

2012

Bimonthly Report

May, June and July



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Children showing their masks at Red Crescent Summer Camp

PROJECT HOPE has had another very fun and work-filled summer here in Nablus. Looking back, the amount of classes and outreach that our volunteers have achieved is outstanding. Over the months of May, June and July, we have had 33 volunteers working with us from many different parts of the world, a slight increase from the 25 volunteers in April and June 2011. During the summer, our volunteers were recruited to travel to different summer camps which are set up and established within Nablus and the surrounding areas. Working in these summer camps means that our classes and projects could reach a huge amount of children over a short space of time. The summer activities focused on fun games while also incorporating activities that can develop certain skills.

An exciting new partnership was formed this summer with Nablus-based NGO Music Harvest. **MUSIC HARVEST** is a non-profit independent charity that recruits international volunteers to teach music in under-resourced communities of the Middle East. The project began in 2010 when a great need for music teachers unmasked itself in [Nablus](#), Palestine. Music Harvest believes that if it can equip one generation of children with the passion and skill that music inspires, a seed will be sown amongst the local community that will reap a harvest for every generation to come. With Music Harvest, we are trying to create an accessible and welcoming space in our office where young Nabulsi's can come, learn and express themselves freely - be it through art exhibitions, poetry readings, theatre, music or dance.

Summary: This summer Project Hope worked at different summer camps, one of which was a camp

for deaf children. This particular camp included classes in art drama and dance. One of the volunteers put on a short play at the end of the camp with these children and it was a great success. Another volunteer taught a hip hop dance class for the deaf children. A French football teacher volunteered with us this summer teaching university students at the Nablus stadium. An American volunteer taught yoga to a group of older housewives, promoting well-being and self awareness of the body and its movements. A peace-building project was led by an American volunteer for kids in the Balata Refugee camp. These classes encouraged the children to work on the interpersonal skills, on gaining confidence and a good feeling. Furthermore, Project Hope organised camps for children in the age between 9 and 10 in villages such as Beit Forik (teaching arts and painting), Aserah (teaching English and arts) and Bureen (teaching English). In addition, a Summer Camp on arts, photography and sports was organised in the Old City.

The numbers of students enrolled in our **English program** decreased in comparison with the same period in 2011, from 1173 (2011) to 838 students (2012). Main reasons for this was a significant increase of students participating in our other activities (up from 618 in 2011 to 1372 in 2012), due to changes in the demands of our partner centres and our summer camps, which mainly revolved around fun games and.

Our **French program** recorded some very strong numbers, with 13 volunteers teaching 702 students, a significant increase from May and July 2011, when we taught 164 students. Main reason for this increase was a huge influx of volunteers being able to teach French at Project Hope.

Eight Music Harvest volunteers have been giving introductory music classes in four different summer camps around Nablus. These include the following: the Red Crescent, the Children's Cultural Centre, the Multipurpose Community Resource Centre and the Women's Programme Centre in Balata. These camps have focused on introductory music classes for children between the ages of 6 and 14. The volunteers work in pairs to run workshops with groups of around 15-20 children. The objective of these classes was to introduce the children to music and create interest through activities - singing and rhythmic - all the while aiming to teach the fundamentals of music.



One of our volunteers at our summer camp in the Old City

Music Harvest volunteers, alongside Project Hope Drama teacher, have been working with a group of young teenage kids on staging a Showcase of music and drama. The performances included short pieces of drama, musical numbers, and singing, acting and dancing, showcasing what the group has worked on during this project. A video of the performances can be found on the Music Harvest [Facebook-page](#).

In May, the third **Graphic Novels Program** was launched. For the second time, the classes are being led by Dr. Ustaz Ahmad, Professor at An-Najah National University in Nablus. Fourteen university students of the An-Najah National University in the age of 19-20 have been selected for the program. All of these students are following a graphic design or drawing/painting course at An-Najah National University. In the workshop of Dr. Ahmad, they are introduced to several techniques of graphic novel design. Subsequently, they choose a technique that suits them in order to draw their graphic novel. According to Dr. Ahmad, the workshop is a powerful way to reinforce the self-confidence of the students, while the creation of graphic novels also enhances the open-mindedness of the students. All students are expected to produce a six page long graphic novel story. Furthermore, they have been divided into four groups to teach the art of graphic novels to adolescent youth in 10 locations, educating a future generation of new graphic novelists.

Activities for volunteers: Alongside teaching, there were many activities arranged for the volunteers including sports, music events, talks and lectures and small trips. The volunteers attended a concert in An-Najah University. This was a jazz trio from Russia led by the talented Daniel Kramer on piano.

They also attended a concert in An-Najah of the Ramallah Orchestra presented by Al-Kamandjati. Project Hope gave screenings of several films in the French Cultural Centre – Arna’s Children // Paradise Now // Gaza War // Ajami // Somoud – for the volunteers. The volunteers were invited to attend a party in Balata Refugee camp to celebrate children from the camp graduating from school. The volunteers were also invited to attend a football match between the Electricity Union team and the Ministry of Health team (Ministry of Health won by 5 goals to 1!). Irish volunteers were invited to travel to Jerusalem to attend a party there given by the Representative of Ireland. A lecture was given to the volunteers about ‘life under occupation’. Saed Abu Hijlih spoke to volunteers another evening about the BDS movement. Also, the volunteers attended a special show at the Nablus Circus School at An-Najah. This circus school was initiated and set up by a previous volunteer with Project Hope, so it was nice to see it in action, doing a wonderful job with local children.

General Programs overview:

In May, June and July, 2012, a total of **33 international volunteer instructors** taught 313 language and activities classes with Project Hope. In addition to international volunteers, a total of **24 local volunteers** taught, assisted with and organized activities. Local and international instructors taught a range of **15 different subjects** including six levels of English language courses, conversation, professional English, French, French Activities, art, film, photography, blogs and sports. Volunteers taught a total of **2912 children**. During this reporting period, Project Hope organized classes and activities for **36 centers**, including **3 refugee camps** (Balata, Old and New Askar) and **7 villages and towns** (Al-Jneed, Azmout, Arabeh, Boreen, Beit Forik, Aserah, Tubas). The volunteers came from **12 different countries** (Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Philippines, Australia, the UK, and the US). The ages of volunteers ranged from 21 to 50 years old.

Statistical Overview

Subject	Number of Students	Number of Classes	Average Class Size
English :	838	129	6.5
French :	702	84	8.4
Other activities :	1372	149	9.2

Total:	2912	362	8.0
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Geographic Distribution

Locations:	Project Hope Center	Nablus City Centers	Old City Centers	Refugee Camp Centers	Village Centers
Classes:	36	129	35	111	51
Centers:		19	2	10	7

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

Ratio of Female/Male = 1634 (56%) / 1278 (44%)

Ratio of children/youth/adults = 2453 (84%) / 377 (13%) / 82 (3%)

Paid/Non-paying students: 30 (1%) / 2882 (99%)

New Initiatives in May, June and July:

Classes, Activities and Volunteers:

- The Graphic Novel project was officially launched in May.
- English language classes at Project Hope continued using Oxford University Headway books as its curriculum.
- Celeste presented the “Around the World program” at the Red Crescent association. The ‘Around the World program’ is about introducing the students to different countries and cultures.
- Giovanna taught photography classes in the Old City Summer Camp.
- Rachel taught arts and crafts in Red Crescent and Old City Summer Camp
- Pat taught drama to children in CCC.
- Bidy taught drama to children at CCC and Red Crescent association.
- Jasper taught games and sports in Red Crescent Association and Old City Summer Camp
- A program called “Peace Building Program” (dealing with children) was presented in Naher Oja association in Balata camp by Danielle.

- Arts and dancing basics were taught in Jneed centre by Joanne and Danielle. In addition, Matt taught sports classes there.
- Musical activities led by Bidy were organised at PH.
- Abdel Basit (France), who is a football trainer, volunteered in the Ministry of Youth and Sport at An-Najah National University in June.

List of partners

In the months of May, June and July, Project Hope cooperated with 36 local partner centres around Nablus, the refugee camps, and outlying are:

Nablus City

1. Child Cultural Center CCC (Old City – Municipal Center)
2. MCRC (Old City)
3. Women’s Working Department (Ministry of Waqf)
4. Medical Relief centre, Aserah street
5. Kroom Ashour, Yallo centre,
6. Palestinian Women Club, Najah street
7. Tanweeri centre, city centre
8. Jneed women centre, Jneed village
9. Charitable association, Al-Quds street
10. Red crescent association, Khalat Amoud street
11. Red crescent association, Aserah village
12. Mothers school, Beit forik village
13. Bilal Najar centre, Boreen village
14. Yallo centre, Azmout village
15. Sanabel school, Masakin street
16. Arabeh UNRWA school, Arabeh village
- 17- Al Wafa School,
- 18- Youth Rehabilitation centre, Amman Street
- 19 – Ittihad Orphanage, Asserah street
- 20 – Hajjeh Rashda
- 21- Choutokan

Villages/Outlying Areas

1. Al-Jneed Village
2. Azmout Village
3. Boreen village
4. Arabeh village
5. Beit forik village
6. Aserah village
7. Tubas village

Askar – Refugee Camp

1. Social Development Center (New Askar)
2. Mothers school, Askar camp
3. Women programs centre, Askar camp
4. Shams Amal Kindergarten, Askar Camp
5. Al-Safeer Centre, Aksar Camp

Balata – Refugee Camp

- 1-- Balata Girls school, Balata camp
- 2- Kofor saba Association, Balata camp
- 3- Naher oja centre, Balata camp
- 4- Al-Salaman centre, Balata camp
- 5 –Childhood Happiness Centre, Balata cam