

2011

Report for January and February



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Summary:

The New Year began with high ambitions to make early advances on meeting vital project goals for all the exciting new programs being launched in 2011. Great advances were made toward these goals, despite the setback of reduced numbers of incoming international volunteers, due to increased rejections at the borders, and cancellations due to instability in the region. International and local staff cooperated to immediately accept a number of qualified volunteers to start teaching English right away, thus reducing the negative impact of the cancellations. Furthermore, we assisted in finding an alternative volunteer position through one of our partners in Amman for an international volunteer who was turned away at the border, thereby keeping that partnership alive and further emphasizing the need to strengthen that option.

With regard to the **English Program**, an excellent new English Assistant, and former volunteer, was hired, as well as two program administrators, one who will be responsible for outreach, and the other for curriculum and program quality, while the English Assistant will continue taking care of student enrollment and records. Five new English classes were started under the new system, with a total of 50 students.

Again, despite the cancellations and rejections at the border, 11 international volunteers worked throughout January and February as part of the **International Volunteer Program**. Toward the goal of increasing international outreach to supporters and volunteer, local staff cooperated with international volunteers and staff to begin reviewing outreach and social networking strategies, having developed a new vision for the website. Locally, many new local partnerships throughout the West Bank have been established in anticipation of high volunteer recruitment numbers in the summer and fall, and the local staff are preparing for a full transfer of recruitment duties to Nablus.

The **IDRF Net Café** is in full swing, with new computer and blog classes up-and-running in the new computer lab, and a new net café function and open to the public. During the month of February, the computers were used a total of 1,875, with an average of 93 uses per day, and a maximum of 9 different users per hour. The maximum time a user uses the computer is about 2 hours, with the average being about 20-30 minutes, showing a good turnover of use. Surveys were developed and are being distributed to determine how many original single users use the computers most often and for what purpose. In addition, tentative women's hours have been set, permanent hours will be established once survey results are in, showing when women use the net cafe most. Informal observations that there are equal numbers of men and women users, majority youth, some children, and almost entirely volunteer and students, with some other visitors. The results of the survey will be included in the next report. With regard to computer classes, a total of 20 computer classes (including 6 blog classes as part of **B2W**) are running with a total of 160 students from refugee camps, much higher than the target number of 90 students.

Another exciting new program that began this year is the new **Graphic Novel Program**. An art instructor from the Department of Fine Arts, who was involved in the production of the original graphic novel, was hired to instruct the arts courses. A total of 17 graphic novel students are enrolled in the class, more than the target 14. Preparations are already being made for the summer classes when graphic novel students will become teachers themselves in their local communities.



Figure 1 Students at an activities class in the Old City.

General Programs overview:

In January and February, 2011, a total of **11 international volunteer instructors** taught language and activities classes with Project Hope for most of the month. In addition to international volunteers, a total of **22 local volunteers** taught, assisted with and organized activities. Local and international instructors taught a range of **16 different subjects** including six levels of English language courses, conversation, professional English, French, French Activities, art, film, photography, winter activities, blogs and sports. Volunteers taught a total of **1165 children, youth and adults** (down slightly from the Nov.-Dec. number of 1278, when there were more volunteer). During this reporting period, Project Hope organized classes and activities for **32 centers**, including **3 refugee camps** (Balata, Old and New Askar) and **4 villages and Towns** (Jneid, Zawata, Azmout, and Tulkarm). The volunteers came from **6 different countries** (Australia, France, Ireland, Norway, South Africa, the UK, and the US.). The ages of volunteers ranged from 21-70 years old.

Statistical Overview:

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Average Class Size
English :	965	58	17
French :	58	6	10
Activities :	94	8	12
Blogs:	48	6	8
Total:	1165	78	15

Locations:	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Old City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes:	13	30	5	19	11
Centers:		16	2	10	4

Note: Classes for UNRWA refugee students at are counted here under refugee camp classes.

Ratio of Female/Male = 575/590 (49% female, 51% male.)

Ratio of children/youth/adults = 789 children/112 youth /264 adults (78% children and youth.)

Paid/Non-paying students: 121/1044 = 90% non-paying students.

New Initiatives in January & February:

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- The Graphic Novel project officially launched in January.
- The English Language Center officially opened in January.
- English language classes at Project Hope began using Oxford University Headway books as its curriculum.
- Project Hope Nablus hired a new English language assistant for the enhanced English language program.
- The Net Café and computer lab were moved, along with the office, to its new, larger location.
- Two new blog classes from Balata started.
- New computer classes for kids, and computer programming classes for youth were started – classes are free, with children from refugee camps receiving free transportation to the classes.
- An art teacher from Australia began teaching art activities classes in villages.
- A former attorney from the US taught professional English classes for a lawyer's syndicate.
- A volunteer from the US began teaching film and photography courses, and began making video profiles of volunteers.
- A special Winter Activities camp was held for children at the Childhood Cultural Center.
- A two-week film project was conducted for B2W students in Balata during their break.

Community Outreach, Events and Special Guests:

- Mr. Naseer Arafat gave a presentation to volunteers on the architectural history of Nablus, including its classical origins and more recent damage during the intifada.
- Mr. Dawoud Hamoudeh, from the Stop the Wall campaign, gave a presentation on the separation barrier and barriers to creating a viable and contiguous Palestinian state.
- Volunteers took a group of children on a field trip to the Freedom Theatre in Jenin to see a performance of Alice in Wonderland.
- Project Hope volunteers participated in an Open Day at the Faculty of Engineering at an-Najah University, presenting our activities and the cultures represented by our international volunteers.
- Project Hope received a delegation from the Office of the Canadian Representative to the Palestinian Authority and the Canadian International Development Agency.
- Project Hope attended the launch of the Nablus governorate's strategic plan.
- Haneen Masri accepted an award of recognition from the Nablus Municipality for the English training we provided to their employees, including our work at the Women's Corner.
- Project Hope received a delegation from the Nablus-Lille twinning association, and the Jalboun-Bage twinning association in France.
- The new EAPPI team was received at the PH center.



Figure 2 A Volunteer with kids on a fieldtrip.

Appendix 1: Geographic Coverage

Local partner centers where Project Hope classes and activities are conducted

In the months of January and February Project Hope cooperated with 32 local partner centers around Nablus, the refugee camps, and outlying areas. The centers were as follows:

Nablus City

1. Al-Manhal (Rafidia)
2. Child Cultural Center CCC (Old City – Municipal Center)
3. Disabled Union (Faisal Street)
4. French Cultural Center (Next to Project Hope)
5. Hamdi Manko (Municipal Center)
6. Islamic School
7. Itihad Orphange (Itihad Hospital)
8. MCRC (Old City)
9. Nablus Boys School (UNRWA)
10. Nablus Girls School (UNRWA)
11. Women’s Corner (Municipal Center)
12. Women’s Working Association (Rafidya)
13. Women’s Working Department (Ministry of Waqf)
14. Women Committee for Social Work
15. Lawyers Syndicate
16. Medical Relief
17. Kroom Ashour
18. Palestinian Women Club

Villages/Outlying Areas

1. Al-Jneed Village
2. Tulkarem Community Center (Tulkarem)
3. Zawata Village Council (Zawata)
4. Azmout Village

Askar – Refugee Camp

1. Askar Girls School (UNRWA)
2. As-Safeer (New Askar)
3. Disabled Committee (New Askar)
4. Social Development Center (New Askar)

Balata – Refugee Camp

1. Balata Girls School (UNRWA)
2. Balata Boys School (UNRWA)
3. Happy Childhood Center
4. Jamaseen
5. Local Committee for the Disabled - Balata
6. Mweleh



Figure 3 Children's activity class.