

Annual Report 2015

PROJECT HOPE

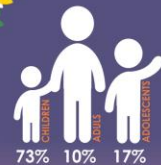
2015 in figures.



In 2015, the average class size was 8



85 LOCAL VOLUNTEERS assisted us with our classes and activities.



A majority of our students were children.

Volunteers of Project Hope provided classes to **43 LOCAL PARTNERS**

5 local partners in Askar Village Askar Refugee Camp

5 local partners in Balata Refugee Camp

25 local partners in Nablus City

A majority of our students were female.

43% 57%

2 local partners in Al-Ein Refugee Camp

6 local partners in rural villages and cities outside Nablus

Project Hope welcomed **85 long-term volunteers** from 19 different countries!



Statistics

Over the course of 2015, Project Hope consolidated its growth, expanded its range of courses and enhanced its outreach. It provided 1551 classes (which ranged from yoga to mathematics) to a total of 12,431 students – this meant that it therefore bypassed its initial goal to teach 1,000 students per month. Although there was, in comparison to 2014, a slight decrease in overall student numbers (12,431 compared to 12,488 in 2014), there was a simultaneous increase in the total number of classes taught (as a consequence, average class slightly decreased).

Table 1: Educational Classes and Activities: Overview 2015

Subject/Activity	Students	Classes	Average Class size
English	5,577	714	7.8
French	2,736	328	8.3
Other Languages	199	43	4.6
Creative Arts	2,827	329	8.6
Activities	614	73	8.4
Applied Skills	478	64	7.5
TOTAL/Average	12,431	1551	8.0

The popular English language and conversation classes accounted for almost half of the total number of students, but a growing number of students engaged with our French language and Creative Arts classes. A number of Applied Skills classes (including the courses taught for our [Computer literacy project](#)) were also established over the course over the year, as a result of the staff of Project Hope encouraging our volunteers to share the specific expertise and specialised skills they possess. This has resulted in new courses such as Language Interpretation, Educational Technology and Programming.

Project Hope also offered Spanish, Italian, German and Chinese language courses in 2015, and a number of activities (ranging from board games to gymnastic) were organised by our volunteers. By drawing upon the expertise of our volunteers, we were also able to tailor our teaching to the needs and requirements of our students – this meant that we were able to teach [Creative Arts and English to autistic children](#) and Graphic Design courses to physically disabled students.

Of the 12,431 students we taught in 2015, 57% were female – this reiterated our continued commitment to uphold and promote gender empowerment. In accordance with our operational mandate, a majority of our classes were provided to children (73%) under the age of 12 - adolescents (17%) and adults (10%) accounted for the remaining 27% of our students.

Arabic Language School

Since 2013, Project Hope teaches Arabic language classes at its [Arabic Language School](#). For a fee of \$500 a month, Project Hope provides courses to non-native speakers at beginners, intermediate and advanced level in Modern Standard Arabic as well as in the dialect spoken

in Palestine. The courses have been designed to develop the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the students. From Sunday to Thursday, classes are provided to the students to improve their level of Arabic. Besides the classes, the Arabic Language School offers weekly excursions to the Old City and recreational sites round Nablus. Around 30 students from various countries such as South Korea, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Canada, Denmark, the US and Switzerland were taught at the Arabic Language School this year, enabling us to sustain the school and obtain additional income for the educational program of Project Hope.

Our volunteers



Picture of our international and local volunteers taken in November 2015

The educational classes and activities which Project Hope provides are only made possible by the hard work of our international and local volunteers. As one of the largest volunteer organisation in Palestine, Project Hope hosted 85 international volunteers in 2015, who came from a total of 19 countries. A majority of our volunteers come from the United States, the United Kingdom and France due to the presence of partners such as [Wide Awake](#) (United States), [Firefly International](#) (United Kingdom) and [Amitié Lille-Naplouse](#) (France) in these countries. However, an increasing number of volunteers are from Central and Eastern Europe. This year, Project Hope welcomed volunteers from Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia and Lithuania. We also hosted one volunteer from Chile this year.

Table 2: International volunteers: Country of Origin (2015)

Country	Volunteers
United States	20
United Kingdom	16
France	16

Belgium	7
Germany	6
The Netherlands	3
Canada	2

Hungary	2
Ireland	2
Italy	2
Chile	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1

Lithuania	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	1

Our volunteer intake ranged from 18 to 68 years-of-age. Our average volunteer was 27 years-of-age. A majority of our volunteers tend to be students, recent graduates or young professionals. Over the course of the year, we also welcomed retired and practising teachers, Human Resources managers and former restaurant owners. We encourage and seek to further a mixture of age groups, as older volunteers frequently share their experiences with younger volunteers and enrich the diversity of our volunteer team.

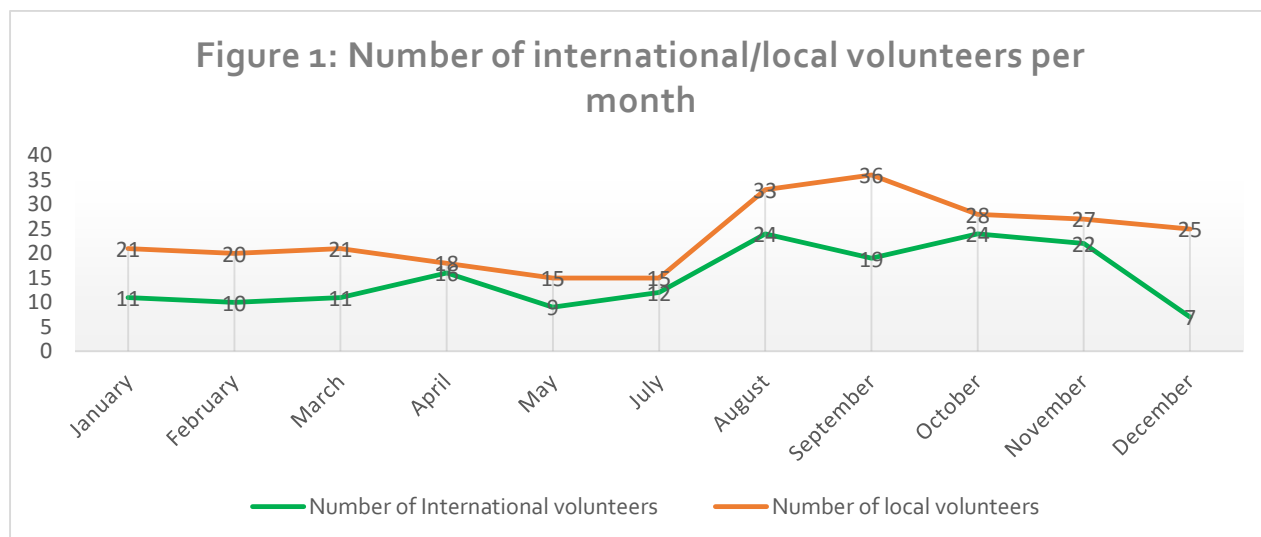


Figure one illustrates the variation of international volunteer intake over the course of the year. The dual linear progression illustrate that the general pattern of local and international volunteer intake roughly correspond (e.g. as one increases, the other increases; as one decreases, the other decreases). Local and international volunteer intake remains broadly constant up until July (excluding June, when Project Hope closes for Ramadan) before peaking in the following four months. International volunteer intake is heavily contingent upon the academic calendar, as a considerable number of our volunteers are enrolled within academic institutions.

Our local volunteers tend to be university students who are aged between 18-25 years. Their engagement with Project Hope’s work is driven by a number of motivations – the most frequent include the desire to improve their English and French language skills, obtain teaching experience and meet international volunteers. We believe that the relationship between international and local volunteers should be governed by the principle of equality –

local volunteers are not translators but instead work in close co-operation with their international counterparts. Equality and close co-operation establish the basis for mutual exchange, enhance cultural understanding and often culminates into long-standing friendships. Our local volunteer program has been a feature of Project Hope's work since the organisation was founded in 2003. It has long been established as one of the most successful features of our work. Over the course of the year, 85 local volunteers contributed to our work – this further reiterates and underlines the level of support that our work enjoys within the local community.

Although local volunteers make an invaluable contribution to our work, participation also has clear vocational and personal benefits – former local volunteers have gone on to pursue successful careers in teaching, journalism, business, management, medicine, IT, government and civil society activism, both in Palestine and abroad.



Meet Ahmad

Ahmad, who is originally from Nablus's Al-Ain refugee camp, is one of the 85 local volunteers who volunteered for Project Hope in 2015. He entered the language course in 2013 at beginner level and worked his way up to the advanced level. Afterwards, Ahmad signed up as a local volunteer and passed the tough English language exam which all our local volunteers have to pass in order to become a volunteer. A couple of months ago, we conducted an [interview](#) with Ahmad about his volunteer experience at Project Hope.

Working under occupation

Project Hope was founded in 2003 during the *Second Intifida*, when Nablus was under siege, Israeli tanks patrolled the streets and curfews and gunfights confined tens of thousands of families to their own homes. The situation in Nablus has improved since 2003, but the political situation continues to impose impediments upon our day-to-day work. The Israeli army's raid of the Temple Mount on 13 September 2015 culminated in a wave of violence which swept across the West Bank – this took the form of stabbing attacks, gun assaults and violent repression by the Israeli army. The heightened Israeli checkpoint presence has directly infringed upon our work by making it difficult for our volunteers to reach rural locations, affecting our ability to expand or, in some cases, even continue our geographically outreach.

Highlights and Special Events

In addition to the hundreds of classes that we provide, we also support local initiatives and events. We contribute in a number of ways – whether by hosting, organising or by working with international or local partners.

Palestine Festival of Literature

This year, Project Hope once again hosted the [Palestine Festival of Literature](#) (PalFest) in Nablus. PalFest is one of the largest and most successful culture and arts events in Palestine. The festival was established in 2008 in order to support Palestine's cultural life, and strengthen cultural links with the rest of the world. PalFest has provided local Palestinians the opportunity to meet dozens of influential literary figures from the Arab world, Europe, the United States and Africa. In 2015, PalFest was organised in cooperation with the Nablus Municipality, and the event took place in the public library's yard. Our volunteers welcomed and worked as guides for guests and speakers. Audience members at PalFest were treated to a mixture of poetry, music and film presentations.



Audience members enjoy a PalFest presentation

International Partnerships and Exchanges

Our ties with the Nablusi community make us an ideal partner for international organisations that are looking to engage and work with the local community. We are the local partner for the [Nablus-Lille Municipal Twinning Organisation \(Amitié Lille-Naplouse\)](#). Every year, we host delegations and volunteers from Lille (France). The municipality of Lille is also a generous contributor to our activities. Over the course of the year, [Amitié Lille-Naplouse](#) sent ten volunteers to Project Hope. Amitié Lille-Naplouse also helped to arrange a trip, in which schoolchildren from the small village of Qusra came to Nablus and participated in a graphic design course to Project Hope. In addition, Amitié Lille-Naplouse funded a trip in which students from the Nahr Al-Ouja association (which is based in Balata refugee camp) visited the Strike Bowling Centre in Nablus.



*The Qusra schoolchildren who visited Project Hope
In January 2015*



*Students from the Nahr Al-Ouja association
during their visit to the Strike Bowling Centre in
December 2015*

Project Hope has strong links with its supporters in France. This has enabled us to contribute to the establishment of numerous links which conjoin France and Palestine. Illustrative of this are Project Hope's continued relations with the [French Institute](#), with Project Hope providing French language activities for the centre. In exchange, the French Institute hosted multiple events organised by Project Hope, such as for example two photo exhibitions by Project Hope students' in 2015.

Another international partner of Project Hope in Nablus is [Music Harvest](#). Music Harvest is an Irish organisation founded in 2009. Its main goal is to contribute to the cultural rehabilitation of the Nablus region. Music Harvest volunteers are based at the premises of Project Hope and both organisations share resources. In 2015, the joining of forces with Music Harvest led to one particularly successful project, in which Music Harvest, Project Hope and five other local Palestinian centres from Nablus collaborated to record [five songs](#). These songs were performed at a [presentation](#) at Hamdi Manko Cultural Centre in Nablus in April 2015. In October 2015, a Project Hope photo exhibition at the French Institute was accompanied by a musical performance by three Music Harvest volunteers, drawing in a large crowd.



One of the groups that presented their songs during the presentation at Hamdi Manko in April 2015.

Special Activities

Project Hope continues to profit from its extensive network of past volunteers. In May 2015, we hosted a former volunteer from France who has since become a street artist. During her time in Nablus she convened a three-day workshop in which she taught five artists and three students from the Beit Jala Theatre School techniques how to build puppets. By the end of the workshop, students were able to build huge street puppets from scratch. The results can be seen below.



The end result of the workshop: two huge street puppets!

In addition to directly contributing to our educational and cultural activities, volunteers are also encouraged to contribute to murals in local schools. In April and July, our volunteers contributed to murals at Al Kamanjati School, Al Imam Ali School and Omar Almokhtar School. This resulted in creative and colourful murals which brighten up the schools for years to come.



Two of our international volunteers enthusiastically working on a mural.

Our International Partners and Funders

In 2015, the partnership of Project Hope between Project Hope and the UK-based charity [Firefly International](#) was further strengthened. Firefly works to build bridges through education and the arts by supporting locally led projects in Bosnia and the Middle East. Over the last year, Firefly has provided various forms of support to Project Hope, which is its main Palestinian partner. This support has taken the form of fundraising, online promotion and outreach, reporting, proposal writing and programme management.

In 2015, the support of Firefly to Project Hope included writing the [2014 Annual Report](#), recruiting a British volunteer to create ten [videoblogs](#) about Project Hope's work and its volunteers and cooperation between Firefly and Project Hope staff in regards to updating Project Hope's website and social media accounts. In return, former Project Hope volunteers made a contribution to Firefly International Gala, which was held in London in November 2015.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to our major donors, whose contributions make our work possible. [Zatoun](#), a Canadian-based organisation which supports Palestinian farmers and children, has been a long-standing supporter of Project Hope since 2004. Zatoun's support was invaluable during our early years, and it has since contributed extensively to our work. [Unifor](#), the largest private sector union in Canada, has been our main donor since 2005. Unifor has helped us to sustain our core language and creative arts program, to the benefit of the 11,140 students who participated in this program in 2015.

Furthermore, we would like to take this opportunity to express our special thanks to [Kerk in Actie](#), our long-time partner from the Netherlands. Kerk in Actie contributes to the [Computer literacy project](#), a project which began this year and benefitted 571 students. We would also like to thank [Amitié Lille-Naplouze](#) in France for its ongoing monthly financial support to Project Hope. And of course, our special thanks goes out to all the local and international volunteers from Palestine and around the world, whose time, dedication and hard work enabled us to uphold our commitments to young Palestinians.

Our Main International Partners and Funders in 2015:



Our Local Partners

As an organisation which was built from the grassroots by local volunteers and staff, Project Hope has become an integral part of the local community. Our community-based approach has enabled us to combine our efforts with other community actors – this approach has prevented duplication, pooled resources and ensured that we aligned with local needs and priorities. Since our establishment in 2003, we have worked to establish long-term partnerships with community centres, schools and universities. In addition, we have also worked hard to extend our reach to the rural villages which surround Nablus. These local partnerships have enabled us to sustain our programs, initiate new projects and support third-party initiatives.

We worked with a wide number of partners over the course of the year – the full range of partners is provided below. The majority of our local partners are based in Nablus city, but Project Hope also has established relationships with organisations in the city's refugee camps and surrounding villages.

Nablus City

1. Adel Zaiter School
2. Al-Karmel School
3. Atfal Alghad Kindergarten
4. Awtar Centre
5. Children's Cultural Centre (CCC)
6. Edward Said
7. Fatimiya School
8. French Institute
9. Girls' Rehabilitation Centre
10. Hamdi Manko Centre
11. Happy Childhood Kindergarten
12. Janet Adan Kindergarten
13. Jarzeem Kindergarten
14. Language Centre (An-Najah University)
15. Mariam Hashem Cooking Centre
16. MCRC
17. Nablus Girls' School (UNRWA)
18. Palestinian Association for Development
19. Palestinian Women's Club
20. Queen's Girls' School
21. Samaritan Kindergarten
22. Sheikh Khalifa Centre for Disabled Rehabilitation
23. Vocational Training Centre

24. Women's Corner

25. Yallo Centre

Askar Village/Askar Refugee Camp

1. Al-Basma Kindergarten
2. Assafeer Askar
3. Safeer Centre
4. Social Development Centre
5. Sun of Hope Kindergarten

Balata Refugee Camp

1. Balata Youth Centre
2. Elite Academy Kindergarten
3. Naher Oja Centre
4. Oli Azam Centre
5. Tal Balata Forum

Al-Ein Camp

1. Al-Ein Camp Girls' School
2. Local Committee for the Disabled, Al-Ein

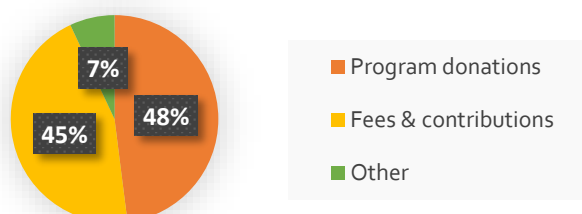
Villages/Cities/Outlying Areas

1. Al-Kayed Palace, Sebastia
2. Al-Majd school, Tel village
3. Mother's school, Beit Forik
4. Mother's school, Beita village
5. Tal Balata, Balata village
6. Village council, Qusra village

Income and Expenditure

In 2015, Project Hope's overall revenue came to a gross total of \$120,729 USD – this represented a 3.6% increase from the 2014 gross total.

Revenue by source



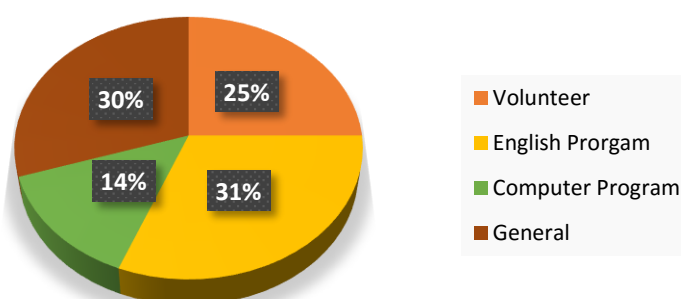
In 2015, there were two main revenue sources:

- Program donations: \$55,907 USD
- Fees & Contributions: \$ 52,414 USD

In 2015, less than 50% of the total gross revenue was destined for specific programs. The largest sum of revenue (52%) came from alternative streams – these included volunteer contributions and donations, Arabic lesson fees and English language fees. The heightened importance of alternative revenues was an intended outcome – from our perspective, a lower dependency upon short-term grants increases the sustainability of our activities.

In 2015, our total expenditure came to \$151,134 USD – in comparison with the preceding year, this represented a decrease of 25%. Expenditure on salaries, benefits, travel, transportation and rent was significantly reduced in 2015 – overall spending, in comparison with 2014, was reduced by \$38,219 USD.

Expenditure in 2015



The overall expenses category includes depreciation expenses of \$3,163 USD and foreign exchange losses of \$493 USD. In 2015, we recorded a net deficit of \$30,405 USD; this was a significant improvement in comparison with 2014, when our net deficit was \$72,849 USD.



Project Hope's work is carried out through Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace and Education, a Canadian Charity.

Canada

Charity number: 862587078 PR0001

France

Charity number: W751227523

Project Hope's work from the United Kingdom and the European Union is supported through Firefly International, a Scottish charity.



Scotland

Charity number: 028744