BASR in collaboration with the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI), conducted a four-day capacity building workshop for parents of children with vision impairment”, members of the Palestinian Parents Association of parents of children with impaired vision. The workshop was led by the Director of the Finnish Parent’s Association of parents of children with impaired vision, Mrs. Leena Honkanen, targeting 54 parents of children with impaired vision from different districts of the West Bank as well as 9 professionals and volunteers working with children with impaired vision. The workshop included such topics as: lessons learnt from the summer school for young children with impaired vision and their families, organized by BASR’s Vision Rehabilitation Department last June, as well as the early stages when parents of children with impaired vision discover that their child has a vision problem and the main concerns and attitudes until they could gain access to appropriate rehabilitation services as well as peer support.

The fourth day of the workshop specifically targeted the board members of the Palestinian Parents Association of parents of children with impaired vision, whereby they presented their mission, goals and action plan for advocating the rights of people with disabilities and changing people’s attitudes towards people with impaired vision in particular. Through plenary sessions, group work and introductory films, the workshop highlighted serious challenges facing parents of children with impaired vision in Palestine, particularly the negative attitudes of local communities and the major flaws of the education system. At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed the importance of strengthening the role of the Parents Association for promoting their children’s rights and for straining efforts to remove attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that hinder their children’s participation and inclusion in society.
Capacity Building Workshop Held at BASR for Parents of Children with Vision Impairment