



## Bi-Monthly Report: May & June 2011



## Monthly Report

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**Summary:** Summer is always a fun and exciting, if busy, time at Project Hope. In May and June, we managed to teach more students, in more classes, in more centers than ever before, while at the same time remaining focused on our core programs, and not overstretching our administrative capacity. Project Hope continues to strike an optimal age, gender, and geographic distribution in its classes, with 89% of its classes reaching children and youth, with 56% female enrollment, and a near equal balance between classes in the villages, camps and Nablus city, including the Old City. We are proud that, as per our goal, we have expanded our outreach to villages during this period, cooperating with a dozen centers in rural or outlying areas. We hope to increase this rural outreach further throughout the rest of the year. Also, we are close to achieving gender balance with our local trainees, something which has been difficult to achieve in the past. We hope that by the fall we will have a more structured local volunteer training program running on a semester basis. Finally, as always, we are proud of the variety of creative and education classes and activities that our local and international volunteers have provided to struggling communities in the northern West Bank.

**International Volunteers Report:** A total of **25 international volunteers** worked with Project Hope during the months of May and June; this was a slight increase from 22 volunteers during May and June 2010. Many of the volunteers in May were finishing 3-month springtime stints, whereas a new group of summer volunteers arrived at the beginning of June. We attempted, for the first time, to institute a group arrival around the week of June 6, so that volunteers could go through a group induction together, insuring a standard of quality amongst all volunteers, and creating a feeling of group solidarity. However, some volunteers had already booked their flights for before June 6, and as a result, it took some time before a full schedule of classes and activities was arranged for them. Likewise, some volunteers arrived late, and did not have a chance to go through the group induction. The group induction, itself though, was a success, considering it was the first time such an induction was attempted. The group induction lasted 3 days and covered topics such as life in Nablus and getting around; communal living; the ideal volunteer; staff/volunteer responsibilities, rights and duties; problem solving; cross-cultural communication; and a basic introduction to teaching English in Palestine. Despite the valuable induction, another difficulty we faced in this period were delayed and overlapping exams. The national schools had exams during the first two weeks of June, then, due to delays caused by teachers' strikes earlier in the year, the UNRWA schools had exams during the last two weeks of June. Volunteers were asked to arrive around June 6<sup>th</sup>, so that by June 12<sup>th</sup> when exams



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were over; they would have had a week of training and would be ready to start teaching summer classes. However, due to the UNRWA exam delay, our summer activities in the refugee camps, our main areas of activity during the summer, did not start until the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July. Given the unpredictable nature of school schedules in Palestine, it may prove very difficult to institute a group arrival date during the summer. We may try such a group arrival again at other parts of the year, or simply run a group induction or workshop on various themes once a month for volunteers.

In addition to these issues, two other major development with the IVP program took place during May and June. In May, the international volunteer recruiter, Jenny, visited Project Hope in Nablus for 2 weeks, in order to train the staff on volunteer recruitment, and issues such as cross-cultural communication and coordinating international volunteers. This was a very valuable training for all the staff, both in terms of efforts to centralize volunteer recruitment in Nablus, and for everyone to understand how and why volunteers get chosen to come to Nablus, and what their expectations are.

Finally, during these two months the new Project Hope website was launched. The website features information on all our programs, and is particularly valuable to anyone considering volunteering at Project Hope. In addition, the website will also serve as a hub of information for volunteers once they are in Nablus, being a portal through which they will access their volunteer schedules, Project Hope blog and wiki page. Given the high numbers of volunteers this summer and some technical difficulties in implementing this new website interface, it will be until after the Ramadan break until volunteers begin accessing their schedules on the new website. In the meantime, some volunteers are being recruited now to populate the wiki and contribute to the blog, to build it up in time for new volunteers.

Finally, despite increased numbers from last year, the goal after the summer will be to increase the number of short-term volunteer placements in villages and surrounding areas; partnerships are currently being arranged for this.

**English:** During March and April, 2011 Project Hope taught a total of 10 English classes with 115 students, on the way to the target number of 200 students and a significant increase from the 5 classes and 50 students taught in January and February. However, during May and June, numbers slipped to **8 classes and 72 students**. During the academic year, the majority our student enrollments in English classes are university students, many of whom come from villages and other outlying areas. Although



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students have more free time, they are also less likely to come to Nablus, and may not be in “study mode”. Likewise, in the summer Project Hope focuses much of its energy on providing free classes and activities to children in camps and villages. After the summer, more efforts will have to be made for improving the advertisement and outreach of the English program, and next summer, Project Hope should consider teaching special, reduced rates English classes for teenagers, youth and adults, to increase enrollment numbers.

**B2W Net Program:** The B2W net program continues to go from strength to strength. During May and June, **11 computer classes were organized for 189 children, youth and women**, up from 8 classes and 129 students during the last reporting period. Classes were organized for students from al-Quds Open University, several groups from Nablus Boys School and Nablus Girls School (UNRWA), as well as mixed classes for students from Askar and Balata refugee camps. In addition, computer outreach classes were organized in the computer centers of An-Najah University, Al-Ein Camp Women’s Center, and Al-Rawda School. A total number of 133 girls and women attended these computing classes, and 56 boys and young men; making for about 70% female enrollment. Regarding the net café, user numbers remain steady with about 6 users per hour, using computers for an average of 30 minutes, with about 50% female usage.

**Graphic Novels:** The 14 participating students in this program continued taking graphic novel classes and working on their illustrated stories. By the end of this reporting period each student’s story for the graphic novel was nearly completed, and preparations were being made for a public exhibition in July. Likewise the student teachers are preparing for their children’s outreach classes set to begin in July.

**General Programs overview:** In May and June, 2011, a total of **25 international volunteer instructors** taught language and activities classes with Project Hope for most of the month. In addition to international volunteers, a total of **37 local volunteers** taught, assisted with and organized activities. Local and international instructors taught a range of **16 different subjects** including six levels of English language courses, conversation, professional English, French, French Activities, art, film, photography, winter activities, blogs and sports. Volunteers taught a total of **2230 children, youth and adults** (up from 2120 in March and April). During this reporting period, Project Hope organized classes and activities for **46 centers** around Nablus, including **4 refugee camps** (Al-Ein, Balata, Old

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Askar and New Askar), as well as increased rural outreach to **12 villages and towns**. The volunteers came from **8 different countries** include Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, the UK, and the US.). The ages of volunteers ranged from 19-63 years old (with some exceptions on the age minimum being made for volunteers who were travelling in groups, or for other reasons).



*Figure 1: International Volunteer with her dance class in Askar Camp.*



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### Statistical Overview:

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Average Class Size
PH English Classes <sup>1</sup> :	72	8	9
Computers:	189	11	17
Graphic Novels:	14	1	14
English:	1173	65	18
French:	164	13	13
Activities:	618	31	20
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2230</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>91</b>

Locations:	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Old City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes:	24	33	11	33	28
Centers:		18	3	12	13

**Ratio of Female/Male** = 1178/1052 (58% female)

**Ratio of children and youth/adults** = 1989/241 (89% children and youth)

**Paid/Non-paying students** = 72/2158 (97% free)

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<sup>1</sup> These are the English classes taught to youth and adults in the Project Hope center for a small administrative fee.



*Figure 2: Belgian volunteers with their students at a French and Activities Summer Camp.*

### **New Initiatives in June & July:**

#### **Classes, Activities and Volunteers:**

- Project Hope holds first group volunteer induction, covering issues such as cultural sensitivity training, cross-cultural communication, and ESL preparation.
- An American volunteer and ESL professional began conducting English Teaching workshops for volunteers.
- An American volunteer began conducting spoken-word poetry workshops for local students.
- An American volunteer began offer rap classes and street-art workshops.
- A British volunteer taught a dance class and organized a dance performance.
- An American volunteer led a video workshop for local volunteers.
- Volunteers finished painting the new Project Hope mural and finished installing the garden.

### Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- Volunteers were taken on a tour of Balata Refugee Camp, met with camp committee officials.
- Saed Abu Hijleh, professor of Human Geography at an-Najah University, spoke on the BDS movement and the on-going Arab revolutions.
- Project Hope volunteers attended the Palestinian International Festival in Ramallah as guests.
- Volunteers visit Yanoun, assisting with accompaniment mission.
- Project Hope organizes busses for local children and youth to attend a free French hip-hop concert at the university.
- Mr. Numair Al-Khayyat, the director of the chamber of commerce in Nablus, spoke about the economic situation in Palestine during the second Intifada.
- International volunteers participate in Global Village Day at an-Najah University, representing Project Hope and their home countries.
- Project Hope staff, Salah and AbdelKarim, give a presentation on food justice issues, in preparation for the Growing Food and Justice for All conference they will attend in the US.
- Samer Aqrourq, a lecturer from an-Najah University, spoke about an-Nakba and the history of Zionist colonialism in Palestine for Nakba Day.



*Figure 3: Students and Volunteers practicing street-art stenciling.*



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### **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 46 local partner centers around Nablus, the refugee camps, and outlying areas. The centres were as follows:**

#### **Nablus City**

1. Al-Hittin Sports Center (adjacent Old City)
2. Al-Latin Orphanage
3. Al-Quds Open University
4. An-Najah University
5. Awtar Center
6. Catholic Relief Services
7. Chotoukan
8. French Cultural Center (Next to Project Hope/Old City)
9. Hamdi Manko (Municipal Center)
10. Islamic School
11. MCRC (Old City)
12. Nablus Boys School (UNRWA)
13. Nablus Girls School (UNRWA)
14. Palestinian Women's Committee Union (PWCU)
15. Women's Corner (Municipal Center)
16. Women's Working Association (Rafidya)
17. Women's Working Department (Ministry of Waqf)
18. Women Committee for Social Work
19. Red Crescent
20. Rawda College
21. Tanweer

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

1. Al-Jneed Village
2. Assereh Kableyeh
3. Azmout Women's Center
4. Beit Emrin
5. Creative Cultural Center – Jenin
6. Huwarra Mother's Association
7. Qalqilya
8. Rural Women's Department, Kafal Harith
9. That Nitaken



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10. Wasel Center – Anabta Assereh
11. Women’s Association of Assereh
12. Yanoun Village
13. Zawata Village Council (Zawata)

### **Askar – Refugee Camp**

1. Al-Lid Society
2. Askar Boys School (UNRWA)
3. Askar Girls School (UNRWA)
4. As-Safeer (New Askar)
5. Dar al-Fanoon
6. New Askar School (UNRWA)
7. Social Development Center (New Askar)

### **Balata – Refugee Camp**

1. Balata Girls School (UNRWA)
2. Happy Childhood Center
3. Jamaseen

### **Al-Ein – Refugee Camp**

1. Al-Ein Boys School
2. Al-Ein Women’s Center