ICEVI, CBM & the Palestinian Ministry of Education Signed a Memorandum of Understanding "Inclusive Education for All Children with Visual Impairment"

On Feb 13th Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation partners ICEVI and CBM signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Ramallah, with the Minister of Education and Higher Education supporting the Education Program; “Inclusive Education for All Children with Visual Impairment in Palestine.”

BASR’s partners ICEVI and CBM with the Ministry of Education are preparing a five-year strategy plan for Inclusive Education of All Children with Visual Impairment in Palestine.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Education Mrs. Lamis Al-Alami, Mr. Lawrence F. Campbell; the Immediate Past President of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI), and Ms. Tanja Kern, The CBM Eastern Mediterranean Region Director. The Memorandum of Understanding was attended by Dr. Jihad Zakarneh, Mr. Fahoum Shalabi and a number of general directors at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Ms. Rima Canawati, the Director of Programs Development at BASR.

The Education for All Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI) is a global campaign and program of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) acting in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU) to ensure that all girls and boys with blindness and low vision enjoy the right to education. The Campaign is focusing on children in the developing countries where currently it is estimated that less than ten-percent have access to education.
One of the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a National Committee for Inclusive Education of All Children with Impaired Vision under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education and implement a National Program for Inclusive Education of Children with Impaired vision according to the National Plan and under coordination of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

BASR’s partner the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) is a global association of individuals and organizations that promotes equal access to appropriate education for all children and youth with visual impairment to achieve their full potential.

Another partner, CBM is an international Christian Disability and Development Organization whose primary purpose is to improve the quality of life of the world’s poorest people with disabilities and those at risk of disability, who live in the most disadvantaged societies. CBM envisions an inclusive world in which all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Al-Alami stressed on the right to education for all and the rights of the people with disabilities to live in equality and dignity. In addition, she added that education can empower the people with disabilities and build their capacities to enable them to work and support themselves and their families.