

February Report

February 2013



Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace & Education

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Project HOPE

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Summary:

Over the course of February, Project Hope provided a total of 125 courses in and around Nablus. Our language courses accounted for the vast majority of our output, although students also benefitted from activities and Spanish classes during this period. In total, 808 participants engaged with our recreational, artistic and recreational programs.

When the figures for the preceding month are added, our program output (in comparison to the preceding year) shows an increase: a comparison of the 2012 and 2013 figures shows a difference of 127 students and an increase of 89 - in 2012, 1289 students enrolled upon our (January and February) programs, whereas in 2013 1416 students were enrolled. Our weekly class provision (125) was also greater in this month than the same measurement for January *and* February (89).

The data for this month also indicates a higher level of geographical concentration within Nablus – although we continue to serve within refugee camps and outlying villages, the majority of our classes are taught within the municipality: this trend becomes even more pronounced when our work in centres is considered.

Volunteer Activities

During the past month, our volunteers have been engaging with various teambuilding opportunities. At Project Hope we strongly emphasise the importance of working together as a team. Our weekly potluck dinners, in which each volunteer brings along an item from their home country, provide an ideal opportunity for our local and international volunteers to co-operate in the preparation, and consumption of, a wide variety of local and international dishes.

The potluck dinners are always accompanied by activities; for instance, both international and local volunteers recently participated in a lively debate upon the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The debate revealed a wide diversity of views, and all participants contributed to what was an informative and often passionate debate.

Yvonne, our Dutch volunteer, has also been conducting research in around the city's refugee camps as part of her MA studies. Alycia, our American volunteer, has also been participating in musical performances at the Edward Said Conservatory. Denise and Reed, both of whom also hail from America, are currently looking into the possibility of establishing international links in their respective home states (Pennsylvania and Utah).

Ongoing Challenges

Over the course of the past two months, Project Hope has continued to work in challenging and often difficult circumstances. Although the brief upsurge of political tension (arising as a consequence of the death of Arafat Jaradat) which flared at the end of February has since died down, clear challenges and obstacles remain.

At the time of writing (early March), volunteer retainment remains a particularly pressing problem. Recently, three of our dedicated volunteers were forced to leave Palestine due to the expiration of their temporary visas (in each instance, a visa extension request was rejected

without explanation). Although we are currently able to partially address the issue of volunteer turnover through recruitment, this is clearly not an ideal ‘solution’.

Again due to factors beyond our control, the turnover of Palestinian staff volunteers remains considerable. Over the course of the past month alone, three staff members have departed from their roles – in one of these instances this was due to pregnancy but in the others it was due to the broader opportunities (both financial and otherwise) that competitor organisations are able to offer.

Budgetary pressures have also forced us to relocate from our current premises at 29-An Najar Street. Although the relocation to our former headquarters (across the road) wasn’t planned in advance, we nonetheless anticipate that the adjustment to our new surroundings will not inhibit or curtail our current level of program provision.

General Program Overview

Statistical Overview

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes
English :	586	105
French :	183	12.5
Spanish	16	5
Activities:	23	2.5
Total :	808	125

Locations:	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes:	37	16	3	11
Centers:		41	10	7

Ratio of Female/Male: / 59/41

Ratio of children/youth/adults (age group): 24/15/13

Paid/Non-paying students: /

Local Volunteer Reports:

English Teaching/Activities

Our local volunteers continue to provide invaluable assistance to our teaching international staff. During January ten local volunteers contributed a total of hours to Project Hope's English teaching and activities. Their specific contributions are noted below:

Name	Hours/Week	Teaching Schedule/Location
Mary Sawalah	2	Mary went with Jon to the Women's Corner Centre for two days a week.
Ibrahim Taha	4	Ibrahim went with Jon to Happy Childhood Kindergarten classes for two days of each week.
Mohamad Sayeh	2	Mohamad went with Mehdi to Aserah mother's school on two days of every week
Walaa Mansour	1.5	Walaa went with Denise to the Yallo Centre on the Saturday of each week.
Mohamad Bustami	5	Mohamad helped Denise at Sama Cultural Club on every Saturday. He also helped Alycia in her Project Hope Level Three class.
Lana Dwikat	7	Lana went with Denise to Happy Childhood Kindergarten and to Sama Cultural Club (with Alycia) for two days a week. She also assisted Yvonne in her classes at the Societal Development Centre (for one day per week).
Fayez Qaqariq	2	Fayez went with Denise to Saffir Centre on two days of each week.
Ameed Khalili	1.5	Ameed went with Yvonne to the Children's Cultural Centre (CCC) on two days of each week.
Abdelkareem Dwikat	2	Abdelkareem went with Yvonne to Askar kindergarten on two days of each week.
Bahaa Hammad	1.5	Bahaa went with Yvonne to Balata Mothers' School on each Saturday.

Hamzeh Draghmeh	2	Hamzeh helped Yvonne at the Naher Oja Association on two days of every week.
Wjeeh Jaber	8	Wjeeh helped Jade at Sharaf Kindergarten on two days of every week. He also helped Alycia in her Project Hope Level One class.
Bahaa Eghbari	5	Bahaa helped Alycia in her kindergarten classes for two days of each week. He also assisted Sylvester for two days of each week.
Ammar Khayat	2	Ammar helped Alycia in her women's class at the Hamdi Manko Centre for two days of each week.
Ahmad Najjar	2	Ahmad helped Sylvester in his Balata class for two days of each week.
Mahmoud Waked	5.5	Mahmoud helped Denise and Sylvester in their teaching duties for two days of each week. He also helped Amy on Saturdays.
Anas Khanfar	1.5	Anas helped Amy in her Saturday Yallo Centre classes.
Ahmad Hosni	2	Ahmad helped Amy in her Women's Working Department classes for two days of each week.
Bayan Smoudi	1.5	Bayan helped Amy at Balata Women's Centre on Mondays.

International Volunteers

Our international volunteers have worked hard over the past month to provide a range of courses and activities for a broad range of Palestinians. Children, young adults and adults have benefitted from their efforts. A more specific breakdown of each volunteer's contribution is provided below.

English Programs

Denise is a 47-year-old American who taught English and Spanish at Project Hope during February. Over the course of this month she taught for an average of 10.5 hours (per week) and oversaw around 9 classes (per week).

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Weeks	Student*/Gender	Age Group
Project Hope (Level 4)	2	2	9M/1F	Young Adult
Yallo Centre	1	1.5	1M/5F	Children
Project Hope	1	2	6M/10F	Young Adult*
Sama Cultural Club (High School)	1	1	15M/7F	Young Adult
Yallo Centre	2	2	10M/10F	Children
Saffir (3rd and 4th grade)	1	2	5M/10F	Adult
Total	8	10.5	46M/43F	

*and Adult

Sylvester is a 20-year-old English teacher who has volunteered with us for almost six months (he will shortly return to the Netherlands). During the month of February he oversaw 13 classes and taught for a total of 15.5 hours (per week).

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student*/Gender	Age Group
Children's Cultural Centre (CCC)	5	7.5	7M/8F	Children
Hamdi Manko	2	2	7M/8F	Children
Project Hope	2	2	5M/5F	Children
Jneed Association	2	2	7M/8F	Children
Balata Local Committee	2	2	5M/5F	Children
Total	13	15.5	31M/34F	

Jon is a 22-year-old American who taught English over the course of February. On average, he taught for a total of 18.5 hours (per week) and oversaw a total of 11 classes (per week).

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Project Hope (Level Two)	2	4	2M/1F	Adults
Project Hope (Level Two)	2	6	1M/3F	Adults
Beit Forik Mothers' School	1	1	10M/5F	Children
Beit Forik Mothers' School	1	1	5M/10F	Children
Project Hope (10-11 Grade)	1	1.5	10M/3F	Young Adults
Women's Centre	1	2	4F	Adults
Happy Children's School (4th)	1.5	1.5	9M/9F	Children
Happy Children's School (3rd)	1.5	1.5	9M/9F	Children
Total	11	18.5	46M/44F	

Reed is a 60-year-old American who has recently left us after teaching English for four months. During February he taught for a total of 30 hours (per week) while overseeing 16 classes (per week).

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
An-Najah University	4	16	5M/7F	Adult
Project Hope	2	4	2M/3F	Adult
Project Hope	4	4	8M	Adult
Project Hope	2	4	1M	Adult
Legal Clinic	4	2	2F	Adult
Total	16	30	16M/12F	

Alycia is a 22-year old English teacher from America. During the month of February she volunteered for 16 hours (per week) and taught a total of 12 classes.

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Project Hope (Level 1)	2	4	8M	Adults
Project Hope (Level 3)	2	4	5M	Adults
Hamdi Manko	2	2	8F	Adults
Sama Cultural Club	2	2	10M/10F	Children
Sorna Khbar Kindergarten	2	2	20M/20F	Children
Project Hope (10th and 11th Grade)	2	2	4M/8F	Young Adults
Total	12	16	47M/46F	

Alia is a 27-year-old American volunteer who teaches English. She arrived in late February and taught for one week at the end of the month. Her weekly schedule is indicated below.

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Women's Working Department	2	3	5F	Adult
Balata Women's Centre	1	1.5	6F	Adult
Beit Forik Mothers' School	2	3	9F	Adult
Project Hope (Level Four)	3	6	5F/3M	Adult
Total	8	13.5	25F/3M	

Amy* is a 21-year-old English teacher from the US. During the month of February she oversaw 8 classes for a total of 12 hours.

*Amy's classes/week and hours/week are included in the overall data. Student/Gender and Age Group, owing to insufficient data, are not.

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Yallo Centre	1	1.5	10	
Balata Camp (7th, 8th + 9th grade)	1	1	8	
Women's Working Department	1	1	8	
Project Hope (Level Four)	2	4	5	
Balata Women's Centre	1	1.5	3	
Project Hope (Level Four)	1	2	3	
Al Wafa School	1	1	6	
Total	8	12	43	

Yvonne is a 24-year-old volunteer from the Netherlands who taught English for a total of 16 hours over February. During this period she oversaw 12 classes.

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Children's Cultural Centre	1	1.5	8M/2F	Children
Balata Mothers' School	1	1.5	5M/15F	Children
Project Hope	3	6	3M/5F	Adults
Al Ein Boys' School	2	2	6M	Adults
Naher Oja Centre	2	2	6F	Children
Askar Kindergarten	2	2	12M/13F	Children
Project Hope	1	1	1F	Children
Total	12	16	34M/42F	

French Volunteers

Jade is a 21-year-old French volunteer who teaches French, English and activities. During February, she taught 19 classes for a total of 21 hours.

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Local Committee, Balata	2	2	10M/23F	Children
Naher Oja Centre	1	1	14F	Children
French Institute	1	3	8M/9F	Children
Sama Association	2	2	12M/27F	Children
Al-Jneed Women's Centre	2	2	8M/25F	Children
Assara Women's Centre	1	1	6F	Adults
Sharaf Kindergarten	2	2	10M/10F	Children
Sharaf Kindergarten	2	2	9M/6F	Children
Al Etehad Centre	2	2	7F	Young Adults
Assirk Assaghir	2	4	14F	Children

Total	19	21	57M/141F	
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Mehdi is a 37-year-old Canadian volunteer who left in the first week of February. In his last week at Project he taught 11 classes for a total of 12 hours.

Teaching Location	Classes/Week	Hours/Week	Student/Gender	Age Group
Balata Local Committee	2	2	12M/10F	Children
Sama Cultural Centre	2	2	11M/16F	Children
Youssef (one-on-one)	2	2	1M	Adults
Asira al-Shamaliya	2	2	7F	Adults
Project Hope, 11th Grade	2	2	10F	Young Adults
Bilal Najjar Centre	1	2	8M/6F	Children
Total	11	12	32M/49F	

*Mothers' School

Appendix 1: Geographic Coverage

In the month of February, Project Hope cooperated with __ local partner centers around Nablus, the refugee camps, and outlying areas. Each of our partners is referenced below:

Nablus City

Al Wafa School

An-Najah University

Assirk Assaghir

Yallo Centre

Sama Cultural Centre

Sharaf Kindergarten

Al Etehad Centre

Children's Cultural Centre (CCC)

Hamdi Manko Centre

Jneed Association

Women's Centre

Happy Children's School (3rd)

Happy Children's School (4th)

Legal Clinic

Sorna kbar Kindergarten
Women's Working Department
French Institute

Villages/Outlying Areas

Asira al-Shamaliya Mothers' School
Beit Forik Mothers' School
Al Ein Boys' School
Bilal Najjar Centre (Boreen)
Asirat Shamalia Mothers' School

Askar – Refugee Camp

Askar Kindergarten
Saffir Kindergarten
Saffir Centre

Balata – Refugee Camp

Balata Local Committee
Balata Women's Centre