The Palestinian Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, the social responsibility of local authorities towards people with disabilities and activating their financial and social roles in supporting the development and inclusion of people with disabilities in local communities were among the topics discussed at the social responsibility training held in Bethlehem and Hebron. Both trainings were organized by BASR’s CBR program, with the support of CBM, and were conducted under the auspices of the Governor of Bethlehem and the Governor of Hebron.

62 representatives of municipalities, village councils, local authorities –Bethlehem and Hebron directorates, Bethlehem and Hebron governorate offices, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the
Ministry of Health participated in both trainings, during which they worked on drafting disability inclusive action plans for the year 2012.

These trainings are a part of a training series designed to target local authorities in the two governorates. The trainings come to highlight the responsibility of local authorities towards people with disabilities, enhance their role in providing the services needed to improve people with disabilities’ living conditions and mainstream disability issues in their development plans.

These trainings will be replicated in the coming years targeting a larger number of local authorities in the southern districts. Follow up on the progress the participating local authorities are making will be undertaken by BASR’s staff, while monitoring the implementation of those local authorities’ action plans and the extent to which people with disabilities are benefiting from their inclusive practices will be jointly undertaken by both BASR team and the self-help groups and disability advocates trained by BASR.