Upon the joint agreement on the need to improve and develop life possibilities for people with disabilities in the West Bank, CBM, ICEVI (the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment), BASR and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched a national program on inclusive education for children with impaired vision in the West Bank. For this purpose, a national comprehensive plan was jointly developed to promote the rights of people with impaired vision in Palestine, so that they can enjoy quality education in inclusive environments, become active participants in their communities and have better opportunities in life. The plan initially focuses on the inclusion of people with impaired vision in their communities; but it is to be a pilot project which, upon evaluation of results, will be extended to people with other disabilities. Its purpose is not only to provide life opportunities for development but also to enhance and develop existing facilities and services in order that they become adequate and accessible for all people.

This National Plan was approved by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education
with the purpose of uniting efforts of various stakeholders to strengthen awareness in the Palestinian community and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities at all levels, aiming at their full inclusion in society.

Following the approval of the National Plan, a 3-day workshop was organized involving different relevant stakeholders working in the field of vision impairment in the public and NGO sectors including DPOs, in order to jointly develop a sound strategy to ensure that the implementation of the national plan is effective, as a participatory approach was deemed necessary to make the strategy relevant.

The workshop was a means to bring different parties together in a participatory manner to strengthen their sense of ownership and identify appropriate and effective actions to be implemented to achieve the National Plan overall goal, in addition to identifying coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure successful and effective implementation. This exercise also aimed to enable stakeholders to analyze their own capacity which should determine their level of involvement. By identifying their level of involvement, they will also be motivated to consider the required effort to be made in order to improve their capacity, therefore increasing the probability of positive results and effective implementation.