

PROJECT HOPE UPDATE

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I. English & French as a Second Language

As the global village keeps growing smaller, English becomes ever more important for getting a job anywhere the world – even in Palestine. There is a lot of demand for Project Hope's English classes, which focus on practical use of the language with the opportunity to learn from native English speakers. Not just that, the classes are a chance to engage with what has been termed a *lost generation*. Each class is meant to be an open and supportive environment where young Palestinians can discuss their views, challenges and emotions.

There is also interest in French as a second language. French classes are taught by drawing on available International and Palestinian French-speaking volunteers. In 2006, Project Hope served on average over 200 students of English and French per month. Although its primary focus is on children and youth, some classes were provided to adult women and men.



Palestinian Volunteers Woroud and Nahed Teaching French in Balata Refugee Camp



American Volunteer Brian Teaching English in Nablus

II. Creative Arts: Art, Drama and Music

Each year Project Hope holds a variety of different creative art activities. They are an excellent way for young Palestinians to have fun with their peers and to forget the violence and misery of their environment. It is the chance for kids just to be kids.

A. Art Activities

At the end of 2006 the art classes in the two pictures below were held for children between the ages of 6 and `12. In these classes, they learned basic techniques such as how to be creative with cloths and colors, while learning to use their brushes and stencils.



B. Music Classes

In November and December of 2006 music classes were offered to children at the Balata Disabled Committee in Balata Refugee Camp. They learned to play different instruments such as the piano, drums, guitar and flute. The instructors were two international volunteers with Project Hope.

C. Kids' Party

Kids parties are live, fun events for large groups of children. Project Hope organizes or sponsors parties every year. In this example, a large event is being held for 110 children at the Ittihad Association orphanage. Project Hope asked As-Sirk As-Saghir to perform at the event. As-Sirk As-Saghir is a Palestinian circus. It is an independent youth-led initiative which was founded with assistance from Project Hope.



D. Wall Paintings: A Community Improvement Project

Two instructors with Project Hope, International and Palestinian, led a community improvement project where 15 kids painted the walls of the Childhood Happiness Center in Balata Refugee Camp. It was a fun activity for the young Palestinians involved. It was a chance for them to beautify their surroundings with traditional images from their culture through art.



III. Social Justice Workshops

Project Hope is now entering the second-half in the first year of its Canadian-funded social justice workshops. They are a forum used to explore topics related to issues in social justice and human rights. The primary aim is to provide a free environment where Palestinian youth can discuss their many different views related to the topics of each workshop.



IV. 2006 Summary: Summary of Project Hope Activities in 2006

- English & French classes: 200+ students per month average
- 38 international volunteers from 20 different countries
- 38+ Palestinian volunteers per year
- Three major art projects for 100+ participants: including, murals on the walls of the Childhood Happiness Center in Balata Refugee Camp and the walls of the Hewart Center in Old Askar Refugee Camp
- Drama (50+ participants), music (10 participants) and dance (15 participants); short-term, multi-month activities in the Balata and New Askar Refugee Camps
- Social justice workshops: 200 placements in 12 workshops
- Pinhole photography workshops: in New Askar Camp 20 boys and girls aged 8 to 15 participated, in Balata Camp 20 boys and girls aged 12 to 16 participated
- Kids party for 110 orphans
- Provided the An-Najah Specialty Hospital with a volunteer professional nurse from the United States for 6 weeks
- Contributed an official 14 person, multinational observation mission to the 25 January 2006 Palestinian legislative elections.
- Participation in "Land Day," helping to plant 200 trees
- Projects with 22 different community organizations and 6 schools

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) states that education in emergencies, and during chronic crises and early reconstruction efforts, can be both life-saving and life-sustaining. For children and adolescents it sustains life by offering structure, stability and hope for the future. It can help to heal the pain of bad experiences, build skills, and support conflict resolution and peace building.

Entering 2007, Project Hope's work remained strong with language, drama and art activities. In January 2007 there were 251 students in language classes, 15 drama participants and 66 art activity participants. By donating or volunteering you can help Project Hope continue to support young Palestinians living in the most difficult conditions. Contact us now to find out how!



Contact us by visiting our website at www.projecthope.ps and by emailing projecthope@mail.com