

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

## PROJECT HOPE

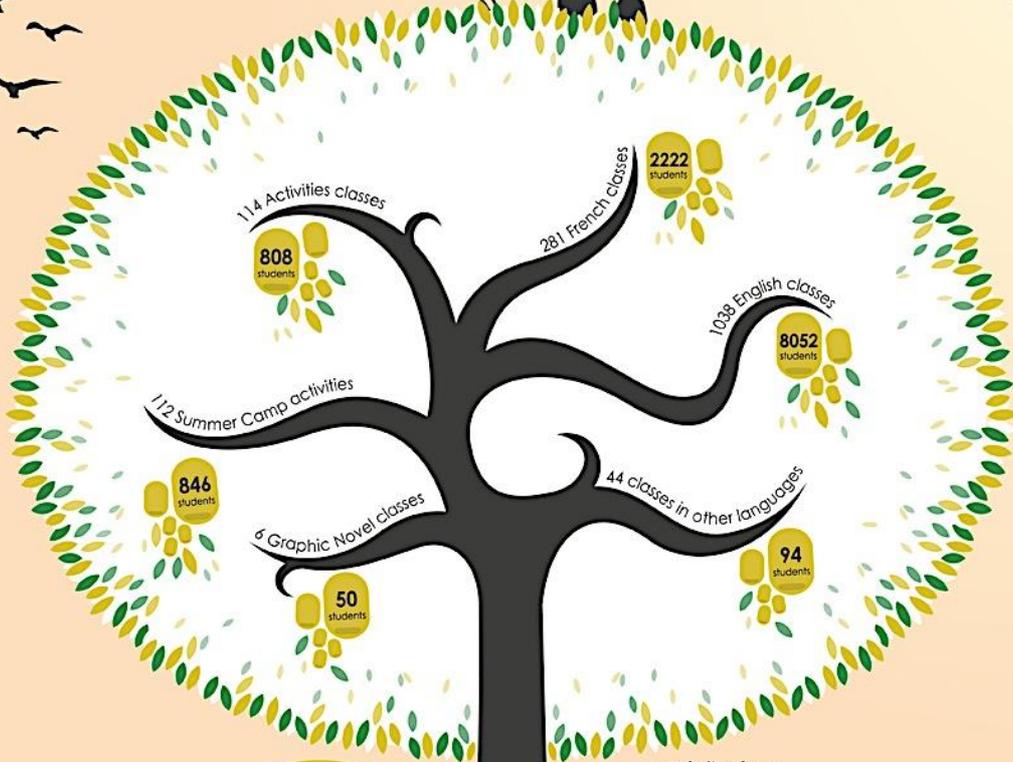
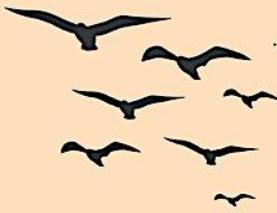
### 2013 in figures.

In 2013, the average class size was 7.3

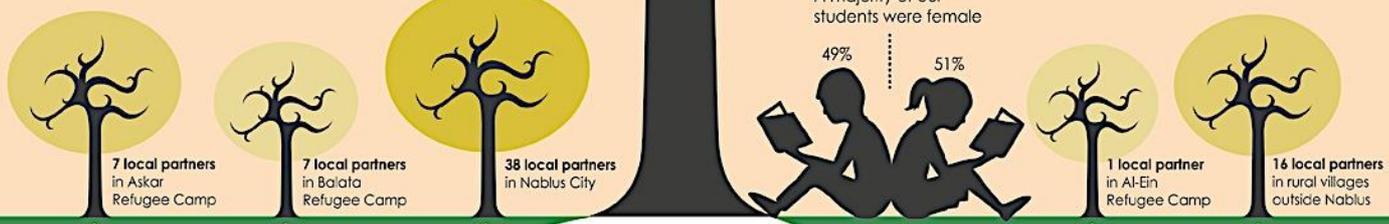
A majority of our students were children

Adults 16%  
Young adults 13%  
Children 71%

81 local volunteers assisted us with our classes and activities.

Volunteers of Project Hope provided classes to 69 local partners



A majority of our students were female

49% (Male)  
51% (Female)

Project Hope welcomed 113 long-term volunteers from 19 different countries

31 additional international guests visited to help with special activities and workshops.



## Summary

Project Hope marked its **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in May 2013. Since that time we have been providing an on-going **educational experience** where young Palestinians and their supporters from around the world learn new ways of healing, speaking, and understanding in the context of on-going violence and occupation. As a result, tens-of-thousands of young Palestinians have participated in education, creative arts and other youth activities with us. In 2013, we were again busy providing **1,590 classes to 11,267 students**, for a 102% increase in classes and 23% increase in students over 2012.

The security situation in Palestine has improved in the past few years, when compared to the **dire emergency** that inspired us to establish Project Hope during the Second Intifada. This has allowed us to increase the number of volunteers we accept, work in more communities, and shift our priority from emergency relief to resiliency and long-term recovery. Still, *conditions remain bad*. Daily life is characterized by frequent violence, the abuse of Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers and soldiers, and an occupying army that strictly limits travel into and around the Palestinian territories. Dwindling foreign aid and limited peace prospects anticipated further **economic decline** as 2013 came to a close.

## Classes

Language activities again made up the largest part of our work, complemented as always by a large offering of other activities. The calendar year also saw us wind down several funds for specific projects in English, with volunteers and in graphic novel design.

## English

Project Hope faces a great deal of demand for **English classes**. We emphasize practical use of the language through conversational exercises with native-speaking and fluent instructors, addressing weaknesses in an overburdened Palestinian public education system. Our free classes are particularly valuable for more marginalized youth, because English is closely linked to employment in an economy dominated by foreign donors and whose future is likely to be linked to **international trade**, tourism and



**information technology**. There is also voracious interest in English by young Palestinians curious about an outside world they are cut off from. As such, English accounted for 69% of our activities with 1,038 classes and 8,052 students. Our English activities have particularly benefitted from support by the *Canadian Auto Workers union* (now UNIFOR) since 2005.

## French

With strong links to France and many French volunteers, we provide a large number of French activities to **young Palestinians** that focus on communication skills. French accounted for 16% of our activities, 281 classes and 2,222 students.

## Graphic Novels

We have been providing visual arts workshops for Palestinian youth in **graphic novel design**. University students are taught technical drawing skills and how to storyboard, producing a graphic novel that is **put on exhibition**, then published and distributed. Those students then teach children in their community how to draw graphic novel stories. This was the final year in a three-year project generously funded by the Dutch charity *Kerk in Actie*.



## Activities and Summer Camps

Other activities included photography, drawing, art, painting, murals, drama, comedy classes, yoga, kickboxing, football, dance and music. We also offered Italian, German and Spanish classes. Local volunteers carried out research on the history and culture of Nablus for “City of Stories” drama workshops run by the British *Wild Works* theater company. We again provided *Palfest* with logistical support and translation assistance for the Nablus leg of its Palestinian literature festival. We were also happy to support our local partners with their summer camps, run during the school break, providing a number of different activities.



## Volunteers

Project Hope has taken particular care to strengthen its volunteer program in recent years. It is a driving force behind our overall offering of activities. Since 2003, over 1,000 **international volunteers** have joined us as instructors, bringing new skills and viewpoints. Using several well-targeted donations since 2009, we have been able to allocate the minimal resources required to bolster volunteer recruitment, support and coordination mechanisms, with the overall aim of improving upon the quality of our activities.

## International Volunteers

We hosted 144 international volunteers in 2013 for a 22% increase compared to 113 in 2012. The 2013 figure also represents a 57% increase over

2011, when we hosted 83. Aside from teaching, we try to find **other ways** for these volunteers to engage with the local community. Consequently we provide a range of film viewing, discussion, debate and group activities. Our international volunteers also provided assistance during harvest to Palestinian olive farmers suffering deprivations by Israeli settlers who covet their land; and helped the *EAPPI* international **observation team**, run by the World Council of Churches in the village of Yanoon, with overnight stays and walks conducted to record settler harassment of the villagers.

## Local Volunteers

Young Palestinian volunteers work as translators and assistants for international volunteers, or teach classes on their own. Their participation lies at the heart of our work, for they are both aid-givers and beneficiaries. We are particularly proud to say that this experience develops their professional and **language skills** and helps them **find employment**, even though subsequent high turn over causes us incredible headaches to replace them. Whenever possible, we **recruit internally** from volunteers to staff programs.

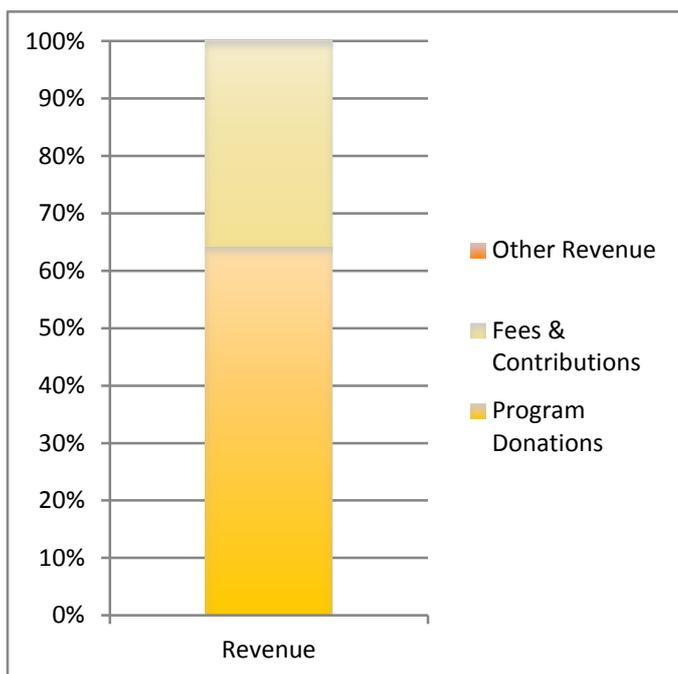
## Improvements

We carried out various organizational and program improvements in 2013. In addition to the volunteer program and language learning, we focused on improving our online presence by developing the content of our website posting **reports**, activities, and **volunteer blogs**. These improvements include an aim to streamline our administration by making more information available via our website, like our **2014 plan**. We also produced a **promotional video** about Project Hope, and strengthened our social media presence through **Twitter**, **Pinterest**, **Google+** and **Facebook**. All are ongoing, long-term processes.



## Income & Expenditures

Project Hope had 2013 **Revenue** of \$USD 123,632.

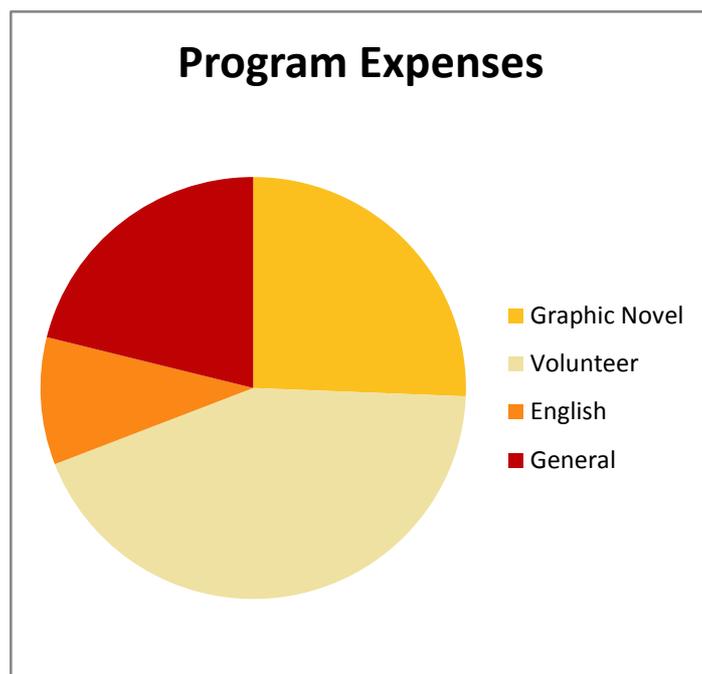


There were two main Revenue sources:

- Program Donations \$79,489
- Fees & Contributions \$44,143

The largest sum of revenue was for specific programs. However, a substantial percentage came from alternative revenue streams sustaining the general program, such as volunteer contributions and Arabic lessons for foreigners. This reflects our aim to become more self-reliant, relying less on short-term grants for specific activities. Relying on short-term grants plagues the Palestinian charity sector with financial insecurity and instability.

Project Hope had 2013 **Expenses** of \$196,185.

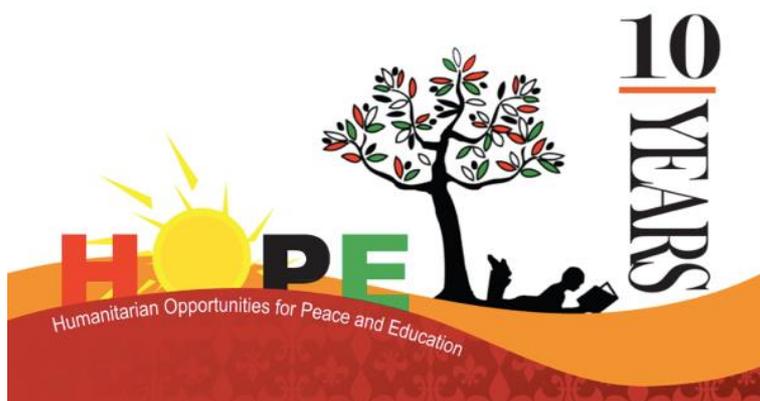


Further,

- *Depreciation Expense* of \$3,187 and
- *Prior Periods Adjustments* of \$12,703

Resulted in a Deficit of \$63,037 in 2013.

The deficit owed to strong revenue in 2012, a large sum of which came later in the year and was allocated to activities or programs that were wound down through 2013.



Project Hope brings volunteers from around the world to teach and to learn with Palestinian kids

مشروع الأمل يستقطب متطوعين من مختلف أنحاء العالم لتعليم الأطفال الفلسطينيين و التعلم منهم

<http://www.projecthope.ps>