

People with Disabilities in Israel

Working with **Agents of Change** (e.g. Religious and Traditional Leadership) as a Tool for Changing Attitudes and Promoting Inclusion

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JDC Israel Disabilities
Touching Lives, Transforming Communities

Disability and Development

- An estimated 10 percent of the world's population experience a disability (WHO).
- Empirical evidence suggests that poverty is associated with disability and that disability may increase the risk of poverty.
- Disability is a stronger correlate of non-enrollment in school than either gender or class.

International Frameworks

- UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)
 - Adopted in 2006, to date 147 signatories, 96 ratifications
 - Article 32: International Cooperation
"Development programs should be inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities"

International Frameworks

- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
 - General Assembly resolution “Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond” :
 - Stresses the need for more data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities; and
 - Calls upon Governments to enable persons with disabilities to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development, in particular in all efforts aimed at achieving the MDGs.

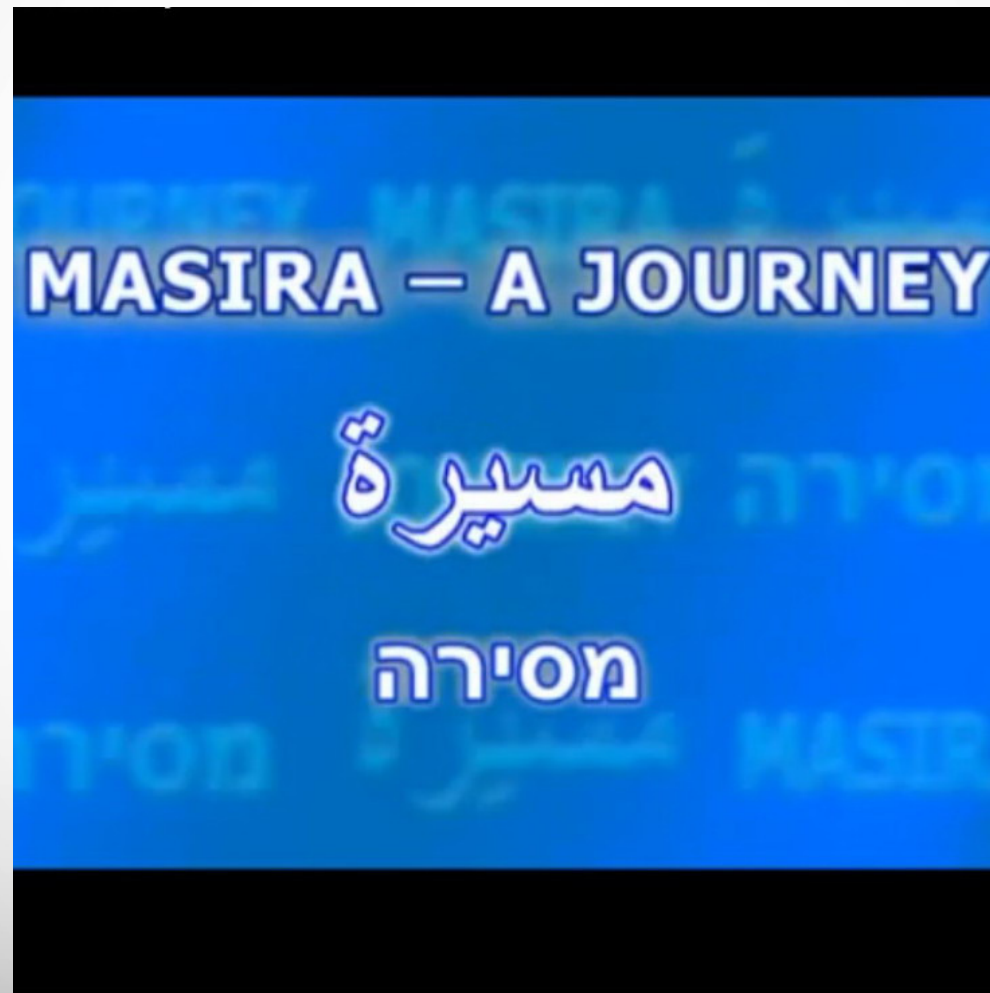
Inclusive Development

- Based on a human rights perception of disability and highlights equal opportunities for person with disabilities and their right to play a part in society.
- Requires "Twin track approach"
 - ensuring that persons with disabilities are included in all relevant development projects and programs.
 - continuing support given to special measures which enable persons with disabilities to be independent, to take responsibility and to make decisions about their own affairs, and allow them access to general programs.

Barriers to Inclusion

- Attitudinal
- Environmental
- Institutional

Masira "Journey" Program



Religious Leaders as Agents of Change for Changing Attitudes and Promoting Inclusion



Raising
Awareness

Spreading
the word –
Sermons

Welcoming
– Accessible
Mosque