

2012

# Bimonthly Report

## January and February



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*Drama students in Balata Refugee Camp put on a play on February 26<sup>th</sup>*

## Summary

We had a strong start to the new year in Project Hope, with 15 international volunteers and 24 local volunteers teaching nearly 1300 children, youth and adults and 90 classes. This was up from the same period in 2011, when we hosted a total of 11 international volunteers, who were assisted by 22 local volunteers and taught in total 1165 students.

The **English Program** is showing steady improvement as we implement some of the action points decided upon in December. We have been organizing weekly teaching workshops for the foreign volunteers, which help us raise our standards and evaluation methods for the English program. We updated the placement exam, and implemented a new system of teaching English for adults. We also divided each level into two sub-levels, so that we are now teaching twelve levels instead of six. This was done in response to teacher feedback that it was too difficult to get through an entire book in one level, especially given that many students who enroll in classes in Project Hope are seeking out more conversation practice instead of book practice. Lastly, a former local volunteer was hired as an assistant for the English program.

The **French program** had four international volunteers teaching French. We began teaching French in

the village of Burin, in response to the local community center's request. One volunteer taught drama classes in the French language in Balata Refugee camp. A French volunteer, Genevieve, conducted interviews with Palestinian volunteers in Project Hope and wrote blog posts about them under the title 'To Exist is to Resist'. The posts are here: [lillenaplous.unblog.fr/tag/portraits](http://lillenaplous.unblog.fr/tag/portraits)

The **Art Therapy** project, a two-month project funded by Canada, continued through the end of January. The 16 local volunteers who were trained in December offered classes to children in Project Hope's partner centers throughout Nablus. The classes used games and art to help children cope with their psychological issues. Eight classes were given to a total of 74 children. Each class was 30 hours in total.

The **Bridge to the World Net Program** is operating smoothly. About 54 students graduated from the two-month computer classes in February. We are welcoming new students every month, and have increased the number of classes we offer on Saturdays so that housewives and children can benefit. The internet café is working well, with many new university students coming in to use the computers.

The **Graphic Novels Program** is preparing for another semester of teaching the graphic novel form to students at An-Najah University. The course was advertised in January, and the students will be selected by April. The students from last year finished teaching younger students in February. The 10 classes, each 30 hours, were taught in Nablus, 4 villages and 3 camps. Final edits and corrections were made to the publication proof of last year's novels.

#### General Programs overview:

In January and February, 2012, a total of **15 international volunteer instructors** taught language and activities classes with Project Hope for most of the month. In addition to international volunteers, a total of **24 local volunteers** taught, assisted with and organized activities. Local and international instructors taught a range of **14 different subjects** including six levels of English language courses, conversation, professional English, French, French Activities, music, drama, arts and creative writing. Volunteers taught a total of **1289 children, youth and adults**. During this reporting period, Project Hope organized classes and activities for **32 centers**, including **3 refugee camps** (Balata, Old and New Askar) and **7 villages and Towns** (Al-Jneed, Assereh, Beit Foreek, Boreen village, Zawata, Qusra, Rxojeec). The volunteers came from **8 different countries** (Australia, France, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, the UK and the US).

#### Statistical Overview

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Average Class Size
English	830	61	14
French	130	10	13
Activities	248	10	25
Computers	81	8	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1289</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>16</b>
Students' gender	60% female 40% male		
Students' age	70% children 7 % youth		

	23% adults
Paying students	91% not paying 9% paying

### Geographic Distribution

	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes	17	17	24	9
Centers		17	8	7

### New Initiatives in January and February

#### Classes, Activities and Volunteers

- Teaching workshops: three volunteers gave a series of weekly teaching workshops to the international volunteers. The workshops covered topics such as teaching English as a second language, using games to inspire the learning process, and teaching grammar.
- Drama: Some of the teens who took Project Hope drama classes at the Happy Childhood Center in Balata throughout January and February presented their work in a short play and three comic sketches on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The play, which was written and developed entirely by the fifteen students involved, told the story of a young man who gets involved with drugs and the consequences faced by him, his family and friends as a result. The play and the sketches were very well received by the other students, family and Project Hope volunteers who came to watch the performance.
- An American volunteer gave a law class to students at An-Najah University.
- Teaching workshops were provided for the English teachers at Balata Camp Girls School and Al-Ein Camp Boys School.
- A British volunteer taught workshops on 'How to deal with stress and post-traumatic experience' for the counselors in governmental schools of Qalqilya and Jenin, as well as for the students of psychology at Al Quds Open University in Nablus.

#### Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests

- Palestinian and Danish dancers gave a performance of hip-hop dance and breakdancing.
- Seven international volunteers went to Hebron to participate in the 'Open Shuhada Street' demonstrations.
- Film showings for Project Hope volunteers
  - *Being with Juliano*, a short film documenting the story of Juliano Mer Khamis, the founder of the Freedom Theater in Jenin
  - *Abu Dis Last Supper*, a short film about the Apartheid Wall
  - *Budrus*, a documentary about the Palestinian resistance against the Apartheid Wall in the village of Budrus

- *Blague a part*, a French documentary film about Palestinian jokes
- *Le Sel De La Mar*, a Palestinian film about a Palestinian-American woman who comes to Palestine for the first time.
- *Arna's Children*, a Palestinian film about the woman who founded the Freedom Theater in Jenin.
- *La Visite de la Fanfare (The Band's Visit)*, an Israeli film about an Egyptian band's attempt to play at the inauguration of a Palestinian arts center.
- *Wall*, a French documentary about the Apartheid Wall
- Lectures for volunteers
  - Margaux Thuiller, 'The Dynamics of the Rural Road between Nablus and Jerusalem During the Roman Empire'
  - Eng. Naseer Arafat, Director of the Rehabilitation Committee in the Nablus Governorate, gave a talk about the rehabilitation of homes after Israeli invasions

## List of local partners

In the months of September and October, Project Hope cooperated with 32 local partner centres around Nablus, the refugee camps, and outlying areas. The centres were as follows:

### *Nablus City*

1. Al-Aqsa University
2. Al-Ein Centre
3. Al-Manhal (Rafidia)
4. An-Najah National University
5. Child Cultural Center CCC (Old City – Municipal Center)
6. Doctori Residence Centre
7. Hamdi Manko (Municipal Center)
8. Itihad Orphanage (Itihad Hospital )
9. Kroom Ashour
10. Lawyers' Syndicat
11. Nablus Boys School (UNRWA)
12. Nablus Girls School (UNRWA)
13. Sornakhar Kindergarten
14. Tanweer Centre
15. Women's Corner (Municipal Center)
16. Women's Working Department (Ministry of Waqf)
17. Yallo Center

### *Askar – Refugee Camp*

1. As-Safeer
2. Hiwar Centre
3. Social Development Center

### *Balata – Refugee Camp*

1. Balata Boys School (UNRWA)
2. Balata Girls School (UNRWA)
3. Happy Childhood Center
4. Kofr Saba Association
5. Naher Oja Centre

### *Villages/Outlying Areas*

1. Al-Jneed Village
2. Aseereh Village
3. Azmout Village
4. Beit Foreek
5. Boreen Village
6. Qusra Village
7. Rojeec Centre