

ANNUAL REPORT - 2010

New Beginnings, Transitions and Changes



Website: www.projecthope.ps

Email: projecthope@projecthope.ps

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Executive Summary | 3 |
| Organizational Background..... | 4 |
| Objectives..... | 4 |
| Legal Status | 4 |
| Governance Structure | 4 |
| 2010 Projects | 5 |
| Volunteer Program..... | 5 |
| English Language | 6 |
| French Language | 7 |
| Activities | 7 |
| Bridge to the World Program..... | 10 |
| Renovations..... | 11 |
| Community Engagement and Special Events..... | 12 |
| Monthly Activities | 14 |
| January | 14 |
| February | 14 |
| March | 15 |
| April..... | 16 |
| May..... | 16 |
| June | 17 |
| July - August | 18 |
| September - October..... | 18 |
| November - December..... | 19 |
| Lessons Learned | 20 |
| Future Plans | 22 |
| Financial Summary | 24 |
| Appendix..... | 29 |

Executive Summary

Since its inception in 2003, Project Hope has grown in leaps and bounds. In perhaps no other year has Project Hope undergone such rapid and sustained growth and transition as we have in 2010. Project Hope began as a dream: a short-term project to relieve the suffering of a community under siege and provide support for a generation of children and youth trying to salvage a childhood. Since then, we have grown from an organization run out of a tiny office, with a one-room flat for volunteer accommodations, to one of the largest volunteer organizations in the West Bank, with a two-story volunteer residence and a fully functioning office with several dedicated local staff-members. In this year alone, we have expanded from a single story office to a two-story community education complex complete with offices for administrative staff, a resource room for local and international volunteers, an internet café for students, volunteers and community members, a computer lab for blog and other computer-related classes, four language classrooms, an arts and activities classroom, a hall for lectures, films and other activities, and an art garden for activities, events and gathering with friends and colleagues. This expansion of our facilities has mirrored our growth in activities. We went from teaching 480 students in January 2010, on par with our monthly average of about 500 in 2009, to consistently teaching well over 1000 students per month by the end of the year, offering an ever-expanding range of language and activities classes. The goal is to make Project Hope *the* center for language learning and youth activities in Nablus. We hope to do so by taking a combined community approach to education – offering classes and other resources to a wide range of age groups, abilities and interests, while making sure that the most vulnerable members of society, such as children, youth, women, and people from marginalized areas, have access.

While Project Hope has been making a transition from an organization that sends volunteers to other locations in marginalized areas, to a holistic, community education center that also provides its own in-house classes, our community outreach has also continued to develop and grow. In January of 2010, we taught classes and activities in 13 community centers in and around Nablus, including the Old City, as well as al-Ein, Balata, and Old and New Askar Refugee Camps. By the end of the year, we were working with almost 40 different organizations per month, including community centers, youth clubs, women’s organizations, labor unions, schools, as well as village councils and city municipal departments. We also expanded from working within Nablus city and refugee camps to also offering classes in villages in the northern West Bank such as Zawata, As-Syra Ash-Shemalia, Quseen, Beit Leid and Roujeeb. We hope to continue expanding further into other marginalized communities in the West Bank.

The expansion into these villages was part of the Bridge to the World – Outreach to Rural Palestine program, which sought to bring language and activities classes to villages cut off from Nablus by checkpoints. The program was successfully completed during this year, but our outreach to the villages continues. Likewise, Project Hope successfully completed its three-year flagship Bridge to the World program, which sought to combine language learning and computer classes to promote youth participation, self-expression and cross-cultural communication. This program has served as a best-practices model for other projects. Our successful model is to combine activities that empower youth to express themselves, with classes that give youth practical skills they can use later in life, while orienting the outcomes of these activities toward an international audience, so as to bring about better understanding of the Palestinian situation, and realize greater international cooperation. Next year, we look forward to continuing youth computer classes, as well as our new graphic novel arts education program, with these goals in mind, in addition to our English and French language classes, and many other activities classes and events.

Organizational Background

Project Hope began in the Spring of 2003 as a means of supporting local Palestinian children and youth through a grassroots, volunteer-driven initiative providing activities at local community centers. Uniquely, it first began in Nablus, then expanded outwards to establish a legal branch in Canada. The Canadian team is responsible for supporting the office in Nablus with resources and advice, while the team in Palestine is responsible for the implementation of projects. Project Hope has grown rapidly since its modest establishment. It now boasts an impressive network of partner organizations both in Nablus as well as internationally. It provides a variety of educational, recreational and creative activities for over 1,000 children and youth on a monthly basis.

Objectives

The objectives of the charity are to provide support and humanitarian aid for children and youth around the world living in areas of war, conflict, deprivation and underdevelopment through the application of education, training, recreation and health-care activities.

Legal Status

Project Hope is a joint Palestinian and Canadian initiative. It is a Canadian charity, charitable number 862587078 RR0001, where its legal name is “Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace and Education.” It operates in the West Bank under the name “Project Hope” where it is registered as an international NGO with the Palestinian National Authority, with its office in Nablus under the direction of a Palestinian team. We have also registered a charity in Scotland to support our work, with the charitable number SC040711 and the legal name “Project Hope: Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace and Education.”

Governance Structure

The Executive Director is responsible for the operation of the organization abroad, liaising with donors and ensuring support for the local branch. The Executive Director is responsible to the Canadian Board of Directors and the charity to its donors. The Director is responsible for operations in Palestine, including staff, reporting and volunteer management. The Treasurer is responsible for the budgeting and financial management of the organization.



Figure 1: International volunteers and local staff beautifying the center together.

2010 Projects

In 2010, Project Hope brought in a total of 88 international volunteers from 15 countries.

In 2010, Project Hope worked on expanding its international volunteer program, as well as solidifying its English language program, with the goal of achieving program self-sustainability in the volunteer program by 2011, and the English program by 2012. Both French and English language classes were offered as part of our larger flag-ship Bridge to the World Program, which combines language learning and computer skills to encourage self-expression and cross-cultural exchange through blogging. In addition, as part of the volunteer program, Project Hope continued to offer a wide array of other classes and activities ranging from sports, to dance, music, drama, art and photography. The following sections highlight our accomplishments in each of these projects during the year 2010.

Volunteer Program

Over the last seven years, Project Hope has brought together hundreds of local and international volunteers to teach thousands of children in the Nablus area. It has accomplished this with a minimal budget, by seeking to utilize rather than replicate community resources. Local and international volunteers are the core of this organization, bringing to Project Hope valuable skills, new ideas, energy and enthusiasm, as well as the dedication necessary to teach, prepare and organize dozens of classes, events and activities in some of the most underserved areas of the West Bank (see the section on Activities below).

The success Project Hope has achieved, combined with the relative calm that the West Bank is currently experiencing, means that PH is now able to give greater numbers of classes, in more areas, with more volunteers, and in a more systematic and sustained manner. In 2010, Project Hope brought in a total of 88 international volunteers from 15 countries. These volunteers co-taught classes and activities with local volunteers, who averaged a total of 33 per month. While Project Hope was successful in increasing its volunteer numbers and expanding their reach in 2010, the twin goals for 2011 are to increase volunteer recruitment and geographic coverage. By creating more local partnerships in villages and towns further afield, and directly placing volunteers in these areas, Project Hope aims to serve marginalized rural areas in vital need of attention, as well as to achieve sustainability of the volunteer program through volunteer contributions to administrative and material costs.



Figure 2:

An international volunteer with her dance class rehearsing for a performance.

English Language

Since Project Hope's founding in 2003, one of its main components has been English language teaching. Community demand for conversational English classes with native speakers has remained consistently high for several reasons. Originally, the demand for English language classes was in response to a perceived need for Palestinians to better articulate their experiences under occupation to the wider world through digital media. In addition, English language proficiency is a highly valued skill, one that can open doors to many opportunities for employment and travel. Finally, many community members see English as a way to learn about new cultures and meet new people. While improvements have been made to the Palestinian English-language curriculum, it remains heavily text-based and test-driven, providing few opportunities for students to actually use the language in conversation. At Project Hope, English language focuses on functionality, conversation and real-world language use, with an emphasis on cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.

*On average,
Project Hope
taught English to
669 students per
month during
2010.*



Figure 3: A child practicing her ABCs using modeling clay.

In 2010, the English language program was run in conjunction with the Bridge to the World program (B2W), a project that sought to integrate functional language learning, internet technology and digital media. As part of this program, Project Hope provided free English classes, after school and on Saturdays, to students at UNRWA schools in the local refugee camps. A core group of motivated students was then selected from these classes to participate in the B2W program (see below). In addition to these classes, Project Hope also offered free community English classes to dozens of local community centers throughout Nablus and the surrounding area. On average, Project Hope taught English to 669 students per month during 2010. Over the course of the year, Project Hope succeeded in expanding its English language classes, going from teaching 356 students in January to nearly 900 students in November and December.

By the end of 2010, in seeking to consolidate the English program and transform it into a separate, self-sustaining program, Project Hope began offering six levels of English language instruction at the Project Hope

center itself. Efforts were made during this time to improve the quality of English language teaching, including creating a more structured curriculum. By the end of 2010, Project Hope was making preparations for the opening of a new English Language Center in its facility. A modest fee was introduced for the English classes, both to cover materials and administration as well as to provide an incentive for students to take the classes seriously. English classes held in community centers and schools in marginalized areas continue to be offered as a free service to the community, and still constitute the bulk of Project Hope’s work.

French Language

Project HOPE taught French to an average of 144 students each month.

The purpose of this program is to enhance French language education and cultural appreciation in underprivileged communities that suffer isolation and a lack of educational opportunities.

Throughout 2010, Project HOPE taught French to an average of 144 students each month. French-speaking international volunteers taught French classes and activities in over a dozen community centres in isolated and underserved areas such as the Old City of Nablus, Askar and Balata refugee camps, and the villages of Zawata and Assyra Ashemalya.

The goal of Project Hope is not merely to give extracurricular classes in underprivileged communities, but also to inspire a love of learning and spirit of curiosity amongst Palestinian children whose ordinary school education is mostly test-driven and leaves very little room for personal expression or discovery. Given the traumatic experiences from which many Palestinian children suffer and the general lack of optimism for future opportunities, the educational experience that Project Hope provides are not only important for giving students knowledge and skills necessary for a bright future, but also for students’ development into confident, well-rounded adults. The French language carries with it the possibilities of employment and travel, especially given the number of French NGOs in the Nablus area, as well as the Nablus-Lille twinning partnership that connects French and Palestinian youth.

Activities

Aside from the language programs, Project Hope offers over 20 special activity classes, including music, photography, drama, visual arts, football, yoga, dance, first aid and more. These activities offer children many benefits, including education, development, diversion, and communication skills. Some of our major on-going activities classes are outlined below, including art, music and athletics.

| | Students | Classes | Average class size |
|-----------------|----------|---------|--------------------|
| January | 60 | 2 | 30 |
| February | 38 | 4 | 10 |
| March | 192 | 17 | 11 |
| April | 132 | 14 | 9 |
| May | 229 | 20 | 11 |
| June | 436 | 21 | 21 |
| July-Aug | 361 | 28 | 13 |
| Sept-Oct | 314 | 30 | 11 |
| Nov-Dec | 223 | 26 | 9 |
| Monthly average | 221 | 18 | 14 |
| Annual total | 1985 | 162 | |

Figure 4: Number of activities classes and students per month.

Art

Project Hope provides a great variety of art classes on an *ad hoc* basis when there are international volunteers available with art education skills. These classes, usually facilitated in English or French, provide a fun learning environment for students while simultaneously offering a new language and new creative skills. They are relatively inexpensive and easy to organize while being highly beneficial and popular with children. Programs include painting, drawing, filmmaking, photography, theater, collage, mask-making, self-portraits, murals, free expression, and more.

Project Hope’s art activities this year included:

- A mural workshop was given at Deir Sharaf Club by an international volunteer.
- Project Hope, in coordination with Assirk As-Sagheer (The Small Circus), hosted the Clowns Without Borders group during their two-week visit to Nablus. PH helped facilitate the group’s performances, including daily performances in Nablus-area UNWRA schools.
- A photography course with 10 teenagers from Nablus and Balata camp was organized at the Social Rehabilitation Centre.
- Photo exhibition by photography students from Balata on display at the French Cultural Centre.
- Project Hope helped organize events in Nablus for the PalFest literary festival, making this the first year PalFest has come to Nablus.
- Two documentary film-makers ran a two-week documentary film workshop with nine teenage girls from Balata Refugee Camp.
- Two local volunteers organized a photo exhibition of their photography classes in Balata at the Jamaseen Center.
- A Canadian volunteer organized a one-day workshop in September called the Tree of Life, held at the Childhood Cultural Center in Nablus. Students made leaves representing their future dreams and arranged them on a “tree of life”. Photos of the finished project were taken to Canada and were transformed into posters and other art work to share in Palestine and Canada.
- PH hosted a British-Syrian author as part of the Palestinian Writers Workshop. The author taught creative writing classes at an-Najah University.
- A German and Scottish volunteer taught creative writing courses at the university and other partner centers in Nablus.



Figure 5 Children modeling with clay in an English and activities class in Zawata village.



Figure 6: Girls in Balata Camp participating in a film-making project.

Music

This year Project Hope was able to offer music classes in piano, guitar and violin. We also sponsored a number of musical activities throughout the course of the year:

- A total of eight ‘Open Mic Nights’ at the French Cultural Center or at the Bilagio Cafe—evenings of music, poetry and comedy by local and international volunteers and friends of Project Hope.
- Hosted a delegation from Music in Me, a Netherlands-based NGO, which included a musical event at Dar al-Fanoon in Askar Camp.
- Offered integrated music, art, sports and English classes in Zawata village.
- Initiated a biweekly Project Hope Music Session, inviting local and international volunteers and special guests to come together and play music.
- Local volunteers helped with the organization of Oriental Music Night and French Music Night at an-Najah University.
- International and local volunteers organized a night of Irish and Palestinian music and PH.
- Local and international volunteers held a joint music and dance night at Dar al-Fanoon.
- A night of world music was organized at Hamam Shifa Turkish Bath in the Old City.
- A concert of Spanish and Catalanian music was organized and performed in the park.
- An Open Mic music and poetry night was held at Hamam Shifa Turkish Bath in the Old City, hosting members of Medecins Sans Frontieres, Medecins du Monde, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent with performances by PH volunteers, students and friends.



Figure 7: Volunteers and students prepare for a show at Dar al-Fanoon in Askar Camp.

Athletics

Physically active children are not only healthier and stronger, but often concentrate better in school and display more confidence with their peers. The athletic activities offered by Project Hope are often the only source of exercise for many Palestinian children, particularly girls, who may be discouraged from playing in the streets in a conservative society such as Nablus. We work closely with several women’s centers in Nablus offering classes in yoga, aerobics and dance to ensure that women and girls have access to fitness programs. Previous volunteers have also organized classes in kick-boxing, football, chess, volleyball, and other sports and activities.

Our athletic activities this year included:

- An international volunteer organized the first-ever girls' football tournament in Nablus.
- Project Hope facilitated World Cup match showings at the French Cultural Center.
- 15 Palestinian students travelled to Lille, France for a solidarity football tournament. The Palestinians played three games, winning one and drawing two.

- A football trainer from Lille, France, came and trained 17 local football coaches in Nablus for a period of three years (hosted in partnership with the Ministry of Sports).
- Three French volunteers came to Nablus with the Federation Sportive et Gymnique du Travail (FSGT) to run sports activities and summer-camps.
- A cycling and olive picking trip in Beit Leid was organized for local and international volunteers.
- Dabka and kickboxing classes organized for local and international volunteers.



Figure 8: Girls from nearby refugee camps participating in the first ever girls' soccer tournament in Nablus organized by Project Hope.

Bridge to the World Program

The Bridge to the World Program is a fully funded three-year project that seeks to integrate language learning, internet technology and digital media. The goals of this project are to:

1. Empower students to express themselves through blogging, digital video and photography;
2. Improve their enthusiasm for language-learning by focusing on its real-world usage through the media; and
3. Provide Palestinian students with the opportunity to obtain valuable language and technology skills for use in later life.

An average of 25 students participated in the blog classes each month, with over 100 students taking Project HOPE language classes at UNRWA schools.

In 2010, Project Hope successfully completed the second year of B2W implementation, and was granted an extension in the program to continue it for a third and final year. Every month, an average of 25 students participated in the English and French blog classes, with over 100 students taking French and English classes at participating UNRWA schools. Using the language tools they learned in class, students wrote blogs on topics such as hobbies, family, community, sports, and life in Palestine, and posted their own photos and videos on their blogs as well. In addition, students started their own Facebook pages, as social networking grew in popularity in Palestine during this time. Some of the highlights of this year included a Bridge to the World Forum, where all the students in the blog classes gathered together to celebrate the end of the second year of the project and to discuss their ideas for new directions in the project. One of the ideas included monthly field trips or special projects. Accordingly, a big field trip was organized in late spring to the historic village of Sebastya, where the students engaged in activities such as an archeology photo-tour, a photo scavenger-hunt, kite-making, games, football, and tug-of-war. The students then wrote about the trip on their blogs. Later, each individual class took more local field trips to sites of interest in Nablus, and learned new skills such as interviewing, video editing, and Photoshop.

Another highlight was a film screening organized at a community theater. The film was a contemporary science fiction film called *Jumper*, about people who could teleport across long distances, a theme in keeping with B2W's aim to connect young people across the world. The film's screening was coordinated with a school group in Canada with whom the B2W classes had been corresponding. As a final assignment, B2W participants and the students in Canada had to write alternative endings to the film to share with one another. Students also wrote posts about where they would like to "jump" to if they had the power of teleportation. Thus, the activity entertained and inspired the students, while also allowing for international dialogue and real-world language use—all aims of the B2W project.

Also during 2010, Project Hope started a one-year offshoot program called B2W Outreach to Rural Palestine. This program brought English, French and arts activities, as well as community volunteer outreach, to villages such as Zawata, As-Syra Ash-Shemalia, Quseen, Beit Leid and Roujeeb. Throughout the program, an average of 173 students attended English, French, and other activities classes.



Figure 9: Young women using the new computer lab.

Finally, at the end of 2010, Project Hope received support for the creation of a new internet café, as well as new computers for the B2W computer lab. This way, students, volunteers, and other community members could use the net café to check their e-mail, do research, write their CVs, or do homework, while more classes could be run continuously in a separate computer lab. See the next section for more information to these changes to the Project Hope center.



Figure 10: A screen-shot from a student's blog about "jumping" to Jerusalem.

Renovations

Another of Project Hope's major accomplishments in 2010 was the expansion of its facility to include a bigger office space, volunteer resource room, library, net café, computer lab, classrooms, graphic novel art studio, and garden. Project Hope transformed a historic two-story home near the Old City into a new Community

English Education Center and Bridge to the World Net Café. The improved facility has provided volunteers with more room to prepare their classes and materials, more space for administrative staff, a good space for regular lectures and film screenings, more classroom space for greater numbers of classes and students, and a welcoming place for students and volunteers to meet, chat, and use the internet.



Figure 9 A volunteer working in the Project Hope garden.

Community Engagement and Special Events

Project Hope organizes a number of other events throughout the year, including educational events for local and international volunteers and special community events. These activities help serve our goal of providing a forum for educational and cultural exchange for locals and internationals. The following are the highlights of these activities:

- International and local volunteers and staff took a tour of Jenin, including Cana'an Society and Soap Factory, PFTA and Jenin Society for Creativity.
- Dr. Eyad Othman from the Friends of Life Anti-Drug Society gave a presentation on the drug problem in Palestine.
- A French-Canadian volunteer gave a special guest lecture on Quebecois politics at the French Department at an-Najah.
- Teacher-training workshop for international volunteers given by a Scottish visitor.
- Sebastya fun-day field trip held for Bridge to the World students, local and international volunteers, along with the delegations from Lille and Dundee.

- Project Hope assisted Hayat Organization in its tree-planting project in Assyra.
- International volunteers assisted the EAPPI on a weekend of accompaniment in Yanoun village.
- Lecture on the current Palestinian political situation by Dr. Abdul Sattar Qasim given at Project Hope.
- Two Japanese volunteers organized a presentation commemorating Hiroshima Day.
- A Canadian volunteer gave a guest lecture on Sociology at an-Najah.
- Local and international volunteers assisted over multiple weeks with the olive harvest in Beit Leid and Roujeeb villages.
- Two local volunteers embarked upon their six-month internships through EVS in Scotland.
- Local staff members attended conferences on development and student-centered education in Ramallah and Birzeit.
- Saed abu-Hijleh, a Professor of Geography at an-Najah University and a local community activist, gave several lectures on the current political situation and the BDS movement.
- Participated in the National Science Festival at an-Najah University, coordinating the participation of over 2000 school children over the course of the two-day event.
- Mr. Nameer Khayyat from the Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on the economic situation in Palestine.
- AbdelSattar Qasem, Professor of Political Science at an-Najah University and former presidential candidate, gave a presentation on the current political situation in Palestine.
- The head of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Mr. Raed Badawieh, gave a presentation on human rights in the context of occupation.



Figure 10 Project Hope's new mural, painted by staff and volunteers.

Monthly Activities

The following is a month-by-month account of Project Hope's activities:

January

- Fun Day at Dar Al-Fanoon Center, Old Asker Camp (for the Blog course students).
- Presentation on As-Sirik Al-Sagheer (The Small Circus) by Mahmoud AlMasri
- English class with the UHCC: a new cooperation with Project Hope.
- Extensive English course offered for school children at the CCC during winter school break.
- Extensive English course offered for children at the DIA center during winter school break.
- Four workshops for the winter camp kids at the CCC.
- Mural workshop: painting on walls at Deir Sharaf Club given by Katie, a volunteer from the USA (Deir Sharaf Club is a new partner for Project Hope).
- Dabka class for the internationals at the Women's Club.
- International and local volunteers and staff took a tour of Jenin, including Cana'an Society and Soap Factory, PFTA and Jenin Society for Creativity.

February

Classes and Activities:

- Development of a new assessment test, including oral component.
- Addition of two new levels of English – Project Hope will begin teaching six instead of four levels of English.
- Development of a new timetabling tool allowing staff and volunteers to easily organize and view weekly class and activity schedules. The tool will be accessible through the PH website with a password and will be launched in March.
- Began preparation of new English teaching and volunteer guidelines.
- First ever football training classes for girls initiated at Nahr al Oja in Balata.

Community Engagement and Special Events:

- Presentation on the BDS movement by Saed abu Hijleh from an-Najah University's Department of Geography.
- Ramy Kanazi, a Palestinian-American poet, gave a spoken-word workshop and poetry reading at Dar al-Fanoon arts centre in cooperation with Project Hope.
- Dr. Eyad Othman from the Friends of Life Anti-Drug Society gave a presentation on the drug problem in Palestine.
- Project Hope continued its participation in the UNRWA Partnership program, agreeing to take part in a needs-assessment study of UNRWA schools and assist in drafting terms of reference, goals and modes of operation for the partnership.
- Project Hope, in coordination with Assirk As-Sagheer (The Small Circus), hosted the Clowns Without Borders group during their two-week visit to Nablus. PH helped facilitate the group's performances, including daily performances in Nablus-area UNRWA schools.
- Completion of the Mural in Der Sharaf by international volunteers Katie and Emma, along with local volunteer Mutaz.
- Project Hope received an award of appreciation from Nablus firefighters who participated in English language classes at PH.



Figure 11: Local and international volunteers planting the Project Hope garden.

March

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- The first Bridge to the World Forum was held, bringing together all the blog classes to discuss the direction of the program with the participating students.
- Project Hope began teacher training in Huwara to train football coaches for more than 23 area schools.
- Project Hope launched a new on-line class and activity scheduling tool for staff and volunteers to access in order to organize and view weekly schedules.
- New English teacher guidelines were completed.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- Project Hope hosted a delegation from Music in Me, a Netherlands based NGO, and arranged a meeting/event at Dar al-Fanoon in Askar camp.
- Meeting with the Federacion Sportif et Gymnique de Travail. This is the group's return visit to Nablus, to organize activities with sports clubs around Nablus.
- Reiki energy workshop conducted by a volunteer from Scotland.
- Local staff member Safa Abuaisa travelled to Barcelona for an Anna-Lindh Foundation youth forum. At the conference, Safa gave a presentation in French about Project Hope's best practices, focusing on the Bridge to the World project.
- After launching Project Hope's Amazon wish-list in mid-February, PH began receiving books and materials by early March.
- Delegation visit from Clowns Without Borders concluded.
- Special performance of "Madbeth" by Clowns Without Borders member.
- Translation from French to English of "Yanoun: on the Hellish Paradise", a short graphic novel that will appear on www.nablusguide.com.

April

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- The first advanced blogging class began as part of Bridge to the World; first group of mentor bloggers group organized.
- For the first time in Palestine, a robotics class was organized for hearing-impaired children – two international volunteers assisted in its organization, and documented the classes on video, which will be later released on YouTube.
- New photography course with 10 teenagers from Nablus and Balata camp organized at the Social Rehabilitation Centre
- An international volunteer facilitated a photography workshop at the French Cultural Centre.
- An international volunteer taught new English classes in Sebastya, while conducting research on village social organizations.
- Local volunteer began teaching a Thai-boxing class.
- A French volunteer began volunteering at the UNESCO Chair at an-Najah University, providing proposal translation and other support as the only French-speaking member on the team.
- Two volunteers gave their assistance to the MCRC in the Old City of Nablus with writing and editing funding proposals.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- A French-Canadian volunteer gave a special guest lecture on Quebecois politics at the French Department at an-Najah.
- Teacher-training workshop for international volunteers given by a Scottish visitor.
- A delegation from Lille, France visited Project Hope in Nablus.
- A delegation from Dundee, Scotland visited Project Hope in Nablus.
- Project Hope hosted two meetings with PalFest organizers to assist with the Palestinian Literary Festival in the West Bank.
- Dar al-Fanoon hosted a Project Hope appreciation dinner and performance, presenting Project Hope with an award of appreciation.
- Project Hope Day is celebrated at the French Cultural Centre, coinciding with the launching of the Nablus Guide Website.
- Project Hope unveiled its newly published graphic novel at the French Cultural Centre.
- Photo exhibition by photography students from Balata on display at the French Cultural Centre.
- Sebastya fun-day field trip is held for Bridge to the World students, local and international volunteers, along with the delegations from Lille and Dundee.
- A French film-maker arrived to produce a documentary about Project Hope.
- Project Hope assists Hayat Organization in its tree-planting project in Assyra.

May

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- Integrated music, art, sports and English classes expanded in Zawata village.
- Project Hope international volunteer began volunteering at local radio station; station begins interviewing Project Hope staff and volunteers on-air for an on-going series.
- Project Hope international volunteer organizes first ever girls' football tournament in Nablus.
- Local volunteer continues teaching kick-boxing class.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- International volunteers assisted the EAPPI on a weekend of accompaniment in Yanoun village.
- Helped organize events in Nablus for the PalFest literary festival, making this the first year PalFest has come to Nablus.
- Held “Open Mic Night” at the CCF—a night of music, poetry, and comedy by local and international volunteers and friends of Project Hope.
- Initiated a biweekly Project Hope Music Session, inviting local and international volunteers and special guests to come together and play music.
- Project Hope, in conjunction with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, organized a graduation ceremony for students who completed the Recycling and Robotics course for hearing-impaired youth.
- Hosted the FFIPP coordinator this month. The organization agreed to again send volunteers from North America and Europe this summer.
- Hosted a representative from the Dutch Churches in Action group, to discuss the on-going Bridge to the World – Outreach to Rural Palestine Program.
- Began contributing to Mediterraneum United – a SCI-sponsored forum that allows voluntary grass-roots organizations working on refugee and immigration issues to exchange ideas, information and other resources.
- Lecture on the current Palestinian political situation by Dr. Abdul Sattar Qasim given at Project Hope.
- Project Hope participated in an exhibition celebrating women's Palestinian handicrafts at the French Cultural Centre, along with representatives from European consulates.

June

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- A Palestinian-Norwegian volunteer began teaching new classes in Beit Foureeq village.
- Project Hope sent volunteers to teach English, French and other activities at seven different summer camps, including: Rafadya, Jamaseen, Beit Ajan, Beit Imreen, the Childhood Cultural Center (CCC), Hamdi Manko, and the French Cultural Centre (CCF).
- Due to popular demand, PH began teaching two new robotics courses in this month.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- Local volunteers helped with the organization of an Oriental Music Night at an-Najah University.
- Local volunteers helped with the organization of a French Music Night at an-Najah University.
- International and local volunteers organized a night of Irish and Palestinian music and PH.
- Local and international volunteers held a joint music and dance night at Dar al-Fanoon.
- A screening of the film *Jumper* was screened for blog students at Dar al-Fanoon, as part of an exchange with a Canadian school which viewed the same film and will discuss with children in Nablus.
- Project HOPE facilitated World Cup match showings at the CCF.
- A volunteer-staff appreciation night was held at al-Yasmeen hotel in order to allow international and local staff and volunteers to better get to know each other and their roles.
- Saed abu-Hijleh spoke on the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement.
- International volunteers assisted with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program for Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) accompaniment program in Yanoun village.
- 15 Palestinian students travelled to Lille, France for a solidarity football tournament. The Palestinian played three games, winning one and drawing two.
- Hakim, Project Hope Director, traveled to Lille, France for the 5th Annual National Fair Trade Conference.

July - August

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- An international volunteer began teaching English classes in Qalqilya.
- Canadian and Australian volunteers began a new documentary film class in the Old City of Nablus.
- Two documentary film-makers ran a two-week documentary film workshop with nine teenage girls from Balata Refugee Camp.
- An international and local volunteer began collaboration with a staff member on a participatory youth research project in Balata refugee camp involving photography, video and interviews.
- British and Australian volunteers began a new mural activity in the Old City.
- Three French volunteers came to Nablus with the Federation Sportive et Gymnique du Travail (FSGT) to run sports activities and summer-camps.
- A French volunteer came through the Lille Municipality to train coaches of local football clubs.
- A researcher from Holland began her work on the effects of youth involvement in Project Hope activities.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- A night of world music was organized at Hamam Shifa Turkish Bath in the Old City.
- A viewing of the World Cup final was arranged at the French Cultural Center.
- Open-mic music and poetry night for local and international volunteers at the Bilagio Cafe.
- A group of Italian volunteers participated in summer camps in Balata and Askar refugee camps, including at the Dar al Fanoon center.
- Photography exhibit with Project Hope students at Dar al-Fanoon.
- A group of Dutch volunteers participated in the Happy Childhood summer-camp in Balata.
- An American PhD student researching in the Middle East volunteered at a summer-camp in Beit Foureek.
- A volunteer began distributing books in Balata refugee camp.
- A night of staff and volunteer appreciation was held at ART resort near Nablus.
- Two local volunteers organized a photo exhibition of their photography classes in Balata at the Jamaseen Center.
- Five international and four local volunteers painted murals on the walls of the Jamaseen Center.
- Two Japanese volunteers organized a presentation commemorating Hiroshima Day.
- A concert of Spanish and Catalanian music was organized and performed in the park.
- Two international and two local volunteers organized a film screening and iftar dinner at the Jamaseen Center in Balata to view short films produced by girls in the center.
- A local volunteer translated and screened an animated comedy film for volunteers and friends.

September - October

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- A volunteer from Canada undertook a three-week World-View Literacy project with students from Nablus Girls School, connecting students in Nablus with students in Canada to discuss their world views – the project is continuing via web-conference with the help of a new British volunteer and a local volunteer.
- A Canadian volunteer organized a one-day workshop in September called the Tree of Life, held at the Childhood Cultural Center in Nablus. Students made leaves representing their future dreams and arranged them on a “tree of life”. Photos of the finished project were taken to Canada and are being transformed into posters and other art work to share in Palestine and Canada.
- A Canadian volunteer gave a guest lecture on Sociology at an-Najah.
- A French volunteer began teaching a Social Justice for Youth class in Balata.

- PH hosted a British-Syrian author as part of the Palestinian Writers Workshop. The author taught creative writing classes at an-Najah University, organized through Project Hope.
- A German and Scottish volunteer began teaching creative writing courses at the university and other partner centers in Nablus.
- An American and British volunteer initiated Spanish classes at PH.
- Two German volunteers taught German class at PH.
- Photography and video class were conducted at the university, in Project Hope and in Balata camp.
- A Dutch volunteer began teaching yoga and aerobics classes at a woman's center.
- A Dutch volunteer began curriculum and office organization assistance.
- A British EVS volunteer began a mural painting project in Askar Camp.
- Introduced new sliding scale fee system for PH English classes.
- Volunteers taught in the village of Quseen for the first time.
- Began working with the Social Development Center in New Askar teaching English and French.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- An Open Mic music and poetry night was held at Hamam Shifa Turkish Bath in the Old City, hosting members of Medecins Sans Frontieres, Medecins du Monde, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent with performances by PH volunteers, students and friends.
- A cycling and olive picking trip in Beit Leid was organized for local and international volunteers.
- Local and international volunteers assisted over multiple weeks with the olive harvest in Beit Leid and Roujeeb villages.
- A Dutch researcher screened her documentary films in Askar.
- Project Hope and Dar al-Fanoon Night organized showcasing musical and dance performances of volunteers, students and friends.
- Hosted French Socialist Party delegation on their tour of Nablus.
- Director's participation in the Palestinian Educational Forum in Ramallah.
- Hosted cultural needs assessment focus group at Project Hope office
- Participated in the organization and promotion of the National Science Festival, the Nablus portion of which will be held at an-Najah University.
- Two local volunteers embarked upon their six-month internships through EVS in Scotland.
- PH staff member attended conference on development at Birzeit University.
- PH staff member completed student-centered education and pedagogy training in Ramallah.
- Saed abu-Hijleh, a Professor of Geography at an-Najah University and a local community activist, gave a lecture on the current political situation and the BDS movement.
- A Halloween Horror Film and pot-luck was organized for volunteers.

November - December

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- A French volunteer successfully completed Peace and Social Justice discussion classes with youth in Balata.
- Three volunteers assisted the English Program Coordinator with finalizing an English curriculum for the new fee classes – starting in January, English courses will now be 30 hours per course.
- A British English language professional volunteered to help tutor a family to help their son prepare for *tawjihi*.
- Completed set-up of the new Bridge to the World Net Café and new computer lab.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- Participated in the National Science Festival at an-Najah University, coordinating the participation of over 2000 school children over the course of the two-day event.
- Mr. Nameer Khayyat from the Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on the economic situation in Palestine.
- AbdelSattar Qasem, Professor of Political Science at an-Najah University and former presidential candidate, gave a presentation on the current political situation in Palestine.
- An Open Mic Night was held at the Hamam ash-Shifa as a send-off for volunteers leaving in December.
- The head of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Mr. Raed Badawieh, gave a presentation on human rights in the context of occupation.
- Volunteers participated in the Christmas Market at the French/German Cultural Center in Ramallah.
- A staff member traveled to Slovenia to present Project Hope's best practices in the field of north/south cooperation.

Lessons Learned

Project Hope faced several challenges throughout 2010, but was able to convert them into valuable lessons learned.

Lesson One: Keep projects separate, and avoid overextending activities.

Project Hope often finds itself taking on projects that are not fully funded, as an effort to respond to the changing needs of the community. This year we found that activities in the English program began piggybacking off activities in the Bridge to the World program, to the detriment of both. Rather than overextending ourselves in various activities and classes, we should

move as quickly as possible toward independent, self-funded, self-sustaining programs, in order to fully utilize all the good work our staff and volunteers are doing. In the end, both the Bridge to the World program and the English program were carried out successfully, but both could have been more solid. We have found that all of our projects are stronger and more focused if we keep their activities separate from one another.

Lesson Two: Send volunteers to those places that are most in need.

With the lifting of the siege of Nablus in 2009, there has been an increase in the number and quality of educational services offered in the city. This year we realized that there is now much more need for our services outside of Nablus, in the villages surrounding the city and in other cities in the northern West Bank, including Jenin, Tulkarem, Tubas and Qalqilya, which continue to suffer isolation and closure. We therefore began building more partnerships with community centers in these areas and sending our volunteers to work there.



Figure 12: An international volunteer harvesting olives at a village near Nablus.

Lesson Three: Ask international volunteers to abide by an ethics statement.

This was the first year we experienced problems with international volunteers arriving in Nablus to volunteer with Project Hope and then quickly announcing that they are leaving to take paid positions with other organizations. Previously, our main challenges with retaining volunteers were related to the occupation and physical dangers. Now, with the opening of Huwara Checkpoint in 2009 and the influx of aid money to Nablus, the economic situation in the city has changed, and there are many new community centers and organizations offering paid teaching opportunities for internationals.

In response, Project Hope asked volunteers to sign an ethics statement which helps them understand why volunteerism is important, and why it is more valuable to support Palestinian youth in improving their professional skills rather than taking away already scarce jobs and resources. Since drafting that statement, our volunteer retention has improved considerably.

Lesson Four: Limit international volunteers to a three-month period of service.

This was also the first year we experienced challenges with international volunteers staying on with Project Hope for too long a period. We had several volunteers staying on far longer than they originally intended—up to six months or a year past their original commitment. We found that the longer they stay, the more comfortable they become in Nablus, which leads to several challenges:

- They start looking around for paid positions, which displaces Palestinians from those positions and helps raise the cost of living.
- They become less committed to Project Hope and more involved in other projects, while continuing to use Project Hope's name and facilities. While we encourage our volunteers to pursue their interests while they are in Nablus, we cannot put our reputation on the line for volunteers who are not teaching with us full-time.

We therefore decided to limit volunteers to three months of service with Project Hope (while making exceptions on a case-by-case basis for those who have specific projects that will be implemented during specific periods of time).



Figure 13 A boy from Balata Camp at Project Hope field trip to Qalqilya Zoo.

Future Plans

Project Hope has a number of short- and long-term goals for the future.

Goal One: Make the English center in Project Hope sustainable.

The goal for 2011 is to make the English program that is run out of Project Hope’s facilities entirely self-sustainable, so we no longer need to rely on external funding to keep it afloat. While 90% of our classes will remain a free service to children, youth and women in the community, Project Hope will begin charging a modest fee (a fraction of the cost of other private language centers) for adult English classes taught in our community education center, with youths continuing to learn for free.



Figure 14 A volunteer with her students in an art class in Balata.

Goal Two: Ensure sustainability of international volunteer program.

Our international volunteer program is mostly funded by the volunteers themselves, however their contributions just barely cover the costs of housing them. Our goal for the coming year is to ensure that the program is self-sustaining, and covers all the costs of housing, materials, transportation and program administration. We continue to work to place volunteers in more marginalized areas outside of Nablus, which are experiencing difficulties due to settlements and continued closures. This will increase our enrollment numbers and our geographic coverage.

Goal Three: Centralize international recruitment in Nablus.

Previously, Project Hope’s international volunteer recruitment was managed by a recruiter in the UK. In 2010, we hired a local recruiter to work from the Nablus office, but some recruitment activities, including interviews of potential volunteers, are still being carried out in the UK. Over the course of the next year, we aim to fully centralize our recruitment efforts in Nablus.

Goal Four: Phase the Bridge to the World program into a comprehensive computer training center.

The original Bridge to the World program was designed solely to teach kids how to blog. Our goal for the next phase of the project is to expand the content of the program from blogs to a training center for all kinds of computer skills, and to expand the student base to include youth and adults, and especially women. We also plan to open a public net café in Project Hope's facilities.

Goal Five: Launch the Graphic Novel Program.

Building on the success of the original one-month graphic novel program, we will be launching a three-year program starting in 2011 to train both original and new artists in the art and techniques of the graphic novel. These artists will then go and teach these skills to kids in the villages around Nablus.

Goal Six: Expand the nucleus of Project Hope into other cities in the West Bank.

Our long-term goal is to expand Project Hope's reach into other cities in the West Bank, including opening up offices in Jenin, Tulkarem, Tubas and Qalqilya. There is a lot of demand in these communities for teachers, as well as to have more international eyewitnesses there to observe the situation in these areas. Though we are doing our best to send volunteers to areas most in-need, our work would be considerably easier if we had offices that are based in the communities themselves.



Figure 15 A boy in an arts and English class.

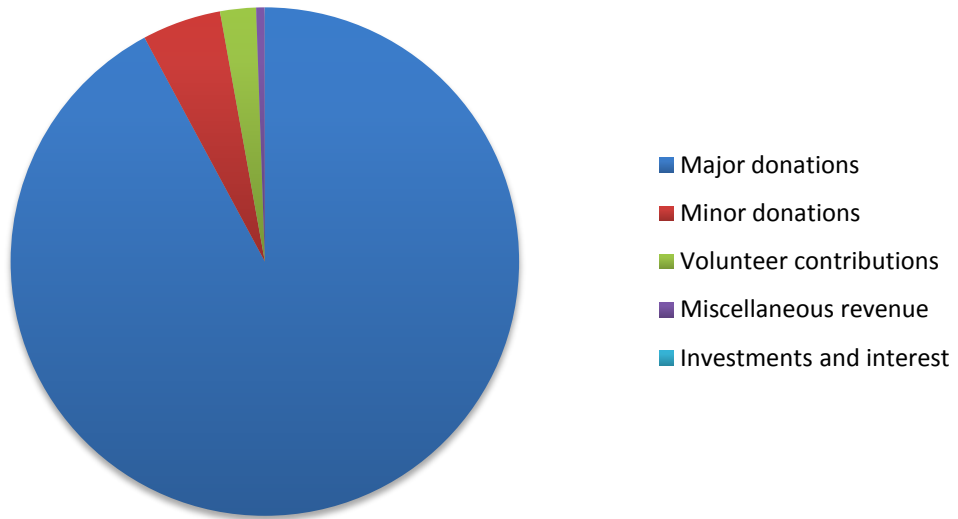
Financial Summary

After a sharp increase in external funding in 2007, Project Hope's income remains healthy. The majority of contributions to Project Hope come in the form of small and medium-sized grants from international organizations and generous contributions from individual donors, as well as contributions from volunteers. The most important indicator about Project Hope's stable financial health and accountability is the organization's continued commitment to making efficient use of the donations it receives, with the majority of funds going directly to support on-the-ground projects in Palestine, such as the ones described above. As you can see from the charts below, 68% of our international office funding went directly to program costs, with little overhead or salary expenses. Fifty-one percent of expenses in Nablus went to salaries, and 19% to utilities and rent. However both these expenses are directly related to Project Hope's charitable program activities. Project Hope employs a number of local staff members (including part-time staff, recent graduates and former volunteers) to coordinate programs and teach classes. Similarly, expenses for rent and utilities not only cover office space, but also classrooms, a library, computer lab, and volunteer accommodations. Unlike many international organizations operating in Palestine, Project Hope commits itself to local accountability, this means paying a livable wage in line with local salaries (not contributing to the inflation of international aid worker salaries), and engaging with the local community by relying on local public transportation rather than private cars. Finally, the dedication, creativity, and professionalism of our local and international volunteers, and our growing international alumni network of former volunteers, allows us to achieve success in our projects, while continuing to keep administrative, advertising and other costs low.

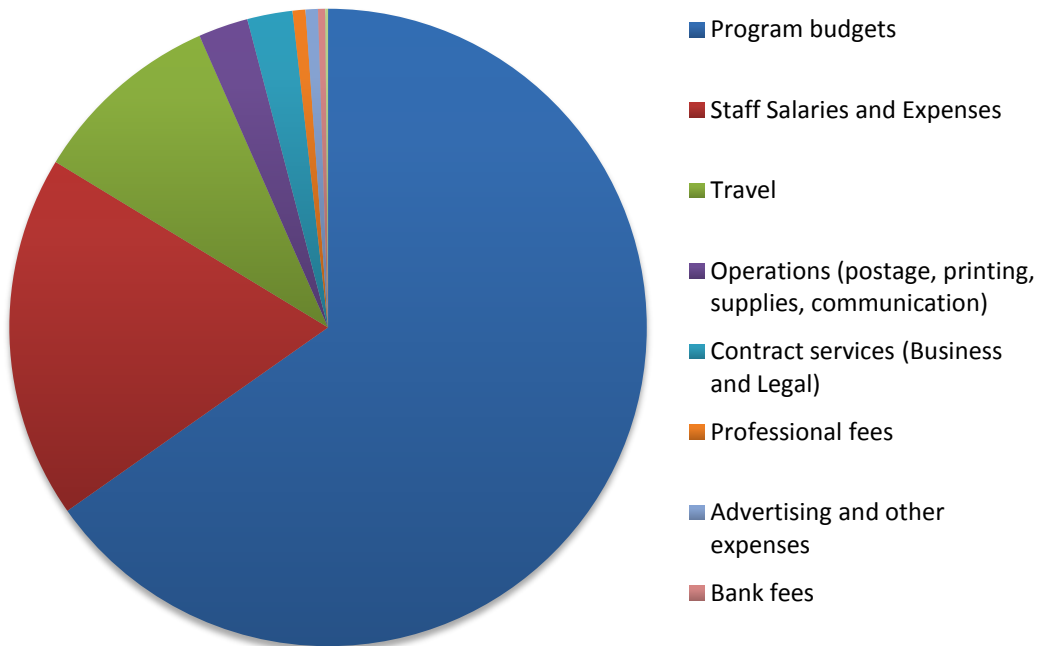
Our goal for the future is to cover the expenses (administration, salaries, rent and utilities) of our core language teaching and activities programs through volunteer contributions and a modest fee for adult classes – making our community education program completely sustainable. Regular support from international donors, and project grants, can be used to enhance, expand, and improve programs, as well as carry out other side-projects when needed – but our goal is to wean Project Hope off of the boom and bust international donor funding cycle that so many Palestinian organizations rise and fall upon. This reliance on external funds means that Palestinian organizations do not set their own priorities, but rather, follow the whims and wishes of their external donors. Our goal is to remain a successful, grass-roots organization that serves the local community, and is sustained by the people who work with, and benefit from our organization – the students, volunteers and individual donors and supporters. As the sections above indicate, Project Hope does a lot with a relatively small amount of resources. We hope our volunteers, students, donors and supporters, continue to work with us to make sure we can continue putting their contributions to good use, by bringing educational programs to the people in a way that is efficient, accountable and sustainable.

Finally, a note regarding the charts below: Our main contributors to Project Hope in 2010 included individual donors, volunteer contributions, funding from the Canadian Auto Workers Union – Social Justice Fund for our B2W blogging program, funding from the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF) for our B2W net café program, and the European Volunteer Service (EVS), which sponsors a limited number of volunteers from Europe to carry out specific projects with us in Palestine. Funding for B2W, including from the IDRF, was disbursed to the international office then transferred to Nablus, along with most of the volunteer contributions and individual donations. The Nablus office receives EVS funds directly, along with some volunteer contributions and donations.

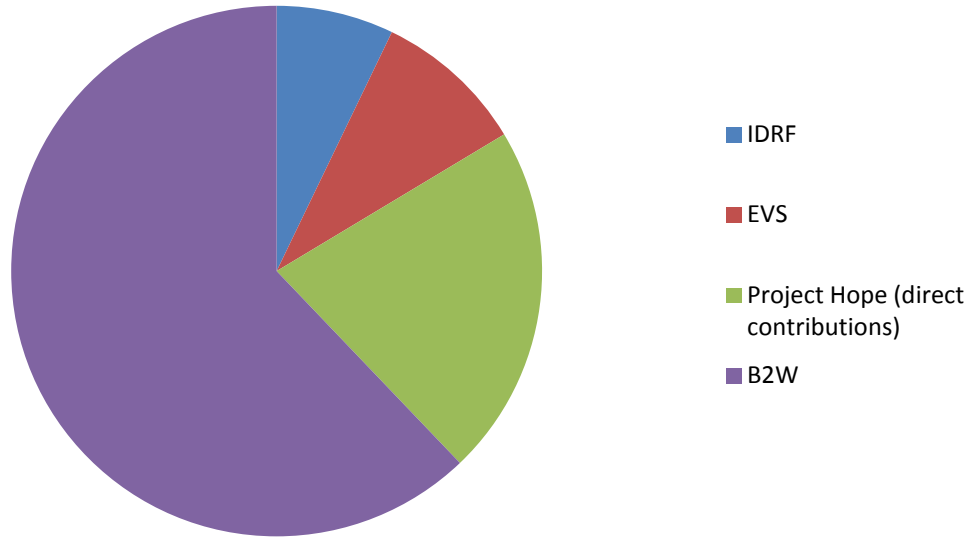
International Office Income



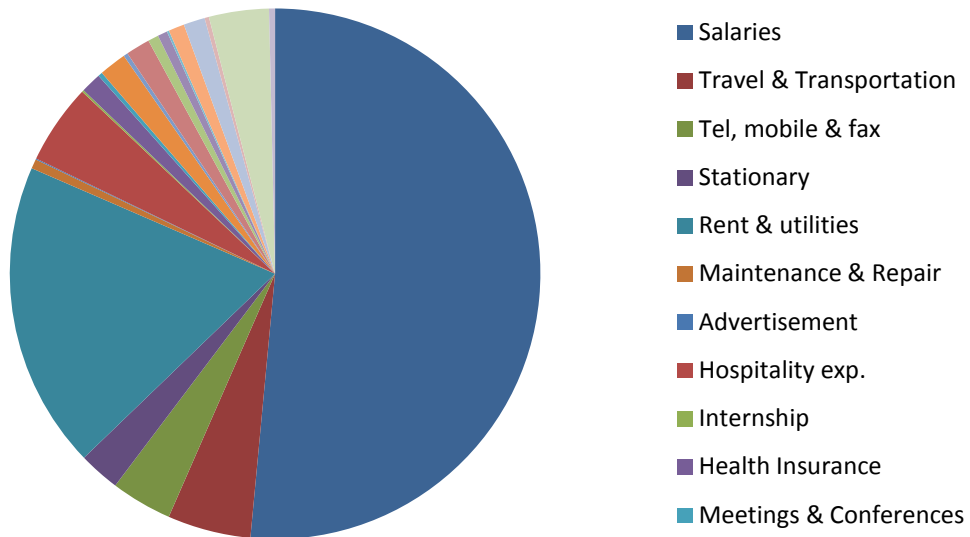
International Office Expenses



Project Hope Nablus Office Revenues



Project Hope Nablus Office Expenses



Appendix

Geographical Distribution

In 2010, Project Hope worked with over 60 different centers in Nablus city and nearby refugee camps and villages, often working with between 30 and 40 different centers per month. This is part of Project Hope's approach: local empowerment, supporting rather than competing with existing community organizations, and reaching communities most in need. The following is a list of the centers we worked with in 2010.

Nablus City

1. Al-Hittin Sports Center (adjacent Old City)
2. Al-Latin Orphanage
3. Al-Latin Patriarch School
4. Al-Manhal (Rafidia)
5. Al-Quds Open University
6. Al-Rawda
7. An-Najah University
8. Awtar Center
9. Catholic Relief Services
10. Child Cultural Center CCC (Old City – Municipal Center)
11. Chotoukan
12. Disabled Union (Faisal Street)
13. French Cultural Center (Next to Project Hope)
14. Hamdi Manko (Municipal Center)
15. Hitten Club
16. Islamic School
17. Itihad Orphanage (Itihad Hospital)
18. Kroom Ashour
19. MCRC (Old City)
20. Medical Relief
21. Nablus Boys School (UNRWA)
22. Nablus Girls School (UNRWA)
23. Palestinian Women Club
24. Palestinian Women's Committee Union (PWCU)
25. Rawda College
26. Red Crescent
27. Tanweer Al-Awtar
28. Women Committee for Social Work

29. Women's Corner (Municipal Center)
30. Women's Working Association (Rafidya)
31. Women's Working Department (Ministry of Waqf)
32. Yallo's Center

Villages/Outlying Areas

1. Al-Jneed Village
2. Aseereh Kablyeh Village Council
3. Aseereh Mother's School
4. Azmout Village Women's Center
5. Beit Dejan Village Council
6. Beit Emrin Village Council
7. Creative Cultural Center – Jenin
8. Howara Village Association
9. Huwara Mother's Association
10. Qalqilya Development Society
11. Rural Women's Department – Kufal Harris
12. That Nitaken
13. Tulkarem Community Center (Tulkarem)
14. Wasel Center – Anabta Assereh
15. Women's Association of Assyreh
16. Yanoun Village
17. Zawata Village Council (Zawata)

Askar – Refugee Camp

1. Al-Lid Society
2. Al-Wafa Kindergarten
3. Askar Boys School (UNRWA)
4. Askar Girls School (UNRWA)

5. As-Safeer (New Askar)
6. Dar al-Fanoon
7. New Askar School (UNRWA)
8. Social Development Center (New Askar)

5. Local Committee for the Disabled - Balata
6. Mweleh
7. Nahr al-Oja
8. Yazour

Balata – Refugee Camp

1. Balata Boys School (UNRWA)
2. Balata Girls School (UNRWA)
3. Happy Childhood Center
4. Jamaseen

Al-Ein – Refugee Camp

1. Al-Ein Boys School (UNRWA)
2. Al-Ein Women’s Center



Figure 16 Not the end, just new beginnings; a page from Project Hope's new Graphic Novel, beginning in 2011.