Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation
Who we are

Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation was founded in 1960 as one of Leonard Cheshire’s homes. Now-a-days, it is a non-profit non-government organization that is nationally recognized for the comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services it renders to beneficiaries from different parts of Palestine, particularly those with disabilities regardless of their gender, age, religion or social class.

Our vision

Improve the quality of life of all people including those with disability based on human rights approach and inclusive development.

Our mission

Adopting the “Holistic Approach” to rehabilitation and the philosophy of “Specialization” in service provision through a highly specialized multi-disciplinary cadre, BASR will continue to ensure its leading role as a national referral and resource medical\rehabilitation centre for the transfer of knowledge and expertise, that provides the Palestinian population with quality comprehensive services at all levels of service delivery (the national, the intermediate and the grassroots level), complimented by surgery and other support services.

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Dear Friends,

Leaving behind an honorable legacy of fifty years of determination and dedication to promoting human rights and community development, BASR is now standing on the threshold of a new episode of seeking the best with the spirit of human dignity.

We have seen since the beginning that great ideas in the world have only been the will-power to visualize dreams into reality. We are fully convinced that success will not be achieved unless a pure passion will continue to be through our hearts, and a growing belief breaking into our minds.

On behalf of BASR’s family, it is a great pleasure for me to present to you our annual report for 2011. We would like to inform you that BASR is heading towards developing its quality services and capacity to best meet the different emerging needs of our people from a rights based and inclusive development approach.

Throughout 2011, we provided the Palestinian people with specialized medical and rehabilitation services besides offering advanced surgical operations, serving 49,251 people. With regards to our community based programs, we have extended our scope to reach more beneficiaries in the marginalized and rural areas. We have targeted new villages and localities in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts which are most affected by the human rights violations committed by the Israeli occupation and lack access to services due to the Separation Wall, settlement expansions and other mobility restrictions. BASR is constantly striving for becoming more and more specialized in the field of rehabilitation and surgical intervention. We have launched the cochlear implant service as a model of advanced surgeries we could specialize in. Twelve beneficiaries have received cochlear implants in 2011 as well as post cochlear implant rehabilitation. These proved to be incomparably successful and had positive implications for improving the quality of life for the targeted beneficiaries. BASR is looking forward to launching similar pioneering projects in other fields.

Our inclusive development programs also continued to aim at building the capacity of persons with disabilities in order to empower them to be self-advocates, claim their human rights and walk their life the way they aspire to. Simultaneously, we have built the capacity of representatives of several local authorities and relevant stakeholders in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts to mainstream disability in their development plans. We also enhanced cooperation with the national authorities and relevant stakeholders in the disability field to advocate the rights of people with disabilities and lobby for the implementation of local and international disability-related laws and policies.

Undoubtedly, shared efforts of many actors have made these accomplishments possible. I would like to express my deep gratitude to our board members, dedicated staff, supporters and volunteers who contributed towards these achievements. It is also an opportunity to thank all our strategic partners and donors who have been and will continue to be standing by our side and supporting us both technically and financially to achieve our mission and objectives.

For the future, BASR is committed to bringing about positive changes in the community. We are planning to develop our facility-based services by establishing a pediatric hospital and offering new advanced surgeries. In the community, we aim to expand our services and continue our decentralization program in partnership with the local authorities to urge them to assume responsibility for disability issues. Last but not least, we aim to intensify our capacity building activities targeting Disabled People Organizations and self-help groups of people with disabilities as well as our advocacy initiatives for the enforcement of national disability related laws and policies, which will in turn improve the life conditions of our beneficiaries.

Finally, I hope that next year seeds of hope will blossom, and from these seeds peace; and an independent Palestinian state will branch out; a Palestinian state that could serve its citizens, protect their rights in an equal inclusive and democratic society.
General Assembly

MSGR. Fuad Twal  
Latin Patriarch

Mr. Anton Salim Ibrahim Saba  
Retired English Language Teacher

Miss. Sara Jabra Elias Salah  
Retired School Principal in Beit-Jala

Mr. Issa Jeries Yousef Taweel  
Architect

Dr. Peter Lutfi Boutrus Qumri  
Medical Doctor

Mrs. Hannan Musleh  
Engineer

Mr. George Qawas  
Arab Bank Manager

Mr. Moussa Ismail Mussa Darwish  
Retired Assistant to the Executive Vice President at Bethlehem University

Mrs. Antoinette George Yousef Knezovitch  
Retired Art and Music Teacher

Mr. Hani Emile Jeries Abu Dayyeh  
International Affair and Economics Chemical Engineer

Dr. Bishara J. Abu-Ghannam  
Electrical Engineer and Assistant Professor at Birzeit University

Mr. Laurence Carlos Jadallah Samour  
Retired Senior English Language Teacher

Fr. Ibrahim Shomali  
Director of the Minor Seminary of Beit-Jala
## 2011 Annual Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASR's Rehabilitation and Surgery Departments</th>
<th>Adults</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>ENT Surgery</td>
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<td>Neuro Surgery</td>
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<td>Reconstructive Surgery</td>
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<td>General Surgery</td>
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<td>Uro Surgery</td>
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<td>Total Surgical Services</td>
<td>3,209</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that this total includes inpatients in rehabilitation wards, outpatients, and beneficiaries in Orthotics & Prosthetic. This is done to avoid double counting.*
### Community Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community day-care centers</td>
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<td>El Khader</td>
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<td>Beit Sahour</td>
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<td>Dura</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ghirass Children Cultural Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychosocial Intervention Program</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toy Libraries</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Community Programs</td>
<td>27,499</td>
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</table>

### BASR Services and Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services and Programs</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Sessions/Consultations/Visits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Rehabilitation Services Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Services Total</td>
<td>16,805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support services Total</td>
<td>18,151</td>
<td>21,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surgical services Total</td>
<td>3,209</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Community Programs</td>
<td>27,499</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries for 2011 Total</td>
<td>49,251</td>
<td>90,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the total number of beneficiaries includes number of beneficiaries from rehabilitation, medical, and community services
Summary of Achievements

- The overall bed occupancy rate at BASR’s specialized rehabilitation & surgery hospital for 2011 was 90.5%.
- Total number of hospitalization days was 24,456.
- BASR served a total of 49,251 Beneficiaries in 2011.

Rehabilitation Services

The bed occupancy rate at BASR’s rehabilitation wards for 2011 was 99%.
The average stay for children was 50 days and for adults 43.3 days.
The number of family meetings held by the multi-disciplinary team with beneficiaries' families for support and guidance was 156.
The rehabilitation departments served a total of 284 inpatients and 4,373 outpatients.
The total number of therapy sessions conducted for in and outpatients during 2011 was 38,006.
19 children took Botox injection to reduce muscle spasticity and other 10 children received Serial Casting in 2011.
Total number of technical devices dispensed to beneficiaries was 1116 including hearing aids, eye glasses and low vision devices.

- During 2011, 199 adult beneficiaries were admitted to the rehabilitation ward to receive the needed rehabilitation services. They had different types of disability resulting from CVAs (60.4%), traumatic brain injuries (6.5%); brain injuries (2.5%); spinal cord injury (15.6%); Musculo Skeletal conditions (8%); brain tumor (2.5%) and others (4.5%).
  60.3% of these beneficiaries came from the southern part of Palestine (Bethlehem & Hebron districts), 0.8% from the central part (Jerusalem and Ramallah), 15.6% from the north (Salfeit, Nablus, Tulkarem, and Jenin), 2% from Gaza and 0.5% from Jordan.

- In 2011, 85 children were admitted to BASR's rehabilitation ward during 2011. Most of these children had Cerebral Palsy and Psychomotor Retardation (75.3%), traumatic brain injuries (10.6%), brain tumor (3.5%) and others (10.6%). 7 children had head injuries due to road traffic accidents (7% out of the total number of children). 71.7% of those children came from the Bethlehem and Hebron districts, 2.4% from Jerusalem, 5.9% from Ramallah), 7% from the northern part of Palestine.
The most significant highlight is the piloting of a good practice model of an inclusive kindergarten for children with impaired vision and additional disabilities through the generous support of CBM-EMR, in cooperation with the Latin patriarchate school in Beit-Jala, where the kindergarten environment was made accessible, the preschool teachers were trained in teaching children with impaired vision / disabilities; and the kindergarten received 2 children, one with impaired vision and motor disability and another with congenital malformation, at the beginning of the school year in September 2011.

The vision rehabilitation team continued providing clinical & school based functional vision assessment & rehabilitation services to people with impaired vision. Assessment and re-assessment sessions were conducted in three schools in Bethlehem and Ramallah. The early intervention services rendered to children with visual impairment; age 0-5 years old, continued using VIISA Developmental Skills assessment. Those interventions were clinical based and school based, in particular at the schools for the visually impaired in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts.

The vision screening program and early intervention targeting children with visual problems continued in 2011. Mainstream schools and kindergartens in Bethlehem district villages and refugee camps, in addition to several community day-care centers in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts were the focus of 2011 activities.

Capacity building for 119 teachers of students with impaired vision was carried out at several schools and kindergartens in the west bank in 2011. 47 parents of children with visual impairment and 50 people with visual impairment from different districts of the West Bank were part of meetings conducted to raise awareness about visual impairment in 2011. 16 other family meetings were conducted to support families of children with visual impairment.

Total Number of low vision devices offered to beneficiaries was 44.

During 2011, the total social assistance contributed by BASR for supporting disadvantaged beneficiaries was 978,117 NIS.

**Medical and Surgical Services**

During 2011, 3,209 surgeries (1,540 minor and 1,669 major surgeries) were performed at BASR’s surgical departments for patients with eye, bone, gastroenterological, neurological, urological, cardiovascular and ENT diseases. 971 medical procedures were performed in the outpatient clinics in 2011.
In 2011 BASR’s E.N.T department made an enormous progression in conducting advanced ear surgeries meant to provide solutions to people with hearing impairment. Cochlear implant and BAHA surgeries are now performed at BASR’s specialized rehabilitation and surgery hospital. Both surgeries are pioneering techniques that help beneficiaries avoid discomfort caused by hearing aids and offer an alternative option to hearing aids.

BASR conducted 12 successful cochlear implant surgeries for 11 children and 1 adult. The beneficiaries are undergoing a comprehensive rehabilitation program. A number of the beneficiaries concerned started recognizing voices, responding when their name is called, recognizing sounds, and responding to simple commands and most importantly using some words to express some of their basic needs.

Other three successful BAHA surgeries were conducted at BASR for three children. BASR E.N.T department is the first in the West bank to conduct BAHA surgeries.

BASR’s reconstructive surgery team succeeded in performing several sophisticated surgeries. In one of those operations, the team succeeded in saving a young man’s hand after a serious accident that caused all his fingers to be amputated. One of the five fingers was substituted by transferring a toe to the hand in a complicated surgery which lasted sixteen hours. In another surgery the team succeeded in removing a 1 kg tumor from a patient’s face which he suffered from for 3 continuous years. All previous treatments were unsuccessful to help him have his face back. Those two surgeries and many others are now repeatedly performed as the team has proven their excellence and commitment to innovation.

The hearing screening campaign for the prevention, early detection and intervention of hearing impairment in public schools, in coordination with the Bethlehem Directorate of Education, continued in 2011. This year the Audiology department extended its outreach work to include other areas in Ramallah, Jenin, Nablus and Jericho. The number of hearing aids provided through the Audiology department was 346, other 336 ear moulds were provided and 286 hearing aids were repaired in 2011.

**Community Programs**

**Psychosocial Intervention Program**
The total number of individuals receiving individual counseling was 376 including 294 children and 283 new beneficiaries. They received a total of 2367 individual counseling sessions. The program organized 391 therapeutic, awareness raising, and training group activities. 78 of those group activities targeted 59 children. 166 training sessions for 64 professionals working with children were conducted in addition to 147 awareness sessions for 1293 children and 295 adults conducted in 2011. The program succeeded to provide expert help to 2087 beneficiaries, 1646 of whom were children and 1843 were new beneficiaries to the program.

**Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program**
1920 beneficiaries with disabilities were served directly by the CBR program through home visits, follow up sessions at schools, technical aids etc.. 66 persons with disabilities received technical devices. 1003 parents/care-givers received training/support. 618 referrals were made by the CBR program: 413 to community level services, 182 to regional level services and 23 to national level services. 35 beneficiaries with disability were referred for vocational training centers in Hebron and Bethlehem districts.
86 persons with disabilities were targeted for livelihood activities during 2011: skills development 37, Self Employment 18, 26 got paid jobs/Wage Employment and 5 got Financial Services.

The program was quite active in 2011 in serving children. A total of 3156 children benefited from summer camps and fun days organized for children with and without disability. More results were achieved on Inclusion during 2011; 60 children with disabilities were integrated into mainstream education, (2 in universities, 19 in KGs, 36 in Schools, 3 in community centers).

The CBR program also provided training on the right to education, learning difficulties and establishing a welcoming classroom environment for children with disabilities to 162 school and kindergarten teachers. 789 parents participated in workshops on disability issues.

Three joint advocacy activities with the Palestinian General Union of People with Disabilities - Bethlehem branch were implemented. The program also organized 230 educational activities such as awareness raising, changing attitudes, promotion of disability law, advocacy and Gender proportion.

In 2011, 19 self-help groups of people with disabilities established in 19 locations in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts were supported and empowered. Those groups received capacity building / trainings on community awareness and community mobilization, communication skills, UNCRPD and national legislation, advocacy and lobbying, access to services. Those groups are to implement small-scale advocacy initiatives to advocate their rights in order to improve their life conditions.

The CBR program also targeted local authorities in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts in its capacity building activities, training 40 of their staff on environmental accessibility, advocacy and mainstreaming disability in their plans.

COMMUNITY DAY-CARE CENTERS
1,259 children with and without disabilities were regularly served at the community centers in 2011. 186 children (131 in primary classes and 55 in Kindergartens) were integrated into the mainstream of education in 2011 after being prepared for inclusion at the community centers.
7,222 Children with and without disabilities participated in different pedagogical, cultural, sports, drama, arts, recreational and awareness activities carried out at the community centers.
3,633 children with and without disabilities had access to the toy libraries and benefited from their internal and external activities animated by the animators and their assistants, both as individuals and groups through a total of 30,820 visits to the toy libraries.

GHIRRASS CHILDREN’S CULTURAL CENTER
The total number of beneficiaries who participated in the internal activities of the centre was 1532. Those activities included: library activities, special educational intervention, ICT training, drawing and arts activities, pedagogical activities, Palestinian folkloric dancing and music activities, festivals, recreational and cultural activities, summer camp and fun activities, cultural exchange and psychosocial support.
Ghirrass’s outreach program served another 2216 beneficiaries. The outreach program activities focused on the reading campaign and follow up on educational methods and programs in schools and kindergartens in 10 villages around Bethlehem.
46 regular school teachers from public, private and UNRWA schools as well as 23 special needs teachers received training on reading difficulties and improving the educational level and quality organized at Ghirass Center.
14 women benefited from Ghirass’ Literacy Program receiving a total of 96 educational hours and 407 students with learning difficulties received specialized educational intervention.

DRAMA THERAPY PROGRAM
Al Basma group made up of 7 members of Adults with intellectual Disability received extensive drama training and successfully performed their distinctive show “True love – Alhob Alhaqiqi” in front of 1500 spectators at Ramallah Cultural Palace.
To promote community understanding of the needs and rights of people with disabilities and the need to overcome barriers to their full participation in society, BASR organized 11 awareness raising theatre shows tackling disability issues, environmental and attitudinal barriers that hinder the participation of people with disabilities in society, in 11 marginalized areas in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts, targeting relevant stakeholders in those communities. These theatre shows were supported by Bible Lands.

Human Resource Development For BASR’s Staff

Upper and mid level management team

- 20 of BASR upper and mid level management / senior staff participated in a 5-day training on “Leadership and Human Resource Management” (LHRM), organized by BASR and led by a Dutch expert. They also participated in a 5-day training on “Project Cycle Management” (PCM) led by a Dutch expert and a 5-day training on “Knowledge Management” led by a German expert, all supported by CBM-EMR.
- 3 members of BASR program development team participated in a 4-day training on “Leading Effective Teams”, as part of the Leadership Development Program with the Palestinian Health Sector Reform and Development Project (USAID Flagship Project).

Rehabilitation team

GENERAL

- 5 members of BASR’s paediatric rehabilitation team participated in a 5 day training on “Snoezelen” Sensory Stimulation Philosophy with Beit Issie Shapiro Centre.
- The rehabilitation team attended a lecture on “Cognitive and Behavioural Effects of Brain Injury” organised at BASR and led by a visiting Irish neuro-psychologist.
- The rehabilitation team attended a lecture on “Introduction to Mental Disorders” led by BASR’s child psychiatrist.
- 17 of BASR staff participated in a 30-hour preliminary and intermediate level “Microsoft Excel” training, organized by BASR’s Knowledge Management Manager.

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

- 3 physiotherapists from BASR participated in a 2-day training on Clown Therapy& Circus Therapeutic Tool led by Belgian clowns.
2 physiotherapists from BASR participated in a 1-day training on “Anterior Cruciate Ligament” led by French specialists.

2 physiotherapists from BASR received training on “Traumatic Brain Injury” (TBI) at BASR through video conferencing with Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital - Norway.

5 physiotherapists from BASR participated in Physiotherapy Workshops on “Clinical Applications of Orthotics and Prosthetics in Daily Practice”. The workshops were led by the Canadian Executing Agency, Montmorency College and attended by 20 physiotherapists and doctors from different hospitals and rehabilitation centres in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron districts.

1 physiotherapist participated in a 4- day workshop on “Microkniziotherapy” at BASR conducted by two French specialists.

1 physiotherapist participated in a 4-day training on “Maitland Mobilization and Manipulation Techniques of the Spine”.

1 physiotherapist participated in a 26-hour training on “Upper and Lower Quadrant for Spinal and Peripheral Manual Therapy Techniques” with Geoff Foat Physiotherapy in Egypt.

1 physiotherapist participated in a 3-day training on “Whole Body Tapping” in Tel Aviv.

1 physiotherapist participated in a 4-day training on “Mulligan Method” in Tel Aviv.

VISION REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

2 vision rehabilitation instructors from BASR participated in a 4 day training on “Early Intervention for Children with Visual Impairment” organized at BASR and led by a specialist from Blind Babies Foundation-USA. They also participated in a 4 day training on “Early Intervention for Children with Impaired Vision” organized at BASR for 15 preschool teachers from the special schools for the visually impaired in the West bank and led by 2 specialists from the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI). They also participated in a 4 day training on “Computing with Special Software used by people with impaired Vision”, organized at BASR for 6 ICT teachers from the special schools for the visually impaired and led by an ICT specialist from FFVI.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY DEPARTMENT

3 Speech and language therapists from BASR attended a lecture on “The Applicability and Outcome of CILT in Early Aphasia Rehabilitation” and a lecture “Living with Cognitive Difficulties after Brain Injury”, through video conferencing with Sunnaas Rehabilitation Centre-Norway.

3 Speech and language therapists attended a lecture on “Alternative Augmentative Communication” conducted by specialists from Sunnaas Rehabilitation Centre - Norway.

The head of the speech & language therapy department participated in a one week advanced training on “Picture Exchange Communication System PECS” with PECS Germany.

PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The child psychiatrist and 2 social workers of the psychosocial program participated in 3 5 -day trainings on “Professional Supervision” with a total of 105 training hours organized by the Palestinian Counselling Center and Free University of Berlin.

The child psychiatrist and 5 social workers of the Psychosocial Program participated in a 4-day training on “Group Dynamics Rules Setting” organized at BASR and led by a French psychotherapist.

The child psychiatrist participated in a 1-day training on “Eating Disorders in Toddlers” organized by the Guidance and Training Centre for the Child and Family.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

One social worker participated in a 1-day workshop on “Gender and Disability” conducted by Stars of Hope Society.

One social worker participated in a 1-day workshop on “New strategies in Training” for the social work students at Bethlehem University and another one at Al-Quds Open University.
Community programs team

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAM

- 22 CBR workers and 4 supervisors participated in different trainings / workshops on the rights of persons with disabilities, inclusion, lobbying and advocacy, community awareness, early detection and intervention, parenting skills, and other disability related issues totalling 382 training hours.
- The CBR program manager participated in a two week training on Community Based Inclusive Development, organized by APCD in Thailand.
- The CBR program manager participated in a 2-day training on “Empowering Young Leaders of Persons with Disabilities”, organized by UNDP in Jericho.

Medical Team

NURSING DEPARTMENT:

- 17 nurses from BASR participated in a French Language Education Program in 2011 and will be continued in 2012 in order to qualify them for scholarships in Belgium.
- 23 nurses from BASR participated in four training courses about Update of Wound Care & Antiseptics, Clown Therapy & Circus Therapeutic Tools, Pain Management, and Follow up of Children led by Belgian trainers.

AUDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT:

- BASR’s audiologist received a two-month training on Cochlear Implants Mapping and on speech and language therapy post cochlear implant at Varese Hospital in Italy.
- One audiologist received a 1-day training on using Vivo sonic device in Jerusalem.

Human Resource Development for Other Professionals Offered By BASR

Rehabilitation related trainings

VISION REHABILITATION

- 2 1- day capacity building and empowerment workshops for 50 Persons with Visual Impairment from different districts in the West Bank.
- 1-day awareness raising workshop for 47 parents of children with impaired vision from different districts of the West bank.
- A 2-day training on “Implementing Individual Educational Plans for Students with Impaired Vision in the Classroom” for 5 teachers at Al Shurooq School for the visually impaired in Beit-Jala.
- A 4-day training (16 hours) on “Visual Impairment and Vision Rehabilitation” for 14 School teachers at Al Kafif School for the visually impaired in Hebron.
- An 8-day training (26 hours) on “Visual Impairment and Vision Rehabilitation” for 11 preschool teachers at one kindergarten inclusive of children with impaired vision in Beit-Jala.
- A 1-day training on “Vision Rehabilitation for 20 CBR workers held at BASR.
- Weekly training and coaching on “Improving the Developmental Skills of Children with Visual Impairment” for the teachers of Al - Shuruq School and Al Kafif School for the Visually Impaired.
The vision rehabilitation instructor conducted 13 training hours on “Vision Rehabilitation and Visual Impairment” for Bani Neim school teachers and children’s families.

The vision rehabilitation instructors coached 26 regular preschool and school teachers in the detection of children's vision problems.

**Community Programs Related Training**

- BASR's Speech & Language therapist conducted 13 training hours on “Swallowing Disorders” for Bani Neim school teachers, speech and language therapist and children’s families.
- The Speech & Language therapist conducted training on “Management of Dysphagia” for 18 teachers of Bani Neim School for Deaf Children.
- The social worker conducted a 5-hours practical training on “Referral System to Appropriate Services” for the social worker of Bani Neim School.
- The outreach program coordinator conducted 20 training hours on “Field Evaluation and Home Visits” for Bani Neim school teachers and physiotherapists of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) - Hebron district.
- The community occupational therapist conducted 20 training hours on “Fine Motor Skills and Activities of Daily Living” for Bani Neim school teachers and physiotherapists.
- The psychologist and the drama therapist conducted 13 training hours on “Typical Children’s Cognitive Development, Behavioural Modification, Theory and Techniques” for Bani Neim school teachers.
- As part of BASR's capacity building and empowerment program supported by CBM, the Disability Rights officer conducted the following trainings for 92 persons with disabilities organized in three self-help groups in Tekou’ in the Bethlehem district and Dura and Ezna in the Hebron district during 2011:
  - 16 training days on “Lobbying and Advocacy”.
  - 16 training days on “Access to Social Services”.
  - 16 training days on “Disability Monitor Initiative Recommendations on Ensuring Access of Persons with Disabilities to Social Services”.
  - 13 training days on "Raising Community Awareness".
  - 13 training days on "Communication Skills".
  - 13 training days on “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD)”.
- The Disability Rights officer conducted 4 meetings on “Access to Social Services” and 4 meetings on “Disability Monitor Initiative Recommendations for Ensuring Access of PWDs to Social Services” for 137 participants comprising parents of people with disabilities and disability activists organized in 5 advocacy groups in Tekooa and Hussan in the Bethlehem district as well as Dura, Ethna and Kharas in the Hebron district.
- The Disability Rights officer conducted 20 training days dealing with "Community Awareness", "Communication Skills" and "UNCRPD" for 208 participants comprising parents of people with disabilities and disability activists organized in 5 advocacy groups in Tekooa and Hussan in the Bethlehem district as well as Dura, Ethna and Kharas in the Hebron district.

In addition, the Disability Rights officer conducted:
- 8 training days on “Community Awareness” for 89 persons with disabilities of the CBR self-help groups in 8 different areas in Bethlehem and Hebron districts.
- 7 training days on “Communication Skills” for 87 persons with disabilities of the CBR self-help groups in 7 different areas of Hebron district.
- 5 training days on “Disability Law” for 51 persons with disabilities of the CBR self-help groups in 5 different areas in Hebron district.
- The CBR workers conducted 230 meetings, lectures and workshops dealing with different topics including parenting skills, learning difficulties and rights of persons with disabilities, awareness and advocacy etc. for 8203 beneficiaries (3125 children, 5087 adults) in different areas in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts.
- A total of 8203 people benefited from empowerment and capacity building activities targeting people with disabilities and other 40 employees from 22 municipalities and village councils (local government structures) in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts received training on CBR management and advocacy.
PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM

- The 5 social workers of the psychosocial program conducted:
  - 34 awareness activities on child rights and child protection for 295 participants, 80 of whom were teachers from different public schools.
  - 34 awareness activities on child rights and child protection for 113 children from different public schools.
  - The child psychiatrist and the 5 social workers conducted 166 training sessions for 64 participants encompassing teachers of the 5 community centres, the animators of the toy libraries, their assistants, and other therapists on different topics related to dealing with children with disability and their problem behaviours.

Medical related trainings

NURSING DEPARTMENT

- 21 nurses, physical therapists and social workers, from different medical and rehabilitation organisations in the Palestinian territories participated in a 4-day training on “The Proper Positioning of Children with Disability, Child Welfare Source” conducted by the Association for the Advancement of Education and Training Abroad–APEFE through the Continuous Education Program at BASR.
- 16 nurses and doctors participated in a 5-day training on “Update of Wound Care & Antiseptics Directed Response Protocol” conducted by Belgian specialists from APEFE through the Continuous Education Program at BASR.
- 10 nurses and physical therapists from different medical and rehabilitation organisations participated in a 2-day training on “Clown Therapy & Circus Therapeutic Tools” conducted by APEFE through the Continuous Education Program at BASR.
- 17 nurses and anaesthesia technicians from different medical and rehabilitation organisations participated in a 2-day training on “Pain Management” conducted by APEFE through the Continuous Education Program at BASR.
- 8 doctors, nurses, social workers and physiotherapists from different medical and rehabilitation organisations participated in a 2-day training on “Follow up of Children” conducted by APEFE through the Continuous Education Program at BASR.

Other Activities

Agreements

BASR facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE), CBM and the International Council For Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI), for establishing a National Program on Inclusive Education for Children with Impaired Vision. A national committee on Education For All children with vision impairment (EFAVI) was formed by MOEHE representing all relevant stakeholders, out of which a technical committee emerged, in which BASR is represented, that worked on a situation analysis in relation to the situation of people with impaired vision in the West bank, upon which a 5-year national strategic plan will be based.

To promote community ownership and partnership, the CBR program signed 3 decentralization agreements with Taffuh and Surif municipalities in the Hebron District and Teqou’ municipality in the Bethlehem district, which increased the number of signed decentralized agreements to 14: 11 with municipalities and 3 with community based organizations.

New accessible facilities

BASR supported the establishment of 2 new community centers: one in Dura – Hebron district in partnership with Dura Municipality, which is now fully functioning, and another in Teqou’ – Bethlehem district in partnership with Teqou’ Municipality, which will be inaugurated in 2012.

To facilitate the access of students with visual impairment to information and study materials, BASR equipped the existing resource unit for students with disabilities at Bethlehem University with up-to-date computers, screen readers (Arabic & English), Hal supernova with Speech& Braille, Close Circuit TV (CCTV) software to transform text material into audio materials, in addition to optical and non-optical devices through the generous support of the
Finish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI).

Besides, through the generous support of the FFVI, BASR equipped the Bethlehem Sports Club of the Disabled with musical, sports and leisure equipment and materials that are accessible for people with impaired vision, which gave them equal access to participation in such musical, sports and leisure activities for the first time in their life.

**Community Activities**

- BASR supported the formation of a committee for the establishment of a “Parents Association” encompassing parents of Children with Vision Impairment from all the West Bank districts.
- Supported by BASR, Dura self-help group organized an event on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities attended by persons with disabilities and their families, community members as well as representatives of the Directorates of Education and Health and other relevant organizations.
- Ghirass’ reading campaign was extended this year to include new villages and workshops for parents on the importance of reading and how to make reading a daily habit. The total number of books made available for the reading campaign was 4236 books that were distributed to 8 kindergartens around Bethlehem.
- Community mobilization activities, networking and coordination activities were carried out by BASR’s community programs in addition to awareness raising on child rights and child protection.

**Conferences and workshops**

- BASR’s Drama Therapist presented BASR’s experience in using Drama Therapy for persons with Disabilities at the “EuroMed in Culture and Art Forum” in Tunisia.
- BASR’s psychologist presented a paper on “Neuropsychological Assessment in the Palestinian Context” in an international conference at Rusk Rehabilitation Centre in New York, U.S.A.
- Representation in national and international forums as well as participation in national and community events and activities including conferences, workshops, etc. organized by government and non-government organizations.
- The Director of Rehabilitation participated in the “European Congress on Osteoarthritis and Osteoporosis in SPAIN”, in the “European Congress on Rheumatology in U.K”, in the “Pan Arab Rehabilitation Congress” in Jordan, in “Bone and Joint Decade Congress” in Lebanon and in the “1st Regional Congress on Osteoporosis in the United Arab Emirates.”

**Recreational activities**

- BASR organized a recreational activity for 20 persons with visual impairment from different parts of the Bethlehem district in addition to members of the General Union of Persons with Disabilities, in cooperation with the Bethlehem Sports Club of the Disabled.
- BASR organized a Christmas party for 300 children with and without disabilities from the Bethlehem district, where they received Christmas presents from Santa Clause and had a lot of fun.
- Ghirass Cultural Center organized a recreational performance for 60 Children and parents at Zakaria village which is isolated by the Israeli occupation.
- BASR organized three inclusive summer camps at Deheisheh, Al-Khader and Nahalin, while the CBR program together with local authorities and other local NGOs organized three other inclusive summer camps at Al-Douha, Dura and Kharas for 554 children, 174 of whom were children with disabilities.
- BASR organized two empowerment and recreational events for 62 persons with disabilities from Dura, Ithna, Tequou’ self help groups at Murad Tourist Resort in the Bethlehem district and in Jericho encompassing
singing, playing music and different team building games that were planned and carried out by the group members themselves and BASR's disability rights officer.

- BASR organized fun days and drama training for children with and without disability, upon which they performed different sketches in public conveying strong disability and rights related messages.

### Training Offered to University Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Total Training Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two students (from Bethlehem University and AlQuds Open University)</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 local and international students (from Bethlehem University, Arab American University in Jenin and from Belgium)</td>
<td>3471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 local and international students (from Bethlehem University, Arab American University in Jenin, Alquds University, Altira College, and from France)</td>
<td>8275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other 13 students</td>
<td>594</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Success Stories

**“There’s no reason why I wouldn’t continue to make progress”**

Raed is 24 years old, living with his parents and seven siblings in a simple home in Beit-Ula, south of Hebron. Raed’s father, a laborer in the Palestinian territories, earns 1000 ILs a month which hardly meets the big family’s basic needs.

A month after Raed’s graduation from university as a staff nurse, he got into a road traffic accident which caused him compressed spine fracture (L1, T12), which led to paraparesis. Raed underwent an urgent fixation of the fracture at Al-Ahli hospital in Hebron. Raed was admitted later to BASR for assessment and rehabilitation purposes. Upon admission, Raed was suffering from paraparesis and was dependent in most functional activities and activities of daily living. The intensive rehabilitation program tailored for him (which encompassed physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychosocial intervention) helped Raed to gradually improve.

Raed became independent in functional activities and activities of daily living, but continued to suffer from weakness in both lower limbs, which prevented him from walking. This situation made Raed feel down and frustrated; therefore, the decision was taken by BASR’s rehabilitation team to provide him with long leg braces with knee joints, after which, he was trained to walk using elbow crutches with the braces for short distances. Being able to move around his environment has had a great positive impact on Raed’s psychological well being. Raed was discharged home in June 2011. But this was not the end of the story. Raed is currently volunteering at BASR as a medical secretary with potential to be permanently employed.

“‘There’s no reason why I wouldn’t continue to make progress’”, he said. “The team at BASR worked really hard and constantly encouraged me. I made a huge progress and I believe I can do more and more everyday”. 
Batoul, a 4-year old girl, born to Akram and Sherine. Sherine delivered Batoul at the hospital without any complications. Batoul had normal developmental stages without difficulties or illnesses along the way until the age of ten months, when she had high fever, which led to a complete hearing loss.

When Batoul was one year and eight months, the family noticed that she was unable to neither respond to voices nor speak; “We tried to get her attention by shaking keys or making sounds with her toys, but our trials were unsuccessful”, her mother said. Batoul was referred to BASR for evaluation; it was then when the family learned that Batoul had a hearing loss. The family was shocked and saddened to know about their daughter’s situation; “We were worried, especially that her older sister had health problems, we did not know what to do. It was a heartbreaking time for the entire family”.

BASR’s audiology department provided Batoul with high frequency hearing aids for six months; but unfortunately, she still did not respond to external auditory stimulation. The cochlear implantation evaluation team (E.N.T., audiologist, speech and language therapist and psychologist) started studying Batoul’s case. After a thorough evaluation, she was found to be able to benefit greatly from cochlear implantation. The team presented the idea to the parents. After several meetings with the family to explain what cochlear implantation is and how their child is expected to progress after the surgery, the family decided that they were comfortable with this choice and with BASR’s rehabilitation program that was tailored to meet Batoul’s specific needs. “We trusted the team, and we trusted BASR. We saw the progress other children with hearing impairment achieved at BASR. We knew Batoul was in good hands”, Batoul’s father said.

Batoul underwent a cochlear implantation in July 2011, upon which she started her speech therapy sessions twice a week. Within weeks from starting the rehabilitation sessions, Batoul began pronouncing numerous words clearly. The family was overjoyed as they heard their daughter calling the parents’ names. “My tears filled my eyes when I called her name and she turned her face towards me. My daughter can hear me; my daughter calls me” Batoul’s mother said.

Batoul’s rehabilitation program will continue for 5 years. This will include sessions with each member of the cochlear implantation evaluation team. As the family’s hopes to hear their daughter speak and hear are confirmed, their commitment to the program increases. Now Sherine and Akram are hoping to help parents of children with hearing impairment. Batoul’s parents are now working on creating a Parents Association for parents of children with hearing impairment with the help of BASR to help other families and introduce them to options that could help their children overcome their impairment.

Batoul is one of 12 persons who received cochlear implantation in 2011. BASR with the support of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development is looking forward to serving more and more people with hearing impairment, as all 12 cases are proven to be successful.

### Challenges and Future Plans

**Challenges**

BASR is set to overcome a number of challenges over the medium- and long-run:

- Mobility restrictions affecting people, goods and supplies;
- Casualties and disabilities resulting from continuous attacks by the Israeli army and settlers on Palestinian citizens;
- Inaccessibility of medical and rehabilitation teams to the beneficiaries in Area C owing to closures, checkpoints and the separation wall.
- Financial difficulties stemming from conditional and political funding and phasing out and suspension of funds from major donors due to political reasons;
- Difficulty in finding strategic partnerships given the current global financial crisis;
- The weak commitment and reliability of the government on international aids, which hinder a prompt
repayment of health referrals;
- Poor coordination, leading to duplication in service provisions; in the health sector.
- Predominance of a philanthropic rather than a development and rights based model in society.

**Future Plans**
Along with several challenges to overcome, a number of plans are set for the future:

- To expand BASR’s community based services and reach out more marginalized areas not currently served;
- To establish a low cost display center for technical devices;
- To carry on with the decentralization program to rehabilitation and strengthen partnerships with local authorities;
- To provide more advanced surgical services;
- To establish a specialized Pediatric Hospital;
- To promote inclusive education models;
- To enhance advocacy efforts in order to implement local and international laws and policies related to persons with disabilities.

What We Did With Your Money

**Sources of Funds**

**Uses of Funds**