare/englishcon/Introduction/vision.htm_cvt.html</a>
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	1. The Guidance Law number 83 of the year 2005, which concentrates on raising quality of life for disabled people and protecting them. 2. The Guidance Law for Education Schooling number 80 of the year 2002, dated 23 July 2002. It has been updated and completed as number 9 in the year 2008, dated 11 February 2008. This law promotes equal opportunities in vocational training. 3. Law number 10 dated 11 February, 2008. This law promotes equal opportunities in vocational training.
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Yes	Constitution number 29 of the year 2006.
Yemen	Yes	Yes	1. The law for protection and rehabilitation of disabled people 2. International conventions on human rights of the Deaf in education
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 Yes (100%)</b>	<b>12 Yes (80%)</b>	

*Based on 15 respondents*

**Please note:** - There are no government schools or centres for Deaf education in Palestine; instead there are civil institutions but at the intermediate level only.

Although all the countries replied that their governments recognise Deaf children's right to education we can question how this actually happens in practice if the educational focus is oral and children are not taught in their mother tongue (sign language). This might result in learning problems and difficulties in learning to read and write.



**7.8.3 Does your country's government provide any of the following educational settings for Deaf children and Deaf students?**

Country	Early intervention (Up to 5 years old)	Kindergarten (Between 3/4 years old to 5/6 years old)	Primary (From 5/6 years old to 11/12 years old)	Intermediate (From 11/12 years old to 13/14 years old)	Secondary (From 15/16 years old to 17/18 years old)	University (After 18 years old)	Vocational Education/ Training
Algeria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bahrain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Egypt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Iraq	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kuwait	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Lebanon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Mauritania	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Morocco	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Oman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Palestine *	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Qatar	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Saudi Arabia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yemen	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 Yes (53%)</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>	<b>14 Yes (93%)</b>	<b>11 Yes (73%)</b>	<b>9 Yes (60%)</b>	<b>4 Yes (27%)</b>	<b>9 Yes (60%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

**Please note:-** \* - In Palestine, the Deaf Association in Al-Amal provides an education programme for Deaf children and students between 7-8 years old up to 15 years old at the Primary and Intermediate levels, as well as a Vocational Training Programme.

**7.8.4 Does your country's government provide bilingual education using your country's sign language(s) for Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?**

Country	Does your country's government provide bilingual education using your country's sign language(s) for Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?
Algeria	Yes
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	Yes
Lebanon	Yes
Mauritania	No
Morocco	No
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Tunisia	No
United Arab Emirates	Yes
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 Yes (27%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*



**7.8.4.1 If yes, in which educational setting is bilingual education offered in your country using your sign language(s)?**

Country	Early intervention (Up to 5 years old)	Kindergarten (Between 3/4 years old to 5/6 years old)	Primary (From 5/6 years old to 11/12 years old)	Intermediate (From 11/12 years old to 13/14 years old)	Secondary (From 15/16 years old to 17/18 years old)	University (After 18 years old)	Vocational Education/ Training
Algeria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kuwait	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lebanon	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 Yes (50%)</b>	<b>2 Yes (50%)</b>	<b>4 Yes (100%)</b>	<b>4 Yes (100%)</b>	<b>4 Yes (100%)</b>	<b>2 Yes (50%)</b>	<b>3 Yes (75%)</b>

*Based on four respondents*

***Please note:** - The Regional Working Group wished to comment that they questioned whether Kuwait and Lebanon actually have bilingual education in any setting because these two countries have a strong oral education philosophy. They were also not certain about the programmes available in Algeria and United Arab Emirates.*

**7.8.5 Does your country have any schools specifically for Deaf children and Deaf students?**

**7.8.5.1 If yes, how many Deaf schools does your country have?**

Country	Does your country have any schools specifically for Deaf children and Deaf students?	If yes, how many Deaf schools does your country have?
Algeria	Yes	32 Special Schools
Bahrain	Yes	Two Deaf Schools
Egypt	Yes	113 Deaf Schools
Iraq	Yes	22 Deaf Schools
Kuwait	No	
Lebanon	Yes	15 Deaf Schools
Mauritania	Yes	One Deaf School
Morocco	Yes	56 Deaf Schools
Oman	Yes	One Deaf School
Palestine	Yes	17 Deaf Schools
Qatar	Yes	Two Deaf Schools
Saudi Arabia	Yes	20 Deaf Schools
Tunisia	Yes	70 Deaf Schools
United Arab Emirates	Yes	11 Deaf Schools
Yemen	No	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 Yes (87%)</b>	<b>32 Special Schools 330 Deaf Schools</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

**7.8.5.2 If no, where do Deaf children and students receive an education in your country?**

Country	If no, where do Deaf children and students receive an education in your country?
Kuwait	In public schools
Yemen	Through inclusion programmes in public schools, but these are few and only in some regions. Most of the regions do not have such programmes as Deaf inclusion is somewhat new in Yemen. The Yemeni government only implemented inclusion in Deaf education about four years ago; before that time Deaf students were deprived of an education.

***Please note:** - The Regional Working Group stated there are a number of Deaf schools in Kuwait as well as Deaf education in public schools.*



### 7.8.5.3 What is the educational approach for communicating with Deaf children and students at the Deaf School in your country?

Country	Bilingual Education <sup>1</sup>	Oral Method <sup>2</sup>	Cued Speech <sup>3</sup>	Oral and Sign Language (Total Communication) <sup>4</sup>	Auditory Verbal <sup>5</sup>	Other	Explanation
Algeria		✓					
Bahrain		✓		✓			
Egypt				✓			
Iraq					✓		
Lebanon	✓	✓		✓			
Mauritania						✓	Sign language
Morocco		✓		✓			
Oman		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Palestine		✓		✓			
Qatar				✓			
Saudi Arabia		✓		✓			
Tunisia				✓			
United Arab Emirates				✓			

**Please note:** - The Regional Working Group expressed strong concern that no country in the Arab Region understood that the definition of Bilingualism for Deaf students means using the national sign language(s) in their schools. They also pointed out that responses received could not be correct because there is a conflict in answers between this section and the previous section (7.8.4); in the previous section, four countries said they offered Bilingual Education whereas in this section only one country said they did, and this was a different country from the four in the previous section.

<sup>1</sup> **Bilingual Education:** Sign language is considered to be the natural language ('mother tongue') that will be acquired as a first language. Spoken language, which is not acquired naturally by Deaf children, will be learned as a second language as the child becomes cognitively/developmentally ready. Both languages are used throughout the child's entire education.

<sup>2</sup> **Oral Education:** Spoken language is assumed to be the basis for standard social and academic communication, and the human system is assumed to be designed (pre-wired) to learn language expressed in speech. Children learn about and from spoken language. Also known as auditory-oral, aural/oral education. Emphasis on speech.

<sup>3</sup> **Cued Speech:** A visual mode of communication that uses hand shapes and placements in combination with the mouth movements of speech to make the phonemes of a spoken language look different from each other, resulting in a visual counterpart of a spoken language.

<sup>4</sup> **Total Communication:** All forms and modes of communications are used. This includes natural gestures, sign language, manually-coded spoken languages, sign systems, mime, audition and speech.

<sup>5</sup> **Auditory Verbal Education:** Supposes that even minimal amounts of residual hearing can lead to the development of spontaneous speech and language, if that residual hearing is stimulated. Children learn to process language through amplified hearing. A method of oral education with an emphasis on listening.



- 7.8.6 What is the general opinion of the level of education received by Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?  
 7.8.7 What is the general opinion of the current literacy level of Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?

Country	What is the general opinion of the level of education received by Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?	What is the general opinion of the current literacy level of Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?
Algeria	Quite good.	Good.
Bahrain	Improvement is needed.	Low.
Egypt	The general opinion of the level of education received by Deaf children and Deaf students is that it is bad and almost non-existent, even though Deaf schools are available in all regions in Egypt.	Illiteracy among Deaf people is 97%, a very large percentage.
Iraq	There is no objection (so-so).	So-so.
Kuwait	They are not satisfied. Deaf education is neither an ambitious nor an academic education.	Very low.
Lebanon	Generally, it is good. But improvements in some areas should be made.	Generally, it is not acceptable, as only five out of 15 have an acceptable level of literacy.
Mauritania	Very bad; education is available only at the primary level and it is not good at all.	Not good at all.
Morocco	Not satisfactory.	About 95% are illiterate.
Oman	The level of Deaf education is low.	Low literacy.
Palestine	The education level is not good.	Low.
Qatar	Satisfied to some extent.	Not satisfied.
Saudi Arabia	Not satisfied.	Not satisfied, because their Arabic language is weak. Deaf students enrolled in the universities and colleges struggle with the Arabic language.
Tunisia	The level of education received by Deaf children is of medium quality.	The general opinion is that the current literacy level is bad.
United Arab Emirates	Good.	Good.
Yemen	Very, very unsatisfactory.	Very low.

7.8.8 Do Deaf people have access to a University education in your country?

7.8.8.1 If yes, how many Universities provide access to studies for Deaf people in your country?

7.8.8.2 If no, why do Deaf people not have access to a University education in your country?

Country	Do Deaf people have access to a University education in your country?	If yes, how many Universities provide access to studies for Deaf people in your country?	If no, why do Deaf people <u>not</u> have access to a University education in your country?
Algeria	Yes	The majority (policy of integration).	
Bahrain	No		Because the highest educational level reached by the Deaf is the intermediate level.
Egypt	No		Because of the low quality of primary education. Deaf students graduate illiterate, even though they spend 14 years in Deaf schools. Some hard of hearing students manage to enrol in public schools, and upon graduation from public schools they enrol in University.
Iraq	No		Because the intermediate level is the highest educational level Deaf students can reach. There is no high school for the Deaf.
Kuwait	No		Because of their low level of education.
Lebanon	Yes	Five Universities	
Mauritania	No		No teachers; also no students with a high enough level of education to go to University.
Morocco	No		The Deaf finish school at the primary level.



Oman	No		Sultanate Oman only started this year (2007/2008) to allow Deaf students to continue their education in high school.
Palestine	No		There are no secondary schools for the Deaf.
Qatar	No		Because there are no teachers fluent in sign language, and there are not enough sign language interpreters.
Saudi Arabia	Yes	The Saudi government issued a decree to allow Deaf students to enrol in any College or University, but currently there are only three or four Universities and Colleges that accept the Deaf.	
Tunisia	Yes	All Universities and higher education institutions, both government and private, provide access to studies for Deaf people.	
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Three Universities.	
Yemen	No		There is policy that provides a good educational path for any Deaf education, from early intervention to University. Education is random.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 Yes (33%)</b>		

*Based on 15 respondents*

#### 7.8.9 Do Deaf people have full access to sign language interpreting services at University?

Country	Do Deaf people have full access to sign language interpreting services at University?
Algeria	No
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	No
Mauritania	No
Morocco	No
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Tunisia	No
United Arab Emirates	No
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 Yes (0%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*



## 7.9.0 Status of Sign Language Interpreting Services

The Regional Working Group made a general comment about Sign Language Interpreting Services and Training Programmes in the Arab Region: in spite of some responses received, there are no interpreters who have received full training to become professional or qualified sign language interpreters. There is a training programme on the Unification of Arabic Sign Languages (see [Appendix No 3](#)) that both Deaf people and hearing people can attend for five or ten days. The training is to learn Arabic Signs from the Unification dictionary. Hearing people who complete the training receive a certificate as a sign language interpreter, and can also become a trainer for other hearing people in their own country.

### 7.9.1 Does your country have any sign language interpreters?

#### 7.9.1.1 How many sign language interpreters does your country have?

#### 7.9.1.2 Are there any sign language interpreting qualifications available in your country?

Country	Does your country have any sign language interpreters?	How many sign language interpreters does your country have?	Are there any sign language interpreting qualifications available in your country?
Algeria	Yes	300 Interpreters	No
Bahrain	Yes	Approximately five Interpreters	Yes
Egypt	Yes	There are no official statistics on the number of sign language interpreters. Most sign language interpreters are CODAs.	Yes
Iraq	Yes	One Certified Interpreter and 70 uncertified Interpreters who are Teachers of the Deaf	Yes
Kuwait	Yes	About ten Interpreters	Yes
Lebanon	Yes	Few Interpreters	No
Mauritania	No		
Morocco	Yes	Five Interpreters	No
Oman	Yes	Six Accredited Sign Language Interpreters	Yes
Palestine	Yes	About five Interpreters	No
Qatar	Yes	About ten Interpreters	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Yes	Around 30 interpreters, but not all of them are fluent signers as they didn't get professional training in Saudi Sign Language.	No
Tunisia	Yes	60 Interpreters	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Five Interpreters	No
Yemen	Yes	There are very few sign language interpreters. They are mostly based in the larger regions. Other regions are deprived of sign language interpreters; even the Deaf are not taught sign language.	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 Yes (93%)</b>		<b>7 Yes (50%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

*Based on 14 respondents*



### 7.9.1.3 Who provides the training for people who want to become qualified sign language interpreters?

Country	University	National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group	Other
Bahrain		✓	Specialised Centres
Egypt		✓	
Iraq		✓	
Kuwait		✓	
Oman			The Ministry of Development organises training programmes in collaboration with Omani sign language interpreters, to train hearing people to become qualified interpreters.
Qatar		✓	
Tunisia	✓	✓	

### 7.9.1.4 How many years of training are available to someone who wants to become a sign language interpreter?

Country	Four Years	Two Years	Less than One Year	Other
Bahrain				Depends on how many training sessions the interpreter takes, and his/her experience and individual skills.
Egypt				No information supplied
Iraq			✓	
Kuwait			✓	
Oman				The training programme consists of 5 stages. There is short period between each stage.
Qatar				The training depends on the course, not on how many years.
Tunisia	✓	✓		

### 7.9.1.5 How many sign language interpreters in your country have formal interpreting qualifications?

Country	How many sign language interpreters in your country have formal interpreting qualifications?
Bahrain	Approx three Interpreters
Egypt	No information supplied
Iraq	One Interpreter
Kuwait	No information supplied
Oman	Only six sign language interpreters have formal interpreting qualifications
Qatar	Six interpreters
Tunisia	60 Interpreters
<b>Total</b>	<b>76 Interpreters</b>

*Please note: - The Regional Working Group stated there are no qualified interpreters in Tunisia. This was confirmed by a member of the Regional Working Group who is herself from Tunisia.*



#### 7.9.1.6 How do Deaf people access sign language interpreters?

Country	How do Deaf people access sign language interpreters?
Bahrain	Through the Deaf association and Deaf schools, and through activities and events.
Egypt	Through their relationships with the CODAs who are sign language interpreters, or through local associations for/of the Deaf.
Iraq	Through extensive training sessions for sign language interpreters.
Kuwait	Through the Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf
Oman	Through the centre, courts or mobile phones.
Qatar	Through the Qatari centre.
Tunisia	Deaf people access sign language interpreters through the associations of/for the Deaf.

#### 7.9.2 Does your country have sign language interpreting services?

##### 7.9.2.1 If yes, who provides these sign language interpreting services?

Country	Does your country have sign language interpreting services?	If yes, who provides these sign language interpreting services?			
		Government	National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group	Private Sector	Other
Algeria	Yes		✓		
Bahrain	Yes	✓			
Egypt	Yes		✓		
Iraq	Yes		✓		
Kuwait	Yes	✓	✓		
Lebanon	No **				
Mauritania	No				
Morocco	Yes		✓	✓	
Oman	Yes	✓	✓		
Palestine	Yes - Very limited		✓		
Qatar	Yes	✓	✓		
Saudi Arabia	Yes	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deaf clubs</li> <li>Cultural Centre for Deaf Women</li> <li>Contact to interpreters through their cell phones</li> </ul>
Tunisia	Yes		✓		
United Arab Emirates	Yes				
Yemen	No				
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 Yes (80%)</b>				

*Based on 15 respondents*

**\*\* Additional Information from Lebanon:** In Lebanon, we do not have an office for interpreting services for the deaf; what we have is co-ordination by the schools for the deaf to provide interpreters who are not qualified, but are fluent signers. For example, a deaf person may request an interpreter for court or at a police station by calling us at the Learning Centre for the Deaf, and we then look for a suitable interpreter to help him out.



### 7.9.2.2 In what areas of life are sign language interpreting services available in your country?

In what areas of life are sign language interpreting services available in your country?	Algeria	Bahrain	Egypt	Kuwait	Morocco	Oman	Palestine	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	Tunisia
Social Services	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Health/Medical Services	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
Employment Services	✓		✓						✓	
Court Services	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Educational Services	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Counselling Services	✓				✓			✓		
Financial Institutions	✓		✓							
Funerals/Weddings			✓						✓	
Entertainment	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Others										✓
<b>Country</b>	<b>Others</b>									
Tunisia	For lessons in traffic law and to take the driving test.									

### 7.9.2.3 What is the general opinion of these sign language interpreting services?

Country	What is the general opinion of these sign language interpreting services?
Algeria	Supply does not equal demand.
Bahrain	The interpreting services need to be improved.
Egypt	Sign language interpreting services depend largely on the relationships between the Deaf and the interpreters who are mostly CODAs. The availability of interpreters depends on their free time, which means the Deaf person always has to fit his/her needs to the interpreter's schedule. So interpretation services are not at the optimum level.
Iraq	Good, and the Deaf benefit from these services.
Kuwait	Very good.
Morocco	Not satisfactory.
Oman	Moderately satisfactory.
Palestine	Moderately satisfactory.
Qatar	Very good.
Saudi Arabia	So-so, because not all the interpreters are fluent signers.
Tunisia	There is a huge shortage in provision of this service in various fields.
United Arab Emirates	Excellent.



### 7.9.3 Do sign language interpreters receive payment for interpreting services in your country?

#### 7.9.3.1 Who is responsible for paying for a sign language interpreter?

#### 7.9.3.2 What is the average hourly rate of payment for sign language interpreters in your country?

Country	Do sign language interpreters receive payment for interpreting services in your country?	Who is responsible for paying for a sign language interpreter?				What is the average hourly rate of payment for sign language interpreters in your country?
		Government	National Association of the Deaf/ Deaf Group	Deaf People	Others	
Algeria	Yes		✓			10.00€
Bahrain	Yes	✓	✓			The payment for Sign Language interpreters varies. If the work is official, the payment is approximately 10-20 Bahraini Dinars per hour (18.70€ - 37.40€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Egypt	No					
Iraq	Yes				There is an official sponsor for the Deaf association who pays for sign language interpreters.	USD25 per hour (17.60€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Kuwait	Yes	✓	✓			10 Kuwaiti Dinars (26.42€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Lebanon	Yes	✓	✓	✓		USD30 = USD50 (21.00€ - 35.15€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Mauritania	No					
Morocco	Yes			✓		USD140 per day (98.40€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Oman	No					
Palestine	Yes			✓		There is not a specified amount of money. Sometimes the amount is very little.
Qatar	Yes	✓				The average hourly rate of payment for sign language interpreters in Qatar varies. There is not a specific average. Each institution gives a payment depending on its funds. For example: The Public Prosecution gives the interpreter 500 Qatari Riyals (96.44€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008) for each session, while the Police department doesn't give the interpreter anything.  Al-Jazeera TV Channel recognises the work of sign language interpreters and gives them a salary equal to other interpreters and protects their rights. The sign language interpreter



						at Al-Jazeera makes around 250-300 Qatari Riyals (48.22€ - 57.87€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008) for each day.
Saudi Arabia	Yes	✓	✓		If the interpreter is hired by the Prince Salman Centre for Disability Research (PSCDR), PSCDR is responsible for paying the interpreter. Any institution, whether it is private or governmental, is responsible for paying for the sign language interpreter if they are the ones who hire him/her.	If the interpreter is hired for a limited time he/she gets About 250-300 Saudi Riyals per hour (48.22€ - 57.87€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).  If the interpreter is hired for a big event and a full day programme, he/she gets about 1000-2000 Saudi Riyals per day (192.89€ - 385.78€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Tunisia	No					
United Arab Emirates	Yes	✓				The payment varies depending on the importance of the event and how far away the venue is. It ranges from 100-500 Dirhams (19.14€ - 95.71€ on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008).
Yemen	No					
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>					

*Based on 15 respondents*

#### 7.9.3.3 Do your sign language interpreters provide voluntary service for all sign language interpreting assignments?

Country	Do your sign language interpreters provide voluntary service for all sign language interpreting assignments?
Algeria	Yes
Bahrain	Yes
Egypt	Yes
Iraq	Yes
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	N/A
Mauritania	No
Morocco	Yes
Oman	Yes
Palestine	Yes
Qatar	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Sometime
Tunisia	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Yes
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 Yes (67%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*



**7.9.4 Does your country have a National Association of Sign Language Interpreters?**

**7.9.4.1 Is your National Association of Sign Language Interpreters independent from your National Association of the Deaf?**

**7.9.5 Is there a national Code of Ethics for sign language interpreters in your country?**

Country	Does your country have a National Association of Sign Language Interpreters?	Is your National Association of Sign Language Interpreters independent from your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group?	Is there a national Code of Ethics for sign language interpreters in your country?
Algeria	Yes	No	No
Bahrain	No	No	No
Egypt	No	No	No
Iraq	No	No	No
Kuwait	No	No	No
Lebanon	No	No	No
Mauritania	No	No	No
Morocco	No	No	No
Oman	No	No	No
Palestine	No	No	No
Qatar	No	No	Yes
Saudi Arabia	No	No	No
Tunisia	No	No	No
United Arab Emirates	No	No	No
Yemen	No	No	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 Yes (7%)</b>	<b>0 Yes (0%)</b>	<b>1 Yes (7%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

**Please note:** Saudi Arabia has a "Saudi Committee for Experts and Sign Language Interpreters"

*The Regional Working Group stated there is no Code of Ethics in practice in the entire Arab region.*

**7.9.6 Is there any legislation or policy in your country which states that the government has a responsibility for the provision of sign language interpreting services?**

Country	Is there any legislation or policy in your country which states that the government has a responsibility for the provision of sign language interpreting services?
Algeria	No
Bahrain	No
Egypt	No
Iraq	No
Kuwait	No
Lebanon	No
Mauritania	No
Morocco	No *
Oman	No
Palestine	No
Qatar	No
Saudi Arabia	No
Tunisia	No
United Arab Emirates	No
Yemen	No
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 Yes (0%)</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

\* - Legislation is being debated.



## 7.10.0 Employment

- 7.10.1 Does your country's government consider that Deaf people have a right to be employed and earn a standard salary?
- 7.10.2 Does your country's government have any anti-discrimination laws in the area of employment, especially for Deaf people or People with Disabilities?
- 7.10.2.1 If yes, please write clearly the name of any legislation or policy that relates to anti-discrimination in employment,

Country	Does your country's government consider that Deaf people have a right to be employed and earn a standard salary?	Does your country's government have any anti-discrimination laws in the area of employment, especially for Deaf people or People with Disabilities?	If yes, please write clearly the name of any legislation or policy that relates to anti-discrimination in employment.
Algeria	Yes	No	
Bahrain	Yes	No	
Egypt	Yes	Yes	Disabled People's Rehabilitation Law number 39 of the year 1975.
Iraq	Yes	No	
Kuwait	Yes	No	
Lebanon	Yes	Yes	Law 220/2000.
Mauritania	No	No	
Morocco	Yes	No	
Oman	Yes	No	
Palestine	No	No	
Qatar	Yes	No	
Saudi Arabia	Yes	Yes	Disability Code <a href="http://www.pscdr.org.sa/en/Pages/DisabilityCode.aspx">http://www.pscdr.org.sa/en/Pages/DisabilityCode.aspx</a> : "4. Work: This includes recruiting and employing persons with disabilities to give them the opportunity to discover their personal capabilities and potential and enable them to earn and generate an income like other members of the community. This also includes enhancing the performance of employed persons with disabilities by providing further ongoing training."
Tunisia	Yes	Yes	Guidance Law number 83 of the year 2005 to raise the standard of living for disabled people and protect them.
United Arab Emirates	Yes	Yes	Constitution number 29 of the year 2006.
Yemen	Yes	Yes	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 Yes (87%)</b>	<b>6 Yes (40%)</b>	

*Based on 15 respondents*



7.10.3 Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate figures on the number of Deaf people who are in paid employment in your country?

7.10.3.1 If yes, how many Deaf people are in employment?

Country	Does your Association/Group have any official or approximate figures on the number of Deaf people who are in paid employment in your country?	Total Number of Deaf people employed	Number of Deaf Women employed	Number of Deaf Men employed
Algeria	No			
Bahrain	Yes	130	30	100
Egypt	No			
Iraq	No			
Kuwait	No			
Lebanon	No			
Mauritania	No			
Morocco	No			
Oman	No			
Palestine	No			
Qatar	Yes	102	27	75
Saudi Arabia	No			
Tunisia	No			
United Arab Emirates	No			
Yemen	No			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 Yes (13%)</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>175</b>

*Based on 15 respondents*

7.10.3.2 What are the most common areas of work for Deaf people in your country?

What are the most common areas of work for Deaf people in your country?	Bahrain	Egypt	Kuwait	Morocco
Office Administration				
Management			✓	
Education			✓	
Theatre/Arts				
Research Projects				
Sign Language				
Social Services				
Farm Work				✓
Financial Industry				
Engineering				
Welding				✓
Carpentry	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeweller	✓			✓
Tailoring		✓		✓



Building		✓		✓
Painter				✓
Cleaning				✓
Car Mechanic				✓
Panel Beater				
Shoe Repairing				✓
Bakery				✓
Hairdresser	✓			✓
Printer			✓	✓
Catering				✓

**7.10.4 Does your country have any figures on the percentage of Deaf people who are unemployed?**

**7.10.4.1 If yes, what percentage of Deaf people are unemployed in your country? If possible, give percentages of unemployed Deaf women and Deaf men.**

**7.10.4.2 Why are Deaf people unemployed in your country?**

Country	Does your country have any figures on the percentage of Deaf people who are unemployed?	If yes, what percentage of Deaf people are unemployed in your country? If possible, give percentages of unemployed Deaf women and Deaf men.	Why are Deaf people unemployed in your country?
Algeria	No		
Bahrain	No		Due to their low literacy and educational level, they cannot be employed in higher positions.
Egypt	No		
Iraq	Yes	100,000	Due to the political situation in Iraq and the difficult life, this affects all people whether they are Deaf or hearing.
Kuwait	No		
Lebanon	No		
Mauritania	No		
Morocco	No		
Oman	No		Because of their low education and low literacy, it's hard to find jobs suitable for the Deaf.
Palestine	No		
Qatar	No		
Saudi Arabia	No		
Tunisia	No		
United Arab Emirates	No		
Yemen	No		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 Yes (7%)</b>	<b>100,000</b>	

*Based on 15 respondents*



**7.10.5 Does your country provide employment services to assist unemployed Deaf people to look for employment?**

**7.10.5.1 Who is responsible for providing employment services for unemployed Deaf people in your country?**

Country	Does your country provide employment services to assist unemployed Deaf people to look for employment?	Who is responsible for providing employment services for unemployed Deaf people in your country?		
		Government Employment Service	National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group	Other, please write down:
Algeria	Yes	✓		
Bahrain	Yes	✓	✓	
Egypt	Yes	✓	✓	
Iraq	Yes	✓		
Kuwait	N/A			
Lebanon	Yes	✓	✓	National Institute for Employment
Mauritania	No			
Morocco	No			
Oman	Yes	✓		
Palestine	No			
Qatar	No			
Saudi Arabia	Yes	✓	✓	
Tunisia	Yes	✓	✓	
United Arab Emirates	Yes	✓		
Yemen	No			
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 Yes (60%)</b>			

*Based on 15 respondents*



## 7.11.0 General

7.11.1 Which of the following does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group consider to be the highest priority for your Deaf Community?

Which of the following does your National Association of the Deaf/Deaf Group consider to be the highest priority for your Deaf Community?	Algeria	Bahrain	Egypt	Iraq	Kuwait	Lebanon	Mauritania	Morocco	Oman	Palestine	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	Tunisia	United Arab Emirates	Yemen
Better quality of Deaf Education		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Equal Opportunity in Employment	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Better Sign Language Interpreting quality and services		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Recognition of your country's Sign Language(s) by your country's Government	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓					✓
Improved quality and access to Government and Community Services		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Other										✓			✓		
Country	Other														
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research of Deaf issues and the problems that face them such as taking advantage of the latest communication technology</li> <li>Facilitate Cochlear Implants</li> <li>Provide financial resources for the association and international cooperation in all fields</li> </ul>														
Yemen	Protect Deaf people from deviating from what is right and from going astray. Provide psychological care services; spread Deaf awareness; help the Deaf to mingle with their family and society and get them out of their isolation; and improve their skills so they can be independent.														

7.11.2 Does your Association/Group have any other concerns about the standard of living of Deaf people in your country? Please list them.

Country	Does your Association/Group have any other concerns about the standard of living of Deaf people in your country? Please list them.
Algeria	The fact that a large majority of "decision makers"/authorities mistake handicap with inability; - and that they don't put deaf people's interests first.
Bahrain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitate Deaf services in health centres</li> <li>2. Provide sign language interpretation for the news on TV</li> <li>3. Help Deaf students to continue their education to the high school level, so they can enrol in University and get better jobs</li> </ol>
Iraq	Our association contacts government and non-governmental institutions for financial and moral support for Deaf people.
Lebanon	Many Deaf people are unemployed, hearing people likewise, due to the current economic situation in Lebanon. Therefore, the standard of living is quite depressing.
Palestine	The association provides humanitarian aid such as food supplies and sometimes financial aid.
United Arab Emirates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vocational training</li> <li>2. University education</li> <li>3. Provision of housing</li> <li>4. Provision of hearing aids</li> <li>5. Search for jobs for the Deaf</li> </ol>
Yemen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrate the Deaf into society</li> <li>2. Find development and investment projects for the Deaf, so they can become independent and don't have to beg society to help them</li> <li>3. Increase and strengthen the relationship among the Deaf locally, nationally and internationally</li> </ol>





## Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People

Email: [DeafHumanRights@yahoo.com.au](mailto:DeafHumanRights@yahoo.com.au)

12<sup>th</sup> October 2007

President and Secretary,  
WFD - Interim Regional Secretariat in the Arab Region (WFD RSAR)

I wish to introduce the new project "*Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People*" implemented by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) in co-operation with the Swedish National Association of the Deaf (SDR). This project is a preparation for a Global project "*Deaf Global Human Rights Training Project*" to commence hopefully in 2009. An application will be submitted 2008 to Swedish funding bodies.

The purpose of the pre-planning project is to conduct a global survey to collect information on the standard of life for Deaf people in each one of the seven WFD Regional Secretariats, focussing on the areas of:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Contact Details,                         | 7. Status of the Country Sign Language,               |
| 2. Status of the National Deaf Association, | 8. Access to Education,                               |
| 3. Population of Deaf people,               | 9. Status of the Sign Language Interpreting Services, |
| 4. Legislations and Policies,               | 10. Status of the Deaf Employment and                 |
| 5. Access to Government Services,           | 11. General.  |
| 6. Access to the Media,                     |   |

Your Association is a member of the WFD - Interim Regional Secretariat in the Arab Region (WFD RSAR) and this group is the seventh region to be surveyed in this project.

It will be appreciated if you take time to complete this survey as soon as possible to enable us to finalise the draft Fact-Finding Report. The Project will establish a temporary Regional Working Group consisting of two or three members from the Ordinary WFD Members of the WFD - Interim Regional Secretariat in the Arab Region. The Regional Working Group is planning to meet in September 2008 to discuss the draft Fact-Finding Report. The Regional Working Group is responsible for confirming the recommendations from the Fact-Finding Report to be used in the application for the "*Deaf Global Human Rights Training Project*".

The project has appointed a Regional Co-ordinator Ms Hend Al-Showaier from **Saudi Arabia** and her responsibility is to establish a contact point with all members of the WFD Interim Regional Secretariat in the Arab States for this project. If you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Hend Al-Showaier and her email address is [hend220@yahoo.com](mailto:hend220@yahoo.com)

Please find the survey questions attached in Arabic language and attached is a copy of a DVD in International Sign, based on the survey questions. Please be aware that it is essential to answer all of the survey questions correctly to provide the true reflection of the actual standard of living of Deaf people in your country.

Please return your survey questions to:

Ms Hend Al Showaier  
Regional Co-ordinator  
Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People  
P.O. Box 26031  
Riyadh 11486  
Saudi Arabia  
Email: [Hend220@yahoo.com](mailto:Hend220@yahoo.com)  
Fax: +966 (1) 478-5616

It will be appreciated if Ms Hend Al-Showaier can receive your survey by no later than Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2008.

Thank you for your co-operation to make this possible achievement for every Deaf person in your country.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Allen  
Project Co-ordinator  
The World Federation of the Deaf and the Swedish National Association of the Deaf  
Email: [DeafHumanRights@yahoo.com.au](mailto:DeafHumanRights@yahoo.com.au)





# **World Federation of the Deaf**

## **Global Education Pre-Planning Project on the Human Rights of Deaf People**

Email: [DeafHumanRights@yahoo.com.au](mailto:DeafHumanRights@yahoo.com.au)

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# **A GLOBAL SURVEY**

## **Global Education Pre-planning Project on the Human Rights of the Deaf People**

**WFD - Interim Regional Secretariat for the Arab Region  
July 2008**



## **1.0 Contact Details**

1.1 Country: \_\_\_\_\_

1.2 Name of the National Association of the Deaf: \_\_\_\_\_

1.3 **Street Address:**

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

1.4 **Postal Address:**

Postal Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1.5 **Telephone Numbers:**

Landline Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Project Data Use Only**

Country Reference No: .....

Received Date: .....

Data Entered: .....

**Country Classifications:**

☐

Low Income

☐

Lower Middle Income

☐

Upper Middle Income

☐

High Income



## 2.0 National Association of the Deaf

2.1 Please provide the official name of your National Association of the Deaf in both English and in your language:

2.1.1 English: \_\_\_\_\_

2.1.2 In your national language: \_\_\_\_\_

2.2 Please provide the number of members your National Association of the Deaf has in your country?

2.2.1 Deaf Members: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.2.1.1 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.2.1.2 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.2.2 Hard of Hearing Members: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.2.2.1 Hard of Hearing Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.2.2.2 Hard of Hearing Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.2.3 Hearing Members: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.3 In what year was your National Association established?

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2.4 Does your Deaf Association have Statutes/a Constitution?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 2.5

☐ No, please go to Question No 2.5

2.5 Does your government recognise your national organisation to represent Deaf people in your country?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 2.6

☐ No, please go to Question No 2.6



**2.6 Please list some of the areas in which your association has adopted a policy statement?**

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**2.7 Please list the six highest priority issues/actions in your strategic action plan**

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**2.8 Please describe structure of your National Association of the Deaf (e.g. congress/annual meeting/ board/ executive/districts/local associations etc)?**

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**2.8.1 How many affiliated regional and/or local Deaf Associations is part of your National Association of the Deaf?**

2.8.1.1 Number of Regional associations: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.8.1.2 Number of Local associations: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**2.9 How many members of your members are Deaf?**

[ ] of [ ]  
(Deaf Board Members) (Total of Board Members)

**2.10 How many members of the board are Deaf women and how many are Deaf men?**

2.10.1 Deaf women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.10.2 Deaf men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**2.11 Does your National Association of the Deaf have committees for specific area of interest or affiliation with any other relevant independent groups in your country?**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language Interpreters          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language Researchers              | <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents of Deaf Children            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Seniors                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Deafblind      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Youth                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural groups of Deaf people         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports groups  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf people with other disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf Women's Groups                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Children of Deaf Adults                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>please write down:</i>    |   |   |

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**2.12 Does your National Association of the Deaf have any paid staff members?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 2.12.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 2.13

**2.12.1 How many of the paid staff members are women and how many are men?**

2.12.1.1 Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*



2.12.1.2 Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**2.12.2 How many of the paid staff members are Deaf?**

2.11.2.1 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

2.11.2.2 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**2.13 Is your Chief Executive Officer / Executive Director / Person-in-charge Deaf?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 3.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 3.1

## **3.0 Population of Deaf people**

**3.1 Does your country's government have any official records on the number of Deaf people in your country?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 3.1.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 3.2

**3.1.1 If yes, please provide the official number of Deaf people in your country?**

3.1.1.1 Total: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

3.1.1.2 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

3.1.1.3 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**3.2 Does your Association have any official or approximate figures on the number of Deaf people living in your country?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 3.2.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 3.3

**3.2.1 If yes, please provide the number of Deaf people in your country**

3.2.1.1 Total: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

3.2.1.2 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

3.2.1.3 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**3.3 Does your Association have any official or approximate figures on the Deaf people who use sign language as their primary language?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 3.3.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 3.4



**3.3.1 If yes, please provide the number of Deaf people who use sign language in your country**

3.3.1.1 Total: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

3.3.1.2 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

3.3.1.3 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**3.4. Does the situation of HIV/AIDS in your country affect Deaf women, men and children?**

- ☐ **Yes**, please go to Question No 3.4.1
- ☐ **No**, please go to Question No 4.1
- ☐ No information available, please go to Question 4.1

**3.4.1 If yes, please describe the situation with HIV/AIDS in the Deaf community in your country including any official statistics on the number of Deaf people living with HIV/AIDS.**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## 4.0 Legislations and Policies

4.1 Does your country's government recognise Deaf people as citizens on an equal basis as other citizens in your country?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.2

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.2

4.2 Does your country's government have an office responsible for services for People with Disabilities?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.2.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.3

4.2.1 If yes, what is the name, address, and website address of the government office that is responsible for services for People with Disabilities in your country?

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4.3 Does your country's Government have any legislation or policies for Deaf people *(or People with Disabilities in general)*?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.3.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.4

4.3.1 If yes, please list some of the policies or legislation that relates to Deaf people *(or People with Disabilities)*, *(please write the name of the legislations or policies in full detail)*:

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4.4 Does your country's Government have any anti-discrimination laws for Deaf people *(or People with Disabilities)*?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.5

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.5

4.5 Does your country's government provide any services specifically for the Deaf Community through its government departments?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.5.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.5.3



**4.5.1** If yes, what types of service are provided specifically for the Deaf Community by your country's government?

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**4.5.2** What is the general opinion of the current service(s) specifically provided for the Deaf Community by your country's government?

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Please go to Question No 4.6

**4.5.3** If no, why does your country's government not provide any service specifically for the Deaf Community?

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**4.6 Does your Association have any contacts with your current country's government?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.6.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 4.7

**4.6.1 What type of contact does your Association have with your country's current government?**

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**4.7 Does your Association receive any financial support from your country's current government?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.7.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 4.8

**4.7.1 What is the amount of annual financial support from your country's government?**

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**4.7.2 What is the purpose of the financial support from your country's government to the Deaf Community?**

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**4.8 Do Deaf people have a right to vote in national, regional and local elections?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.9
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 4.8.1

**4.8.1 If Deaf people do not have the right to vote, please list the government legislation or policies that specifically exclude Deaf people from having the right to vote:**

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**4.9 Are Deaf people allowed to obtain a driver's licence?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.10
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 4.9.1



**4.9.1** If Deaf people are not allowed to drive, please list the Government legislation or policies that stop them from being allowed to drive:

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**4.10** Are Deaf people allowed to marry Deaf or other partners?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.11

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.10.1

**4.10.1** If Deaf people are not allowed to get married, please list any specific Government legislation or policy that specifically stops Deaf people from being allowed to marry (or to be allowed to marry another deaf person):

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**4.11** Are Deaf people allowed to have children?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 4.12

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.11.1

**4.11.1** If Deaf people are not allowed to have children, please list any specific Government legislation or policy that stops Deaf people from being allowed to have children.

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**4.12** Are Deaf people allowed to adopt children?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 5.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 4.12.1

**4.12.1** If Deaf people are not allowed to adopt children, please list any specific Government legislation or policy that stops Deaf people from being allowed to adopt children.

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## 5.0 Access to Government Services

5.1 Do Deaf people have access to government services such as education, health care, employment, social welfare and any general government services?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 5.1.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 5.2

5.1.1 If yes, how do Deaf people access these government services?

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5.1.2 Are Deaf people satisfied with the level of access they have to the government services?

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5.2 Are Deaf people entitled to any financial assistance from your country's government?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 5.2.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 6.1

5.2.1 What type of financial assistance are Deaf people entitled to receive from your country's government?

☐ Disability allowance    ☐ General Pension    ☐ Disability-specific Pension

☐ Other, *please write down:*

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## **6.0 Access to the Media**

**6.1 Does your country's government provide sign language services for news and/or current affairs programmes on public television?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 6.1.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 6.2

**6.1.1 What sign language do you use on public television?**

☐ Local sign language, please go to Question No 6.1.2

☐ Unified Arabic sign language dictionary, please go to Question No 6.1.2

**6.1.2 Please provide detailed information on how many hours or days per week Deaf people receive sign language services for news and/or current affairs programmes on public television.**

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**6.2 Does your country's government provide subtitles / captions for news and/or current affairs programmes?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 6.2.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 6.3

**6.2.1 Please provide detailed information on how many hours / days per week are news / current affairs programmes (subtitled / captioned) offered for Deaf people?**

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**6.3 Does your country's government offer governmental documents in your country's sign language?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 7.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 7.1



## **7.0 Status of the Country Sign Language**

**7.1 Does your country's government formally recognise your country's sign language(s)?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 7.1.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 7.1.3

**7.1.1 What legislation/regulation formally recognises your country's sign language?**

☐ Constitution ☐ Legislation ☐ Policy ☐ Guideline

☐ Other, *please write down:*

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**7.1.2 When did your country's government formally recognise your country's sign language?**

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Please go to Question No 7.2

**7.1.3 Does your Deaf Association lobby your government for the recognition of your country's sign language(s)?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 7.2

☐ No, please go to Question No 7.1.4

**7.1.4 If no, please explain the reason your Association does not lobby your current government for the recognition of your country's Sign Language.**

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**7.2 Does your country have a sign language dictionary?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.1



## 8.0 Access to Education

**8.1 Does your country's government recognise that Deaf children and Deaf students have the right to receive an education?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.2

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.2

**8.2 Does your country's government have any legislation or policies on Deaf Education?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.2.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.2.2

**8.2.1 If yes, please list the specific name of the legislation or policies relating to Deaf Education:**

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Please go to Question No 8.3

**8.2.2 If no, are all Deaf children and Deaf students entitled to receive any education in your country?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.3

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.3

**8.3 Does your country's government provide any of the following educational settings for Deaf children and Deaf students?**

Early intervention (Up to 5 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Kindergarten (Between 3/4 years old to 5/6 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Primary (From 5/6 years to 11/12 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Intermediate (From 11/12 years old to 13/14 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Secondary (From 15/16 years to 17/18 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
University (After 18 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Vocational Education / Training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**8.4 Does your country's government provide bilingual education using your country's sign language for Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.4.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.5



**8.4.1 If yes, in which educational setting is bilingual education offered in your country using your sign language?**

Early intervention (Up to 5 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Kindergarten (Between 3/4 years old to 5/6 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Primary (From 5/6 years to 11/12 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Intermediate (From 11/12 years to 13/14 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Secondary (From 15/16 years to 17/18 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
University (After 18 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Vocational Education / Training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**8.5 Does your country have any schools specifically for Deaf children and Deaf students?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.5.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.5.3

**8.5.1 If yes, how many Deaf schools does your country have?**

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**8.5.2 What is the educational approach for communicating with Deaf children and students at the Deaf School in your country?**

☐ Bilingual Education    ☐ Oral Method    ☐ Cued Speech

☐ Oral and Sign Language (Total Communication)    ☐ Auditory Verbal

☐ Other, *please write down:*

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Please go to Question No 8.6

**8.5.3 If no, where do Deaf children and students receive an education in your country?**

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**8.6** What is the general opinion of the level of education received by Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?

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**8.7** What is the general opinion of the current literacy level of Deaf children and Deaf students in your country?

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**8.8** Do Deaf people have access to a University education in your country?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 8.8.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 8.8.2

**8.8.1** If yes, how many Universities provide access to studies for Deaf people in your country?

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Please go to Question No 8.9

**8.8.2** If no, why do Deaf people not have access to a university education in your country?

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Please go to Question No 9.1

**8.9** Do Deaf people have full access to sign language interpreting services at University?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 9.1



## **9.0 Status of the Sign Language Interpreting Service**

**9.1 Does your country have any sign language interpreters?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.1.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 9.1.6

**9.1.1 How many sign language interpreters does your country have?**

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**9.1.2 Are there any sign language interpreting qualifications available in your country?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.1.3

☐ No, please go to Question No 9.2

**9.1.3 Who provides the training for people who want to become qualified sign language interpreters?**

☐ University      ☐ Community College      ☐ National Association of the Deaf

☐ Other, *please write down:*

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**9.1.4 How many years of training are available to someone who wants to become a sign language interpreter?**

☐ Four Years      ☐ Three Years      ☐ Two Years      ☐ Less than One Year

☐ Other, *please write down:*

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**9.1.5 How many sign language interpreters in your country have formal interpreting qualifications?**

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**9.1.6 How do Deaf people access sign language interpreters?**

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**9.2 Does your country have sign language interpreting services?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.2.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 9.3

**9.2.1 If yes, who provides these sign language interpreting services?**

- ☐ Government    ☐ National Association of the Deaf    ☐ Private Sector
- ☐ Other, *please write down:*

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**9.2.2 What areas of life are sign language interpreting services available in your country?**

- ☐ Social Services    ☐ Health/Medical Services    ☐ Employment Services
- ☐ Court Services    ☐ Educational Services    ☐ Counselling Services
- ☐ Financial Institutions    ☐ Funerals / Weddings    ☐ Entertainments
- ☐ Other, *please write down:*

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**9.2.3 What is the general opinion of these sign language interpreting services?**

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**9.3 Do sign language interpreters receive payment for interpreting services in your country?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.3.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 9.3.3

**9.3.1 Who is responsible for paying for a sign language interpreter?**

- ☐ Government    ☐ National Association of the Deaf    ☐ Deaf people
- ☐ Other, *please write down*:

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**9.3.2 What is the average hourly rate of payment for Sign Language Interpreters in your country?**

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Please go to Question No 9.4

**9.3.3 Do your sign language interpreters provide voluntary service for all sign language interpreting assignments?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.4
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 9.4
- ☐ Sometimes, please go to Question No 9.4

**9.4 Does your country have a National Association of Sign Language Interpreters?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.4.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 9.5

**9.4.1 Is your National Association of the Sign Language Interpreters independent from your National Association of the Deaf?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.5
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 9.5

**9.5 Is there a national Code of Ethics for sign language interpreters in your country?**

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.6
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 9.6



**9.6** Is there any legislation or policy in your country which states that the government has a responsibility for the provision of sign language interpreting services?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 9.6.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 10.1

**9.6.1** If yes, please list the legislation or policies that specifically state the Government has a responsibility for the provision of sign language interpreting services.

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## **10.0 Employment**

**10.1** Does your country's government consider Deaf people to have a right to be employed and earn a standard salary?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 10.2

☐ No, please go to Question No 10.2

**10.2** Does your country's government have any anti-discrimination laws in the area of employment, especially for Deaf people or People with Disabilities?

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 10.2.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 10.3

**10.2.1** If yes, please write clearly the name of any legislation or policies that relate to anti-discrimination in employment:

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**10.3 Does your Association have any official or approximate figures on the number of Deaf people who are in paid employment in your country?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 10.3.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 10.4

**10.3.1 If yes, how many Deaf people are in employment?**

10.3.1.1 Total: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

10.3.1.2 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

10.3.1.3 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the number in this box*

**10.3.2 What are the most common areas of work for Deaf people in your country?**

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Administration            | <input type="checkbox"/> Management    | <input type="checkbox"/> Education       | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre /Arts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Projects                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm work      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering   | <input type="checkbox"/> Welding         | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeweller                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailoring     | <input type="checkbox"/> Building        | <input type="checkbox"/> Painter        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Car Mechanic  | <input type="checkbox"/> Panel Beater    | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoe Repairing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bakery                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hairdresser   | <input type="checkbox"/> Printer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Catering       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>please write down:</i> |  |  |   |
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**10.4 Does your country any figures on the percentage of Deaf people who are unemployed?**

☐ Yes, please go to Question No 10.4.1

☐ No, please go to Question No 10.5

**10.4.1 If yes, what percentage of Deaf people are unemployed in your country? If possible, give percentage of unemployed Deaf women and Deaf men.**

10.4.1.1 Total: - [ ] *please write the percentage in this box*

10.4.1.2 Deaf Women: - [ ] *please write the percentage in this box*

10.4.1.3 Deaf Men: - [ ] *please write the percentage in this box*



#### 10.4.2 Why are Deaf people unemployed in your country?

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#### 10.5 Does your country provide employment service to assist unemployed Deaf people to look for employment?

- ☐ Yes, please go to Question No 10.5.1
- ☐ No, please go to Question No 11.1

##### 10.5.1 Who is responsible for providing employment service for unemployed Deaf people in your country?

- ☐ Government Employment Service ☐ National Association of the Deaf
- ☐ Other, *please write down:*

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## **11.0 General**

**11.1 Which of the following does your National Association of the Deaf consider to be the highest priority for your Deaf Community?**

- ☐ Better quality of Deaf Education
- ☐ Equal Opportunity in Employment
- ☐ Better Sign Language Interpreting quality and services
- ☐ Recognition of your country's Sign Language by your country's Government
- ☐ Improved quality and access to Government and Community Services
- ☐ Other, *please write down:*

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**11.2 Does your Association have any other concerns about the standard of living of Deaf people in your country? Please list those:**

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**Thank you for taking the time  
to complete this Survey**



## Brief Report on Unification of Arabic Sign Languages

Prepared by Ms Hend Al-Showaier

- The Unification of Arabic Sign Languages was the idea of Arab interpreters not the Arab Deaf.
- Arab interpreters and hearing educators decided it would be better if the Arab Deaf could use one signed language instead of different signed languages.
- Those Arab interpreters were not fluent signers, and couldn't understand the Arab Deaf while the Deaf themselves had no problem communicating with each other with ease.
- The Arab interpreters started collecting the signs from:
  1. Local Deaf individuals
  2. Arab Deaf individuals when they attend Deaf events
  3. Different Arab Sign Language Dictionaries (note: not all the Arab countries have finished developing their own sign language dictionary).
  4. Foreign Sign Language Dictionaries, such as American Sign Language dictionaries.
- Since its approval in October 2001 right up until the present time, the Unified Arabic Sign Language Dictionary has not been accepted from the linguistic viewpoint.
- The second unification workshop was organised in Qatar in December 2005.
- Like the first part of the unification project it was not accepted by many Arab Deaf.
- Hearing people, in their efforts to unify Arabic sign languages, ignored the fact that signed languages are not universal.
- Each country has one or more signed language.
- Signed languages are affected by several factors: cultural, social, historical, religious and geographical.
- Not all Arab countries share the same culture and history. Each country has its own culture, history and tradition.
- Not all Arabs are Muslims. Some are Muslims, some are Christians, some are Jews, some are Atheists and so forth.
- The geographical factor plays an important role in signed languages.
- Deaf children are forced to use one signed language at Deaf schools by hearing educators.
- Some Arab interpreters are trying to get approval from all the Arab countries to use the "Unified Arabic Sign Language Dictionary" in the education of Deaf children! They are claiming that the Arab countries use ONE language, Arabic, so the Arab Deaf should use ONE signed language!

For more information about the unification project, please refer to the paper titled: "Unification of Arabic Sign Languages" by Ms Hend Al-Showaier which was presented at the XIV World Congress of the WFD in Madrid, Spain, 16-22 July 2007.

See also:

WFD Statement on the Unification of Sign Languages: [http://wfdeaf.org/pdf/policy\\_statement\\_signlanguages.pdf](http://wfdeaf.org/pdf/policy_statement_signlanguages.pdf)