



Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace & Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Project HOPE

Email: projecthope@projecthope.ps

Website: www.projecthope.ps

29, An-Najah Al-Qadim Street

Nablus, Palestine

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PROJECT HOPE: BY THE NUMBERS

In 2018, around **200 international volunteers** from **over 20 countries** worked with **65 local Palestinian volunteers** to bring creative educational programs to nearly **60 community centers** in and around Nablus, including refugee camps, villages, and outlying areas. Together they taught English, French, arts, sports, and other languages and activities to over 11,000 Palestinian children and youth (with a 51/49 female/male gender balance). In addition, local and international volunteers worked with local staff and several local cultural centers and venues to bring to the people of Nablus the *3rd Annual Nablus Festival of Culture and Arts*.

Project HOPE is one of the largest and longest running volunteer organizations in the West Bank bringing together local and international volunteers.

Project HOPE remains dedicated to its mission of using language and arts to improve Palestinian society and build bridges with the outside world. Once a cultural and economic powerhouse, Nablus was for years cut off from the rest of the West Bank by invasions, siege, and checkpoints. Though life has returned to the city following a period of calm, due to the uneven impact of international donor funding, the center of cultural and economic gravity in Palestine remains Ramallah, with many young people leaving cities and villages throughout the West Bank for work and education in what this financial and political center. We seek to counter-balance this uneven and fragmented flow by bringing education, culture, arts, ingenuity and tourism to the northern West Bank. We do this by injecting volunteer enthusiasm, talent, and creativity into struggling and underfunded communities and community centers. The list of countries that our volunteers come from continues to grow. As such, Project HOPE remains an important cultural diplomacy organization for Palestine, helping to spread a positive message of Palestinian hospitality and perseverance around the world. This report highlights the good work of our international and local volunteers.

Hakim Sabah

Director, Project HOPE - Nablus

International Volunteer & Community Outreach Program

Throughout the course of 2018, some 204 international volunteer representing 21 different countries volunteered for an average of 6 weeks with Project HOPE (see below.)



The figure to the left illustrates the proportion of volunteers from each of the 21 countries from which volunteers came in 2018.

The US, UK, Canada, and France continue to be the largest senders of volunteers to Project HOPE.

As the following sections indicate, international volunteers contribute to Project HOPE programming by teaching classes in the English and French Language Programs. In addition, volunteers also teach less commonly taught languages that are also in high demand, such as Chinese, German, Russian, and Spanish. Finally, volunteers also teach arts, music, sports and other activities. While international volunteers teach language and cultural arts courses for Palestinian students in Nablus, Project HOPE organizes Arabic language classes and cultural activities for international volunteers throughout the year. Some of the fun cultural activities that international volunteers engaged in alongside their Palestinian volunteer counterparts included: cooking Palestinian dishes like *maqloobah* and *kunafeh* as well as attending musical performances, documentary film screenings, and guest lectures by local academics and politicians. In addition, international volunteers visited nearby villages, cultural and environmental sites, restaurants and cafes. Finally, local and international volunteers enjoyed social time together playing football, bowling, and laser tag.

English Program

Project HOPE’s English language classes continue to attract the largest number of language students.

On average, Project HOPE offers 25 separate English language classes to about 380 students per month, coming to a student to teacher ratio of 15:1, less than half the average school class size in Palestine.

Although most classes and activities at Project HOPE skew female majority or are approximately 50:50 in gender balance, this year saw a decline number of female students.

<i>English</i>	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Jan</i>	23	164	137	301
<i>Feb</i>	29	136	200	336
<i>March</i>	28	152	208	360
<i>April</i>	30	141	296	437
<i>May</i>	30	141	296	437
<i>June</i>	17	121	120	241
<i>July</i>	34	259	223	482
<i>Aug</i>	16	120	101	221
<i>Sept</i>	25	159	340	499
<i>Oct</i>	33	144	475	619
<i>Nov</i>	33	170	304	474
<i>Dec</i>	8	94	50	144
<i>Total</i>	306	1801	2750	4551

This may be due to barriers

restricting the mobility of female students and their access to Project HOPE or its partner centers. Project HOPE offsets this imbalance in other areas of its programming which focuses exclusively on female participants (see the HerStory Project below), and remains committed to improving access to female students.

Working with a local volunteer, international volunteers offer these English classes at the Project HOPE center and teach English classes at dozens of local community centers in Nablus, the Old City, refugee camps and villages. Classes focus on conversation, everyday usage, and native accent acquisition, as opposed to the focus on written grammar rules that typifies school language classes. Some local professional English language teachers offer specialized classes for a fee, such as ESL test taking. Half the proceeds of these courses go to subsidizing students’ access to Project HOPE’s free or low-cost classes and programming, with the other half going to the instructor.

French Program

Although not as large as the English language program, French language classes at Project HOPE continue to attract a steady number of students, with over 60% of those students being female. In 2018, international volunteers taught an average of 100 students in eight French classes per month, for a student/teacher ratio of 12:1.

French-speaking volunteers offer classes at the Project HOPE center, as well as other community centers around Nablus and the nearby refugee camps and

villages. French volunteers also offered classes in French at an-Najah University. With the



closure of the French Cultural Center in Nablus, Project HOPE remains one of the only cultural centers in Nablus offering French language classes.

French language classes at Project HOPE focus on conversation as well as cultural appreciation, including the use of French literature and films in classes. Students from Project HOPE French language classes have gone on to visit France as part of cultural exchanges, and some have gone on to use their French language skills working for the French embassy or French-speaking international NGOs.

<i>French</i>	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Jan</i>	7	56	30	86
<i>Feb</i>	6	48	24	72
<i>March</i>	9	77	43	120
<i>April</i>	8	59	37	96
<i>May</i>	8	59	37	96
<i>June</i>	6	38	26	64
<i>July</i>	10	74	49	123
<i>April</i>	2	20	13	33
<i>May</i>	10	69	54	123
<i>June</i>	8	60	41	101
<i>July</i>	11	123	60	183
<i>Aug</i>	6	43	49	92
<i>Total</i>	91	726	463	1189

Other Language Classes

As mentioned above, Project HOPE offers other language classes in addition to its main English and French language programs.

In 2018, international volunteers offered Chinese, German, Russian, and Spanish language courses. Chinese language skills are in demand due to increased trade with China, while Germany continues to be a popular place for science and engineering students to study and work. Spanish is one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world, and their exist historic cultural ties to Russia and a significant number of Russian speakers in Palestine. On average, four of these other language classes were offered each month in 2018 to an average of 26 students.

<i>Other Languages</i>	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Jan</i>	4	6	11	17
<i>Feb</i>	1	3	3	6
<i>March</i>	1	3	3	6
<i>April</i>	5	16	14	30
<i>May</i>	5	16	14	30
<i>June</i>	2	8	2	10
<i>July</i>	4	28	10	38
<i>April</i>	5	16	30	46
<i>May</i>	9	26	51	77
<i>June</i>	2	11	11	22
<i>July</i>	4	15	16	31
<i>Aug</i>	1	0	3	3
<i>Total</i>	43	148	168	316



Activities Classes

Sports, Exercise & Physical Activities

Acrobatics
Boxing
Soccer/football
Sports Summer Camps
Swimming
Yoga

Arts, Crafts, Music & Expression

Arts and painting
Arts summer camp
Crafts (knitting, origami)
Creative writing
Guitar
Film and photography
Music and music appreciation
Violin

Personal and professional development

Cosmetics
First aid
Marketing/advertising
Public speaking
Social Entrepreneurship

Educational Development

Astronomy
Medical training and clinics
Science workshops
Teacher training

Month	Activities Classes	Females	Males	Total
Jan	10	65	19	84
Feb	6	47	8	55
March	13	93	87	180
April	24	354	203	557
May	23	349	200	549
June	11	220	142	362
July	33	474	518	992
April	8	106	82	188
May	32	521	286	807
June	28	344	233	577
July	21	274	229	503
Aug	10	138	37	175
Total	219	2985	2044	5029



Nablus Festival for Tourism, Culture and Arts

From April 11th through 20th, 2018, Project HOPE held the 3rd Annual Nablus Festival for Tourism, Culture and Arts. Started in 2016, the aim of this festival is to provide public cultural events for the people of Nablus and surrounding areas, while also providing a platform for Palestinian and international artists to meet, collaborate, and form partnerships.

This year's festival hosted a total of 67 events in over 20 different venues around Nablus and nearby villages and refugee camps, free and open to the public. As well as performances from Palestinian musicians, there were concerts from musicians from as far away as Chile, England, Japan and Norway. The Nablus Marathon, a highlight from last year's festival, proved to be extremely popular again this year with hundreds of local and international participants running together. Another highlight was Nablus Circus School's performance of acrobatics and juggling to an audience of hundreds at Khan Al-Wakala. Palestinian poets also performed readings of their works and Palestinian story teller Taher Baker and his American counterpart Al Miller regaled audiences with their stories. There were also exhibitions, cultural meetings and a cooking competition. As well as the more traditional events this year's festival saw Project Hope seek to expand its capacity to encourage more Palestinians not just to appreciate culture and the arts but also to pursue their own creative projects. Accordingly, 17 workshops were held in a variety of disciplines including art, music, theatre and skateboarding.



HerStory Digital Storytelling Project

This year, Project HOPE launched a new project aimed at empowering women and girls through the power of digital storytelling. By facilitating intergenerational digital storytelling between women and girls, this project seeks to enable women to share, learn from, and inspire one another through stories of ambition, hardship, and success. Moreover, by equipping women and girls with technological, language and creative media skills, this project will enable participants to advocate and raise awareness about issues that are important to them. Finally, this project will foster intergenerational women's solidarity and support by arranging networking lunches around the film screenings to enable women from different walks of life to gather, converse, and network around shared interests. This project will achieve the aims through the following activities:

- Digital Storytelling workshops
- Public digital storytelling film festivals
- The creation of a “HerStory Nablus” online archive of these digital stories
- Running ICT and language for media purposes classes for women and girls
- Launching a young women's professional mentoring and networking program

So far, over 150 young women have participated in this project. Over 30 young women, including school leavers and young entrepreneurs, participated in digital storytelling trainings at the Khalifah Rehabilitation Center, where they learned to tell their stories of overcoming hardship and inspiring women in their lives. Over 70 young women from an-Najah University participated in digital storytelling training groups, honing their media skills. Project HOPE organized two film screening and networking lunches, in which the films were screened and discussed followed by musical performances and inspiring female speakers.

In addition, around 50 girls, young women, and female teachers, participated in photography, ICT classes, and social media education classes at the Girls Rehabilitation Center, the Child Cultural Center, and Refugee Camp No. 1 Girls School. These classes also aim to use digital technology to empower women to share their experience and improve their ability to participate in public life.

This project is funded by the Canadian Feminist Fund and will be completed next year, in 2019.

Geographic Reach: **volunteers provided programing in these areas**

Nablus City

Al-Eman Kindergarten
Amr Bin Al'as Boys school
An-Najah National University
An-Nour Kindergarten
Banat Rafedia Girls School
Boys Rehabilitation Center
Children's Cultural Centre (CCC)
Circus School
Dawhet Aleman Kindergarten
Girls Rehabilitation center
Haja Rashda Girls school
Hamdi Aker school summer camp
Hamdi Manko
Islamic School
Jamal Abdunnaser school summer camp
Jardane Boys School
Mariam Hashem
MCRC
MCRC Kindergarten
MCRC summer camp
Mothers' School
Palestinian Working Women Society for
Development PWWSD
Sheikh Khalifah Rehabilitation Center
Tanwiri Forum
Women's Library

Refugee Camps

Al Wafa Kindergarten Askar
Askar Youth Center "Old Askar
As-safeer, New Askar
Autistic center, Al-Ein Camp
Balata Boys School

Dar Alfunoon Old Askar
Old Askar Service committee
Oli Alazm Balata
Shams Alamal Kindergarten New Askar
Social Development Center New Askar
UN Boys School Balata camp

Villages/Cities/Outlying Areas

Awarta Boys School
Balata Village Youth Club
Beit Iba Girls School
Beit Wazan Elementary school
Beita Community Center
Boys Rehabilitation Center
Creativity Cultural Center Huwara
Elite Academy Kindergarten Balata Village
Etihad School Summer Camp, Beit Iba
Mothers school Beit Foreik
Palestine Kindergarten
Qabalan Boys School
Qusin Elementary School
Qusin Girls Middle School
Qusin Girls School
Sebastia Charity
Tell Secondary School for girl
Women's Center Balata Village
Tulkarm City
Khadouri College
Chamber of commerce
Birzeit
Birzeit University
Qalqilya City
Qalqilya municipality