

LAYLA'S SUCCESS STORY.

Layla, an eight-year old girl, was born without a right hand. Unlike other kids and due to her handicap, she was unable to socialize with others and live her childhood normally. She refused to go to school to avoid the peers who mocked her. Overtime, she grew fearful of being surrounded by people.

Her parents tried hopelessly to convince her to start going to school again, to learn and to play with other kids. In July 2016, Layla was brought to a summer camp, which offered unique psychosocial support activities from IOM through its Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), in Aden Governorate, Khur Maksar district in Al-Sa'adah school. Layla's grandmother told the CFS team about her grandchild's difficulties. The CFS team referred Layla to the IOM CFS psychologist who started conducting individual psychosocial sessions.



Layla and other girls in the CFS, Aden © IOM Yemen 2017

While Layla began to exhibit positive change – uttering wishes to be a doctor in the future, she also struggled to maintain her self-confidence and often expressed her thoughts with disappointment: "...but I don't have a right-hand like others..."

After several individual sessions and participation in the CFS group activities, Layla has shown great progress. She has more confidence in herself and her abilities. She re-enrolled in school and plays with her peers. Layla participated in most of the school in-door and out-door activities, educational and recreational ones conducted by the CFS team. She has learned to read, write, draw, and play games, such as building bricks. Layla has completed her first school year 2016/2017. Throughout the year, the CFS team continued to support Layla in achieving her academic and personal goals. The CFS team supervisor visited Layla and her family in their home, announcing the happy news that Layla was one of the top scoring students among her classmates and that she is now more social. Layla's parents and grandmother were pleased and thankful to hear this good news, expressing extreme happiness about the remarkable changes in Layla's personality and performance at school. "Thanks to GOD, it would have never happened without the human touch and great help of the IOM-CFS conducted activities," exclaimed Layla's grandmother.

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