

Assiut University Women's Association for Development

Assiut University serves as the primary sponsor and key partner supporting the Assiut University Women's Association for Development, facilitating and executing its various initiatives both within and beyond the university campus.

This partnership is formalized through joint cooperation protocols dating from 1998 to the present day, reflecting the university's continuous support and administrative facilitation. This collaboration exemplifies a successful model of integration between government institutions and the civil development sector, driving socio-economic progress across urban and rural communities in alignment with Egypt's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly in child and women welfare, vocational training, rehabilitation, and employment.



Objectives of the Association According to Its Bylaws:

- **University Hospital Patient Services:** Providing health and support services to patients at university hospitals.
- **Youth & Graduate Empowerment:** Qualifying young graduates to establish and operate small business ventures.
- **Special Needs Care & Development:** Caring for and supporting individuals with mental, physical, and multiple disabilities.
- **Comprehensive Community Support:** Delivering social, health, educational, and economic care to the local community.
- **Student Career Development:** Organizing seminars and training workshops for students to open up future employment opportunities.
- **National Initiatives:** Contributing to national literacy campaigns and family planning programs across Assiut Governorate.
- **Regional Program Implementation:** Designing and executing cultural, health, and social initiatives tailored to the regional community.

Ongoing Projects, Target Groups, Geographic Scope, Budget, and Funding Entities – Assiut University Women's Association for Development (2025)

Project / Activity	Target Audience	Number of Beneficiaries	Geographic Scope
Special Education Center for Intellectual & Physical Disabilities	Children with intellectual disabilities	120 children	Assiut City
Rheumatism and Rehabilitation Center	Individuals with and without disabilities	~350 cases / month	Assiut City
Sensory Integration Unit	Children with intellectual disabilities	60 cases / year	Assiut Governorate
Montessori Unit	Children	75 cases / year	Assiut Governorate
Intellectual Education Class	Children with intellectual disabilities	10 children	Assiut Governorate
Nursery for Children with Disabilities	Children with disabilities	23 children	Assiut City
Capacity Building Project (Installment Sales of Durable Goods)	Employees inside & outside the association	60 individuals	Assiut Governorate
Loan Project for Persons with Disabilities & Staff	Persons with disabilities & association staff	117 individuals	Assiut Governorate
NGO Support for Rehabilitation of Intellectually Disabled in Rural Assiut	Children with intellectual disabilities	120 children	Assiut Governorate
Al-Manar Unit for Educational & Pedagogical Training & Consulting	University students/graduates & families of children with disabilities	450 beneficiaries	Assiut Governorate
Wage-Employment Opportunities Improvement Project	• Male & female Assiut University graduates • Special education NGOs/centers	• 150 graduates • 10 NGOs & centers	Assiut City & Center



Sensory Integration Unit

The Sensory Integration Unit represents the latest specialized service developed by the Association to support children with intellectual disabilities. Inaugurated in November 2015, the unit was established with funding from Plan International alongside donations from local benefactors.

The sensory integration room is equipped with advanced light and sound technology designed to treat sensory processing disorders in children with learning difficulties, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, and neurotypical children experiencing sensory challenges (auditory, visual, olfactory, or tactile). Diagnoses and treatment plans are determined using standardized assessment tools and diagnostic scales.

Key Equipment & Devices:

- Water Curtain
- Speech Fan
- Medical Mattresses
- Medical / Exercise Ball
- Light Tunnel Device
- Black Light Device
- Laser Unit
- Sound System
- Bubble Column Device
- Soap Bubble Machine
- Therapeutic Swing
- Trampoline Device
- Rotator Device
- Fiber Optic / Vibration Device

Beneficiaries:

More than 63 children from the Special Education Center for Intellectual and Physical Disabilities affiliated with the Association benefit from the services provided by the Sensory Integration Room.



Montessori Unit

The Montessori Room represents one of the newly developed services introduced by the Association to support children with intellectual disabilities. The room is fully equipped with advanced educational tools across all core domains of the Montessori method:

- Practical Life Skills, Sensorial Development, Language, Mathematics, Culture, Science, Speech Therapy / Communication and Arts

This curriculum is designed to accommodate children across all developmental levels. It aims to cultivate essential personal traits that empower children to adapt, interact, and integrate effectively with their environment. Furthermore, it promotes positive behavior management and modification while imparting foundational life skills from an early age.

Target Audience:

This program serves neurotypical children, children with disabilities, and peers experiencing learning difficulties, slow learning, or academic delays.



NGO Support Project for Training and Rehabilitation of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Rural Assiut

General Objective

To train and rehabilitate children and youth with intellectual disabilities across rural villages in Assiut Governorate.

Background & Funding History

- **Established:** January 2003, initially launched with a grant of **EGP 6.5 million** funded by the **Egyptian-Swiss Development Fund**.
- **Initial Network:** Formed a network of 12 partner NGOs operating 12 special education classrooms and 12 rehabilitation workshops.
- **Endowment & Sustainability:** Following its initial success, the Egyptian-Swiss Development Fund provided an endowment fund (deposit) of **EGP 3.5 million** in 2010. Annual investment returns from this endowment continue to fund current project activities.
- **Current Operations:** Currently executing initiatives in active partnership with 8 rural NGOs.

Specific Objectives

- Train specialized technical personnel working with individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Raise public community awareness regarding disability inclusion and support.
- Expand the institutional network of NGOs providing disability care across Assiut Governorate.
- Improve socio-economic and developmental conditions for intellectually disabled individuals (ages 6 to 18) and their families.

Core Activities & Services

- **Specialized Technical Guidance:** Specialists from the Special Education Center conduct monthly structured field visits to guide partner NGO teams in educational programming, psychological support, speech therapy, social work, physical education, arts, and vocational rehabilitation.
- **Social Integration & Recreation:** Organizing community trips, recreational events, and celebrations for disabled children in rural villages to foster social inclusion and recognize, support, and develop their talents.
- **Institutional Capacity Building:** Delivering technical and administrative training programs to enhance organizational performance, governance, and service quality across partner NGOs within the network.



Dar Al-Rahma Nursery for Children with Special Needs

Dar Al-Rahma Nursery operates as a specialized project under the Assiut University Women's Association for Development, providing services for children with intellectual disabilities aged 4 to 12 years, funded by the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Facility Structure

- **Classroom Capacity:** Features 4 specialized classrooms, accommodating 7 to 8 children per classroom to ensure individualized care.

Core Objectives & Services

Rehabilitating and empowering children with special needs through:

1. **Early Intervention:** Designing and implementing comprehensive early intervention programs for young children.
2. **Targeted Assessment & Skill Development:** Evaluating and training children with diverse conditions—including cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, slow learning, and speech/language disorders—while developing tailored curricula to boost cognitive abilities and practical skills.
3. **Social Integration & Self-Reliance:** Enhancing children's functional capabilities to foster independence and enable integration into the broader community.
4. **Family Guidance & Counseling:** Raising awareness and providing psychological guidance to parents, assisting them in understanding, accepting, and effectively coping with disability.
5. **Continuous Family Communication:** Maintaining ongoing dialog with families to help resolve behavioral, developmental, and logistical challenges faced in caring for their child.



Youth & Graduate Employment Initiative in Special Education

In coordination with partner NGOs and specialized centers, the Assiut University Women's Association for Development established a structured framework to facilitate direct workforce entry for young male and female graduates following their completion of specialized special education training.

Implementation of Framework & Key Features

- **Targeted Skill Building:** Graduates complete specialized training programs in special education, equipping them with professional competencies to work effectively with children with special needs.
- **Formal Employment Agreements:** Formal employment contracts are established between the employer entities (partner NGOs, special education centers, and designated institutions) as the First Party and the trained youth as the Second Party.
- **Immediate Workforce Integration:** Trainees transition directly into active staff roles at partner locations upon fulfilling their training requirements.

Key Achievement

- **100 Formal Employment Contracts** signed for male and female graduates across various partner NGOs, special education centers, and host institutions.

