

SUCCESS STORY

Zamaniyeh – RURAL DAMASCUS

Ayoub – 12 years old

For confidentiality reasons, the name has been changed



Ayoub is a 12 year old boy and his family of 10 members lives in Zamaniyeh in a precarious economic situation.

After undergoing a surgery for meningocele (protrusion of the spinal cord), Ayoub suffers from a spinal deviation. The cost of a treatment device is expensive, and his family was unable to afford it.

In order to correct Ayoub's spinal deviation, he needed a Boston Brace to stabilize the vertebrae and to prevent further deviation (which would lead to scoliosis). After a few years, his brace became small and Ayoub needed an alternative device adjusted to his size. The cost of such equipment became a burden for the family and a source of pain, instead of comfort, for Ayoub.

TGH case workers met with Ayoub's parents and the child to put in place an intervention plan: his referral to a specialised health service provider and PsychoSocial Support (PSS) activities in school, provided by TGH. TGH also met individually with his mother to discuss Ayoub's situation from a parenting perspective.

His health progress was closely monitored by TGH, with the support of his family, until a new device was secured; an unattainable dream for Ayoub and for his family.

“I am wearing my new belt as if it was my holiday clothes.”

In parallel to the health follow-ups, coordination was established with TGH PSS volunteers to integrate him in activities, enabling Ayoub to enhance his self-confidence and well-being. The goal of such activities was to focus on what he is able of doing, to develop his capabilities and skills, to give him leadership tasks and roles and to facilitate communication with his peers.

Now, Ayoub has a better relationship with his peers, waits for PSS activities, and wears his medical belt with enthusiasm, “as if it was his holiday clothes”, eagerly waiting for his health to improve. TGH support helped Ayoub's psychological balance and his well-being.

“I see my son as if he was born again”, his mother said.