

2012

Bimonthly Report  
March and April



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*Figure 1 A local teacher-trainee teaches an art class in a village as part of the Graphic Novel Program*

## **Summary**

After a strong start to the New Year in January and February, Project Hope experienced a sharp drop-off in the number of international volunteers recruited, and as a result, a drop in the number of class. We had 11 volunteers from seven different countries (Australia, Belgium, France, Holland, New Zealand Sweden, UK, USA), and taught 957 student in 69 different classes covering a range of classes including English, French, art, drama and graphic novels. The drop-off in volunteers, students and course offerings was due to a glitch in the web-site recruitment system which was not forwarding applications to the volunteer recruiter. The glitch has been worked out and numbers for May and June look as though they will be back on track. Despite the dip in numbers, PH managed to maintain a healthy balance of classes, focusing primarily on children and youth classes in villages and refugee camps and benefiting predominantly children and youth, as well as women.

While **English Program** numbers are low for the last two months, having taught only 562 students (55 paid students in PH), we have been focused on implementing a number of improvements that we have been developing since the start of the year. Teachers are now teaching half of the book in one 30-hour course, and having a great success rate of covering the number of required chapters, thanks

to the updated action plan which outlines exactly what is to be taught in each level. Also, the teacher handover sheet is helping to establish continuity in the long-term classes taught outside of PH, helping incoming volunteers take over where departing volunteers left off.

The **French program** only had 3 volunteers these last two months but managed to reach an outstanding 325 students teaching French and Activities in the Old City of Nablus, refugee camps and nearby villages.

The **Bridge to the World Net Program** finished successfully during this reporting period with the last bi-monthly round of computer classes for women, children and youth. There were a total of 62 students in 5 classes, two groups (housewives and children) at the Yallo center, and 3 groups of youth at Project Hope. While the computer classes have ended, Project Hope will continue to offer access to the Net Café to volunteers, students and community members.

The **Graphic Novels Program** is continuing apace, with teacher-trainees continuing teaching their graphic novel children's classes in the Old City, refugee camps and villages around Nablus. Over the last two months we had 80 children participating in 8 classes being taught at Project Hope as well as in Assyra village, Janeid village, Askar Camp, Balata Camp, al-Ein Camp, Jenin, and the Children's Cultural Center near the Old City. In addition, Project Hope launched the unveiling of the new, completed graphic novel at the French Cultural Center in March! We are currently preparing to unveil the French translation of the original graphic novel in May.

#### *New Initiatives in March and April*

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

- New drama classes started in Nablus and Balata.
- New French and Activities classes run in the refugee camps, villages and Nablus.
- New Graphic Novel classes started.
- An international volunteer ran a social justice course with youth.
- Students at Hamdi Manko conducted a e-pal exchange with an American school discussing issues of peace and cooperation.
- Two international volunteers conducted an IELTS preparation course for teachers at an-Najah University.
- An American volunteer created a yoga class for housewives.
- An international volunteer created an art therapy class for children in Balata Camp.

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

- In April Project Hope volunteers attended a classical music performance by the French ensemble Arcangelo at the French Cultural Center and Najah University.
- In March, an appreciation dinner was organized for the volunteers.
- In March volunteers attended a performance by the as-Sirk as-Sagheer circus school at an-Najah University
- Seven international volunteers went to Hebron to participate in the 'Open Shuhada Street' demonstrations.
- Film showings for Project Hope volunteers
  - *Paradise Now*, a Palestinian film about the Second Intifada, filmed partially Nablus.

- *Rachel Corrie*, a film about the American peace activist killed in Gaza.
- Lectures for volunteers
  - Prof. Jaen Clam gave a lecture entitled "The Culture of Love and Intimacy - a Comparison between the West and the Orient". The lecture was in Arabic with English translation.
  - Mr. Abdel Mughni Nofal General Director of the Municipal Development Lengind Fund about urban development in Nablus.

### Statistical Overview

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Average Class Size
English	562	43	13
French	325	22	15
Activities	70	4	18
Computers	62	5	13
Graphic Novel	80	8	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1099</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>13</b>
Students' gender	65% female: 35% male		
Students' age	86% children and youth: 14% adults		
Paying students	95% non-paying, 5% paying		

### Geographic Distribution

	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes	12	16	29	13
Centers		17	8	7

## **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 Orphange (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