

Section I:

b. The short-term goals of this project were to create a human rights cultural center in Hay Mohammadi, Casablanca and develop human rights workshops for local youth and educators while promoting cross-cultural dialogue between Western undergraduate students and Moroccan youth. The long-term goals of this project were to not only generate a culture of human rights and peace among Hay Mohammadi's youth, but also build sustainable relationships whereby undergraduate students could return to Morocco every summer in order to continue to facilitate workshops, tutor Moroccan youth, and engage in cross-cultural exchange.

c. The project's 11 undergraduate volunteers engaged in both individual and group fundraising efforts. These efforts ranged from funding their own participation in the project to campus bake sales and collecting book donations. Once in Morocco, volunteers also reached out to local American schools and centers informing them about both our work in Morocco and the conditions of the schools in Hay Mohammadi. These efforts resulted in thousands of books being donated to not only the school in which we built our center, but also other educational facilities in the area. The support for our work in both the US and Morocco served to not only help our efforts through material aid, but also served to reinforce our mission and motivate our team throughout the summer.

d. *Project in Action:* Although the project started with a detailed time-line outlining different phases of the project, I quickly realized that the team would need to creatively problem-solve how to make the best use of our time in light of unexpected school closings, contractors not showing up for work, and a million other unexpected scenarios. Our renovations for the human rights cultural center took most of the summer. Fortunately, however, we were able to secure other classrooms to use throughout the summer for our workshops, cross-cultural dialogue, and supplemental tutoring. All of the volunteers learned to quickly utilize their creative problem-solving skills and assume different roles as needed. Every morning we would wake up prepared to shift roles throughout the day from tutor, to dialogue facilitator, to mentor, to renovator, and to other roles as needed. We all learned quickly how to work like Moroccans in the Moroccan context with a positive attitude, flexibility, and good problem-solving skills. For example, when an overwhelming number of students showed up to participate in workshops, one volunteer used his booming voice and theatre experience to bring the 200 plus students into a circle in the courtyard for an impromptu game of head, shoulders, knees, and toes, while the other volunteers sorted students into manageably sized groups.

Difficulties: The two main difficulties we faced during our project were budget constraints and adjusting to working as a team in an environment where it is difficult to adhere to a fixed-schedule. Despite informed estimates on the cost of renovating, the cultural center did not take into account important considerations, such as security needs for the computer lab, and renovations ended up costing twice as much as budgeted.

Beneficiaries: This project benefited over 300 local students who were able to participate in activities lead by our volunteers, local teachers from the community, 11 undergraduate volunteers, and the greater Hay Mohammadi community.

Sustainability: Based on inquiries from other Lewis and Clark students and other undergraduate students from around the world, it seems that there will be a steady flow of volunteers to continue running full-scale workshops next summer. Furthermore, during the school year, the local community will have access to the center we renovated and the materials inside. In addition, I am currently in the process of

applying for fiscal sponsorship for our charitable program in order to provide a sustainable infrastructure for continued volunteer support by undergraduate students and their respective communities.

Section II:

Definition of Peace: Peace is a state in which people celebrate one another's differences and utilize their own positions of privilege to empower the disempowered, rather than losing sight of one another's humanity through difference and perpetuating inequalities.

Contributions to Peace: This project contributes to peace in both the long and short-term. This project contributes to peace in the short-term in a number of ways. First, this project enabled the creation of a human rights cultural center in Hay Mohammadi, which serves as a safe space for local youth where they can access a library and computers, receive supplemental education, and gain leadership skills. Second, this project gave undergraduate students the opportunity to develop a human rights curriculum for workshops and relevant foreign language curriculum. These efforts allowed the volunteers to impart leadership skills onto local youth and target strategic focus areas of supplemental education to help keep local youth in school. For example, according to the educators we worked with in Hay Mohammadi, the Moroccan educational system requires students to pass every class, including French; otherwise, they have to repeat the entire year and students will often drop-out rather than repeat the year. Furthermore, in impoverished areas, like Hay Mohammadi, students have a high level of illiteracy in French, because their parents are often not conversant in French and they have less exposure to French media. Therefore, by providing free French tutoring the project's volunteers were able to help students pass their exams and stay in school. Third, the project fostered cross-culture understanding between Moroccan and American students, which they were then able to bring back to their respective communities. Our cross-cultural dialogues allowed American undergraduate volunteers to answer a variety of questions from the Moroccan students including, "Don't all Americans hate Islam?" The project's undergraduate volunteers also had the opportunity to design their own follow-on projects to share their experiences over the summer with their home communities upon their return, in order to redress some of the misconceptions about what it is like to live and work in the Arab world. These projects ranged from more formal community presentations to photography exhibitions. This project's long-term contributions to peace also include; the promotion of a culture of human rights and peace among Hay Mohammadi's youth, the further economic and social integration of the population through skills that increase access to higher education and employment, and aiding Morocco's progress towards the MDG's related to universal literacy and gender equality.

Personal Impact: The opportunity to design and implement this project has taught me how much difference a small group of idealist, motivated, undergraduate students can truly make in the world. In addition, I have learned how powerful collaborative development projects based on local guidance and ownership can be in fostering strong cross-cultural relationships.

Personal Statement:

"This project taught me that a network of change makers exists throughout the world, and if you reach out to one another, then you can collaboratively build projects to change the world and create opportunities for others to give back. Building a human rights cultural center in Morocco during the Arab Spring allowed a team of undergraduate students and local leaders to not only provide a safe space for empowering future generations, but also allowed us to work together to deconstruct a post-9/11 perceived East-West divide." -Samantha Stein

Tools for Tolerance: Human Rights Education in Casablanca, Morocco
Morocco
Lewis and Clark College
Samantha Stein, USA, Lewis and Clark College



Tools for Tolerance, Morocco Volunteers with local teachers in Hay Mohammadi designing curriculum.



Tools for Tolerance, Morocco Volunteers with the head of the local parent teachers association with a painting depicting the power of a community to keep children in school through extracurricular activities.



Tools for Tolerance, Morocco volunteers organize books for the Human Rights Cultural Center's library.