

2011

Report for March and April



## Summary

The last two-months of activity illustrate Project Hope’s exceptional ability to maintain high-quality programs while at the same time maximizing quantity of participants. As the numbers in this report illustrate below, an astonishing 2,120 students participated in a wide range of activities for children, youth and adults, with an equitable balance being struck between male and female students, as well as an ideal age and geographic distribution being maintained, ensuring that our programs always prioritize the areas and people most in need. What these numbers cannot show, however, and what this report can only hint at, is the care, dedication and passion that our local and international volunteers and staff exhibit in preparing and delivering their classes and activities, and the enjoyment and fulfillment that the children, youth and community members get from these classes. In addition to teaching 142 classes and activities for over 37 partner centers around Nablus and further afield, Project Hope volunteers also helped organized several special community events, including the popular PalFest Literary Festival, which we were proud to help organize along with an-Najah University. That all these successes were achieved while also carrying out training for two new program coordinators, as well as undergoing other organizational transitions, is a testament to the experience and professionalism of Project Hope’s staff and volunteers.



*Figure 1 Children at an arts and activities class.*

**International Volunteer Program:** Despite set-backs during the previous reporting period caused by an unprecedented number of cancellations, delays, and border-rejections (in large part due to regional political events), the international volunteer program managed to recover with the immediate recruitment and acceptance of additional volunteers, helping to keep numbers at optimal level. As always, the creativity, energy and experience of the volunteers has made for a wide range of fun and exciting classes and activities for children, youth and adults. Volunteers continue to be satisfied with the housing situation, and new efforts have been made to create more space in volunteer meetings to share teaching and activities best practices, as well as address any issues relating to housing and coordination. Toward the end of this period, a combined overlap in late spring volunteers and early summer arrivals, as well as the beginning of school exams, and university strikes, has led to a slight class shortage, but as other volunteers leave and exams and strikes finish, class levels are expected to equalize again.

**English:** All six levels of English were taught at Project Hope during the last two months. International volunteer instructors began meeting 2-3 times per week, in addition to weekly meetings, to discuss the progress of their classes, the types of activities they were implementing in their classes, and advice about the curriculum. In addition to the assistant English coordinator, who was hired last reporting period, the English Program Coordinator trained two replacement coordinators, one to be in charge of curriculum and the other in charge of class scheduling. The English Program Assistant spearheaded the creation of the English Translation Trainee program, making for a more structured volunteer experience for English students from an-Najah University. With the new staff in place, and quality of classes being assured, the next program phase will have to focus on outreach.



*Figure 2 A Local and International Volunteer with students in Balata.*

**B2W Net Program:** In March and April, a new round of computer classes began for children and youth. A total of 8 computer classes and 4 blog classes were run during the last few months, with a total of 151 students (113 female, 38 male). The B2W Net Program coordinator created children's computer classes for students coming from local community centers, and also organized two community outreach classes for women's computer literacy to be held on-site at two local women's centers. In addition, several classes were started for al-Quds Open University students, a college serving working and underprivileged students. The program coordinator observed that these classes were overwhelmingly attended by female students, as there is the highest demand amongst this demographic. Female students have less access to computers than their male counterparts who have access to internet cafes in the city, so there is more desire amongst women to enhance their computer skills, and thus enhance their employability.

In addition to computer classes, four blog classes ran throughout the two months as well, including a special two-week blogging, video and photography course for B2W students. Although the blog classes officially ended in April, Nablus boys and girls school have requested a new round of classes. In addition, the program coordinator is designing a new course specifically for young students on doing internet research, and creating reports and presentations – these will begin in late May. Regarding the net café, the computers continues to attract users, including local and international volunteers, students, and other visitors. Throughout the last two months, computers in the lab were used by an average of 6 people per hour (60% female users), for an average of 37 minutes per use.

**Graphic Novels:** After an initial recruitment of 17 students, the Graphic Novel courses have leveled out at the target number of 14 dedicated students. Throughout the last two months the students improved greatly, and made great efforts to create original and creative stories with high-quality illustration. The Project Coordinator reports that the quality of the students and their artwork is very high, and is an improvement upon the original graphic novels. By the end of this period, students had added color to their pieces, and were preparing to put the finishing touches on their work. By June, the students will be ready become teachers. In the meantime, work has been done on a new Project Hope website that would feature pictures of the class, scans of artwork, and digital versions of some of the original graphic stories.



*Figure 3: A Student in the Graphic Novel class.*

### General Programs overview:

In March and April, 2011, a total of **23 international volunteer instructors** taught language and activities classes with Project Hope for most of the month. In addition to international volunteers, a total of **36 local volunteers** taught, assisted with and organized activities. Local and international instructors taught a range of **24 different subjects** including English language courses (levels 1-6, conversation, special purposes), French, Blogs, Computers, Graphic Novels and Activities (art, video, photography, sports, gardening, murals, creative writing, dance, Spanish, German, guitar, drama, and games). Volunteers taught a total of **2,120 children, youth and adults** (a dramatic increase 1165 in Jan.-Feb.). During this reporting period, Project Hope organized classes and activities for **37 centers**, including **4 refugee camps** (Balata, el-Ain Camp, as well as Old and New Askar Camps) and **7 villages and Towns** (Assyreh, Azmout, Huwarra, Jneid, Tulkarm, Qalqilya and Zawata). The volunteers came from **11 different countries** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.). The ages of volunteers ranged from **22-72 years old**.

### Statistical Overview:

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes <sup>1</sup>	Average Class Size
English :	1,346	84	16
French :	160	17	9
Activities :	446	28	16
Blogs:	22	4	6
Computers:	129	8	16
Graphic Novels:	14	1	14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2120</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>15</b>

Locations:	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Old City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes:	29	43	11	27	32
Centers:		17	1	12	7

**Ratio of Female/Male = 1,131/989 (53% female)**

**Ratio of children/youth/adults = 1,165/390/565 (73% children and youth)**

**Ratio of Paid/Non-paying students = 109/2011 (95% free classes)**

<sup>1</sup> Number of classes here refers to the number of groups of students who are taught together, not the number of individual class meetings. For instance, there is one group of students in the Graphic Novel course, but they meet several times each week.

### **Special Classes and Activities:**

- A Canadian and American volunteer began setting up a news blogging network through an-Najah's media department.
- A Canadian volunteer organized a garden clean-up and planting with local volunteers and students.
- A Canadian volunteer and her students designed and painted a new Project Hope mural together with local and international volunteers and staff.
- A Canadian volunteer began arranging to take two local Palestinian volunteers or staff to a conference on food justice in the US.
- An American and French volunteer began teaching drama in Balata.
- A British volunteer began teaching guitar in Askar Refugee Camp.
- A special two-week photography, video and blogging course was held during school break for B2W students in Balata camp.
- A member of staff conducted research with 6 children in Balata refugee camp.
- An American volunteer began teaching creative writing and poetry, and has started to organize poetry workshops and performances.
- Volunteers assisted EAPPI accompaniers in Yanoun village.
- A staff member organized a trip for volunteers to Jericho.
- An Australian volunteer organized and carried out teacher-training with UNRWA teachers in Balata refugee camp, focusing on student-centered learning.

### **Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:**

- Two British volunteers organized and donated money for a cycling trip to Sarrah village – for local and international volunteers.
- Qalqilya Zoo trip - organized for 15 children from Balata Refugee Camp as well as volunteers.
- Arab Spring Web Conference - organized and held at Project Hope, this series of web conferences connected local and international volunteers in Nablus to students in the US and Canada. Participants asked questions and shared ideas with activists from Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia about the recent wave of democratic revolutions in the region.
- PalFest Literary Festive – for the second year in a row PH volunteers helped in organizing and running this successful cultural event.
- BDS Talk – Geography Professor, Saed Abu Hijleh, spoke to volunteers about the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement.
- Nablus Municipality Talk – Mr. Emmad Masri from the Nablus municipality gave a talk to volunteers about the city's recovery from 10 years of siege.
- Current Events discussion – this talk was facilitated by political analyst Mr. Zaher Shishtari.
- Palestinian Parliament Member Presentation – Mr. Nasser Juma', member of the PLC.
- Film Screening – “Jenin, Jenin” was filmed to commemorate the Jenin massacre.
- Multiculturalism in the West – Dr. Sheema Khan, an author and research from Canada, led a discussion on Islam and multiculturalism in the West.
- Film Screening – “Paradise Now”, filmed in Nablus, was screened for volunteers.
- PH volunteers participated at a Women's Day event at a local women's center.



*Figure 4 Child in Jneed Village*

### **Appendix 1: Geographic Coverage**

*Local partner centers where Project Hope classes and activities are conducted***In the months of January and February Project Hope cooperated with 32 local partner centers around Nablus, the refugee camps, and outlying areas. The centers were as follows:**

#### **Nablus City**

1. Al-Manhal (Rafidia)
2. Al-Quds Open University
3. An-Najah University
4. Hamdi Manko (Municipal Center)
5. Hitten Club
6. Islamic School
7. Itihad Orphange (Itihad Hospital )
8. Kroom Ashour
9. MCRC (Old City)
10. Medical Relief
11. Nablus Boys School (UNRWA)
12. Nablus Girls School (UNRWA)

13. Palestinian Women Club
14. Rawda College
15. Women Committee for Social Work
16. Women's Corner (Municipal Center)
17. Women's Working Association (Rafidya)
18. Women's Working Department (Ministry of Waqf)

#### **Villages/Outlying Areas**

1. Al-Jneed Village
2. Azmout Village Women's Center
3. Huwara Mother's Association
4. Qalqilya
5. Tulkarem Community Center (Tulkarem)
6. Women's Association of Assyreh
7. Zawata Village Council (Zawata)

#### **Askar – Refugee Camp**

1. Askar Girls School (UNRWA)
2. As-Safeer (New Askar)
3. Social Development Center (New Askar)

#### **Balata – Refugee Camp**

1. Balata Boys School (UNRWA)
2. Balata Girls School (UNRWA)
3. Happy Childhood Center
4. Jamaseen
5. Local Committee for the Disabled - Balata
6. Mweleh
7. Nahr al-Oja
8. Yazour

#### **Al-E'in - Refugee Camp**

1. Al-E'in Boys School (UNRWA)



*Figure 3 Child practicing her ABCs in an English and activities class.*