



HAL FAR OUTREACH

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Authors:
Cristina Agius,
Ambra Anselmo,
Kim Hegger,
Clara-Lou Michal,
Leslie Schembri,
Alessia Vecchio and
Sinead Walsh

Design:
Sabela Rubio
Caamano

Contents

Preface and Overview of 2021	3
Special Thanks	3
Our work in 2021	5
English Classes	5
Language Cafe	7
Distributions and Donations - Free Shop	8
Information Centre	10
Information Leaflet	11
Sports	12
Balzan Kids' Summer Camp	13
Financial Report 2021	14
Future Plans	16
Computer Literacy Program	16
Malta Migrants' Befriending Project	16

Preface and Overview of 2021

The year 2021 proved to be another challenging year with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacting all of our projects. Hal Far Outreach's team was quick to adapt our basic services to go online during 2020, maintaining them throughout 2021 and supplementing them with in person services where necessary. This was an obstacle that the organisation had to work tirelessly to overcome, as ensuring everyone's safety was our priority. We had to continuously adjust to the changing health regulations, which was particularly challenging when we did not have a space where to offer our services. Despite these challenges we remained committed to providing outreach to the migrant communities especially during such difficult times.

Hal Far Outreach's aim remains to act as a bridge between the migrant communities and the Maltese society. Throughout this year we continued providing services that were essential to the migrant communities as well as introduced new services and activities requested by the migrant communities themselves. This report will outline our main projects together with our future plans. We are pleased to have continued our Language and Information provision and we are proud to have opened our own Free Shop. In 2022 we look forward to further developing our educational services through the Computer Literacy Program as well as to helping

create opportunities for interactions between the local population and the migrant communities with our Befriending Program.

We would like to take this moment to thank all of our donors and partners for their support throughout this year. We extend our gratitude to our fantastic team of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year. We have been truly honoured to interact with members of the Hal Far community and look forward to the future.

Special Thanks

As an NGO we are always amazed by the support and generosity we receive from the general public and other organisations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who in some way or another contributed to the work of Hal Far Outreach.

We wish to extend our gratitude to UNHCR for sponsoring a number of our projects and supporting our work. Thanks to them we are able to grow our projects and develop further as an organisation.

We would also like to thank the Franciscan Capuchins at Kalkara, who offered HFO a space within their convent to be used as a storage space, and the Naxxar Parish Church for providing a space within the parish office to serve as a drop-off point. Thanks to their continuous help, we are able to expand our donation collection

capacity and distribute more items to the Hal Far residents.

A special thanks goes to the Birzebbuga Parish Church who kindly offered us a space to house our Free Shop and made the project possible. Thanks to their generosity we are able to distribute clothing in a safe and secure manner. We thank the Birzebbuga community for welcoming us and look forward to working together in the future.

We would also like to thank the Migrants Commission for their valued help and opportunities to collaborate. We look forward to working with them and are grateful for their continuous support.

Furthermore, we thank Blue Door English and Integra Foundation for their valued partnership in providing English lessons to asylum seekers and refugees on the island.

For their help with the Computer Literacy Program, we wish to extend our gratitude to Agara, a local NGO for their crucial technical work that is essential for us to be able to deliver our Computer Literacy Program.

We are grateful to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Malta, Integra Foundation and Kopin as they continue to provide support and advice for any queries that are raised through our Information Centre.

For their support with our sporting activities, we wish to thank Spark15 and look forward to collaborating with them in the future. We thank Aditus Foundation and MOAS for their continued support and collaboration throughout the year.

Furthermore, we wish to thank the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) for their collaboration that enables us to deliver projects within the Open Centres in Hal Far.

To the individuals and companies who have donated to Hal Far Outreach, we are eternally grateful for your contributions. It is thanks to your support that we are able to continue our work.

We feel truly blessed to have a remarkable group of volunteers making up Hal Far Outreach. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication.

Finally, we thank the community of Hal Far who are at the centre of Hal Far Outreach. We are continuously inspired and motivated by the communities' experiences, friendships and resilience.



Our work in 2021

English Classes

Hal Far Outreach offers free English lessons for the residents of the Malta's Open Centres in Hal Far. The lessons are held on a weekly basis and focus on all the components of language learning: reading, writing, listening and speaking. They are uniquely tailored to the English that migrants require for the processes, forms and daily situations they will encounter in Malta and abroad. For example, lessons incorporate themes such as registering for a bus pass and using ferries. Furthermore, they address pressing work and livelihood related concerns. One of the lessons teaches how to create a CV, and another entitled "Know Your Rights" addresses maternity and paternity leave, annual and sick leave as well as the rights of tenants.

Hal Far Outreach teachers are trained in cultural competency, sensitivity and flexibility. They are guided by this curriculum while tailoring the lessons to each unique group. Teachers begin each course by asking students what their goals are to ensure the most relevant and meaningful experience. They additionally conduct weekly assessments through homework and adapt the next lesson to review areas that need attention. Finally, teachers aim to make the lessons as interactive as possible and frequently use conversational activities and role-plays.

These lessons were originally designed to be held in-person within the biggest Open Centre, Hal Far Tent Village (HTV). Due to COVID-19, in March 2020 Hal Far Outreach

was compelled to suspend its in-person classes. To ensure continued access to language education while accommodating public health and safety guidelines, the Language Project Manager transitioned all formerly in-person classes to an online synchronous format in April 2020. Providing these classes maintains English exposure and improves the language level of students who were enrolled in classes with Hal Far Outreach. Without this option to bridge the gap until in-person classes can resume, students may fall back in their language level or lose connection with their teacher and peers. When COVID-19 restrictions are eased and NGOs regain access to the center, allowing physical classes to resume, students can seamlessly transition to in-person meetings with trusted people and familiar coursework. As such, providing online classes prevents disruption and fosters the overall sustainability of English courses for Hal Far camp residents.

The Winter 2021 semester began in January 2021 with twenty-nine (29) enrolled students enrolled in one of four courses:

- 1 level one men's course
- 1 level one women's course
- 1 level two minor's course
- 1 level two men's course

In order to support building a fundamental English level for a greater number of residents, Hal Far Outreach transitioned to ten-week semesters in 2021. The organisation accordingly developed unique curriculums for level one and level two courses based on the Cambridge Four Corners Level 1 textbook. Taking the

feedback survey results into account, the new ten-week curriculum includes both a mid-term and a final assessment to track progress and identify topics that need review. As in the 2020 semester, Certificates of Completion will be conferred based on participation and attendance.

The Spring semester began in April 2021 with 44 students enrolled. This semester 7 weekly classes were held, including the implementation of a pre-beginners Literacy course. Other classes included:

- Pre-Beginners Literacy course
- 2 X A1 level Men's course
- A1 Level Minors course
- A2 Level Men's course
- A2 Level Minor's course
- Women's course

Due to the continuation of the Covid-19 situation, all classes were held virtually via Zoom. 12 students attended over 70% of the course and therefore passed.

The third semester of the year went from July to October with 13 students enrolled in 4 classes:

- A1 men's course
- A2 men's course
- A1 minors course
- Women's course

7 students attended over 70% of their classes.

The fourth semester of the year commenced with one class in December:

- A1 men's course

Additionally, Hal Far Outreach has improved the quality of these online courses by securing a grant provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malta. This funding, amounting to nearly 9,000 Euros, was used to purchase 70 tablets and accessories (tablet cases, charging ports, sanitizing wipes) to loan to students for their English lessons, as well as stationery and headsets for enrolled students. This initiative expands the accessibility of English courses and enhances their quality by providing a working device to those students who otherwise face barriers in attending the lesson.

New students are recruited to join the English classes via open calls on social media, word-of-mouth among current students and through Hal Far Outreach's other activities.



Language Cafe

Hal Far Outreach offers a weekly online Language Café for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Malta, and with an emphasis on the residents of the Hal Far centers. The Language Café is on a drop-in basis and promotes a non-formal, mutually supportive language-learning experience which aims to foster community-building and community empowerment.

Through language games, information provision, conversational role plays and discussions via Zoom, the Language Café aims to bring people together, despite different cultures, different languages, different experiences, and especially in times of the pandemic, despite physical separation. Whilst the basis of the sessions is in language attainment and conversational practice, the layout and content of the Language Café sessions are continuously adapted based on the results, wishes and needs expressed by the attendees. Previous Language Café sessions have covered topics and activities ranging from practicing job interviews and CV writing to doing groceries and buying clothes in Malta, from classic and contemporary literature to geography, and from cultural exchanges to game nights.

After a brief delay at the beginning of the year due to COVID-restrictions, the Language Café has held sessions every Sunday amounting to a total of 36 language café sessions in 2021. Whilst the Language Café has welcomed a wide variety of attendees, it has been able to provide a safe space for those attending to build connections amongst the community. Weekly feedback sessions and quarterly

anonymous feedback reports have supported these experiences, with responses indicating that the attendees felt heard and understood in their wishes and interests, as well as felt comfortable with the volunteers of Hal Far Outreach and, above all, with each other.

The Language Café originally had funding to continue online sessions until at least summer of 2021. Hal Far Outreach was happy to have its funding extended, which allows the Language Café to remain online until the end of 2021. At the moment, Hal Far Outreach is exploring options to hopefully soon offer both in-person Language Cafés in Hal Far and online Language Cafés for the wider refugee community in Malta, with separate sessions for women.

Email: info@halfaroutreach.org | www.halfaroutreach.org

Distributions and Donations - Free Shop

Throughout 2021 Hal Far Outreach continued to work to distribute essential items to the residents of the Hal Far centre and the migrant community. As the pandemic persisted, HFO had to look for alternative ways to distribute items to the community in a safe and secure manner. Therefore, the idea of a Free Shop came to be. The plan for the Free Shop was to find a space that could be set up as a shop and give out appointments for individuals to come at a set time to avoid overcrowding and ensure everyone's safety.

We were fortunate enough to be lent a space for a few months in Qajjenza, Birzebbuga by the Birzebbuga Parish Church. The space consisted of a 3 car garage turned into a parish centre that was set up for mass and catechism classes which have not been held for the past year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The team started working on transforming the space from a classroom set-up to a shop set-up. This required equipment such as tables, shelving and racks that were either donated or brought by us. Information leaflets and posters were also displayed around the shop to give out necessary information.

For the Free Shop to work we required a great amount of clothing stock. We published a call at the end of 2020 that was received greatly and therefore managed to collect a stock of clothes that enabled us to set up the Free Shop. This donation call remained open while we set up drop-off points in Kalkara and Naxxar to ease the

process of collection. Through the Free Shop we were continuously giving out clothing and therefore we needed a continuous inflow of donations. Thanks to the drop off points and the generosity of the public, we were able to distribute a substantial number of donations every week.



The Free Shop first opened on the 20th of February, 2021, consequently opening every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday from 10am until 4pm. There were around 3 to 4 volunteers present each time to assist the visitors and keep the shop organised. Each day had around 25 appointments booked in, having 2 appointments per 30 minute time slot. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions the shop had to close on the 10th of March 2021. It reopened again on the 1st of May 2021 when the restrictions were lifted. Each day saw

around 25 visitors, some days being busier than others, with the demand and number of appointments decreasing over the summer months. Walk-ins were also accepted, as some residents would not have a phone to book appointments. Unfortunately, the Free Shop closed on the 7th of August 2021 when the space was needed for its original purpose. The Free Shop had around 500 visitors in total and distributed an estimate of around 6000 items.

The Free Shop's main purpose is to distribute clothing safely, and it has done so successfully through the system that was set-up. However, the Free Shop also became a point of reference for many of its visitors. The volunteers present at the shop were equipped with the required knowledge to supply the residents with the services they require. Information leaflets and posters were displayed around the shop to give out necessary information.

Although the Free Shop was closed, work in the area of distribution continued throughout the rest of the year. The distribution team worked hard to organise the clothing stock that remained and distribution was carried out on an ad-hoc basis at Hal Far itself. Throughout the months of October and November, volunteers went to Hal Far and distributed clothing to the residents from their cars. This was then put on hold due to the rising COVID-19 cases.



Information Centre

The Information Centre is a drop-in centre that used to operate through the periphery of the John XXIII Peacelab in Hal Far. Hal Far Outreach offered information and support through the Peacelab, twice per week on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 09:30 until 13:30.

As of the end of December 2020 our working relationship with the Peacelab came to an end as we were asked to move out so the premises could go through a refurbishment. This created a major obstacle for the Information Centre as without the premises the offered services were hindered and made more difficult to deliver.

During 2021, volunteers from the Information Centre still made themselves available to our beneficiaries by going to Hal Far, talking to people on the streets and offering help with the drafting of CVs, assisting with applications for bus cards, offering general advice on job searches and work permits, and making referrals to other NGOs and governmental services.

The way in which such services were delivered had to be slightly altered as the lack of space presented barriers of different sorts however through innovation and commitment such services were still offered.

CVs had to be drafted by hand, typed by the volunteers upon their return home and delivered back to the beneficiaries in soft and hard copies. Assistance with job searches was limited to mobile use as the use of laptops was no longer possible on the streets.

The most significant obstacle faced by the Information Centre since the above mentioned change, was that beneficiaries were finding it more difficult to access our services since they were used to calling the Peacelab. Without a physical office in Hal Far where the beneficiaries in need of our services could call, new clients' requests have greatly decreased.

During the final weeks of the year, Hal Far Outreach was given permission to deliver our Information Centre services from inside the Open Centre in Hal Far. Therefore, the appropriate preparations are being made to start delivering such services and overcome the obstacles that were faced during 2021.



Email: info@halfaroutreach.org | www.halfaroutreach.org

Information Leaflet

Hal Far Outreach is developing a comprehensive information leaflet for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees living in Malta. This handbook will include all the basic, necessary and need-to-know information for living in Malta. For example, it includes information on access to education, housing opportunities, health services, and employment.

Since the beginning of the year 2020, Hal Far Outreach has integrated an EU-funded project as an Associate partner. This project entitled "Refugee's Inclusion Moves Europe (RIME)" gathers several European organisations, a university and different foundations from Greece, Sweden, Italy, France and Malta. The RIME Project is based on Le Guide du Réfugié (The Refugee's Guide), a French-produced illustrated handbook intended for refugees and including all basic information needed to navigate all aspects of asylum seeking in France. Hal Far Outreach was inspired by this guide because it was created for and with the inclusive and direct participation of refugees, a specification that is in line with our values to always base our projects on the needs of the beneficiaries. It is for this reason that Hal Far Outreach decided to take part in this project.

The overall goal of the RIME project goes beyond the creation of an illustrated leaflet. As a matter of fact, the RIME project aims at developing tools adapted to the inclusion of refugees in Europe. To achieve this aim the project will consist of: developing training courses to enhance the skills of adults working to support and include refugees, building a methodological matrix

for the creation of refugee guides adaptable in all European countries and producing a comicstrip database which can be used for pedagogical purposes.

During this year, Hal Far Outreach conducted interviews with asylum seekers to collect accurate and up-to-date information for the leaflet. Our team believes that no one knows better how to use these services than those who are in fact using these services. The team is currently working on extracting the relevant data to put it in a comprehensive format.

In parallel, Hal Far Outreach conducted three interviews with migrants and refugees for the comic book at the request of our partner organisation, Lai-Momo. Lai-Momo used these interviews to sketch stories which were validated by our team and Ethics Officer.

Hal Far Outreach participated in the third transnational meeting organised in July 2020 over Zoom. During the meeting, all partner organisations discussed their individual progress on the project and shared their questions and remarks.

Email: info@halfaroutreach.org | www.halfaroutreach.org

Sports

In the last few months of the year, Hal Far Outreach brought back its sports project. Our aim is to develop a sporting network whereby Hal Far Outreach will act as liaison between the migrant community and sporting groups/team to be able to link the migrants with their desired sports. Furthermore, Hal Far Outreach has also

formed its own casual football team made up of asylum seekers. This football team attended a tournament organised by Spark15 on November 7th 2021. As Covid restrictions continue to ease, HFO will aim to organise more sporting events that are a fun and effective way of bringing communities together.



Balzan Kids' Summer Camp

Together with the Migrants Commission, Hal Far Outreach organised a Kids' Summer Camp at the Hal Balzan Open Centre. The summer camp ran through the month of September and was held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The aim of the Summer Camp was to organise activities for both children and mothers to be able to engage with the residents of the Open Centre. The Hal Balzan Open Centre falls under the responsibility of the Migrants Commission and we were invited to collaborate with them on this project.



Preparation for this project started in July and Hal Far Outreach was responsible for the collection of the items needed for the activities and also aided with the recruitment of volunteers. The call for materials was done through our social media and was greatly received. The appeal for volunteers was also successful as the Migrants' Commission managed to recruit around 20 individuals for this project. Hal Far Outreach volunteers were also present for the activities themselves. The activities were held outside and masks were worn by the volunteers and the mothers at all times to ensure everyone's safety during the ongoing pandemic.

The volunteers would gather at around 5pm at the Balzan Open Centre and slowly the children and mothers would join in. The idea was to create a fun atmosphere for the children and allow the mothers to do an activity for themselves. Each session welcomed around 10-15 children to be entertained by the volunteers present. The activities were organised by the volunteers themselves and these ranged from wall painting, water games and crafts. Another set of volunteers would organise a separate activity for the mothers, and these included art and crafts, gardening and nail art. Dar Hosea, an NGO which provides care for vulnerable women, joined for a session of jewellery making for the mothers. The last day included a party, where there was music, food and games. All the volunteers were invited to join as an opportunity to close off the successful summer camp.

Financial Report 2021

Revenue		2021 Year	% of total amount	
	1.a Opening balance (cash from 2020)		€ 1,393.20	9%
	1.b Opening balance as In Kind of donation (from 2020 - restricted by UNHCR)	2x Lenovo Notebook LN V145-15AST, 2x ScanFX Jedel CP72 USB Optical Mouse , 1x HP DeskJet 2620 AiO Wireless Printer 1x Viewsonic PA503S SVGA HD DLP 3D Projector , 1x 2TB Seagate Maxtor MS Portable External Hard Drive) 60x Alcatel Tablet 7 Inch 19GB 3G LTE , 60x Protecting Cases + 60x Screen Protectors, 12x Sanitary Wipes, 60x notebooks ,60x pens,60x pencils	€4,000	25.95%
	1.c. Opening balance as In kind donation (from 2020)	1 bicycle + Language books + 1 used projector + memorial stone + 2used phones +Soccer equipment + T-shirts + 1 conference Mic+printer	€ 3,000	19.46%
	2.a Cash donation 2020 (unrestricted)		€3,024.15	19.63%
	2.b Services in-kind donation 2021	technical expertises by Agara (resorting 30 laptops), provision of a venue from February 2021 to August 2021 (Fr Anton - Parrocca Birzebuga),	€ 3,000	19.46%
	3. a Equipment - In-kind donation 2021 (unrestricted)	30 laptops, Metal bookshelf, Portable AC	€ 1,000	6,50%
Total			€ 15,417.35	100%
Expense total amount		2021 Mid-year	% of	
General Administrative (subscription zoom and licenses -Techsoup- mobile expenses		€385.49	39.14%	
Supplies - Consumables Stationery and english classes		€ 255.38	25.93%	
Bank charges		€ 5	0.51%	

Email: info@halfaroutreach.org | www.halfaroutreach.org

Equipment (computers)	€ 338.95	34.42%
Total	<i>Euro 984.82</i>	<i>100%</i>

Asset 2021		
Cash over expenditure		€3,432.53
Equipment-Inventories		€8,000
Net surplus	€ 11,432.53	

Name of Administrator: Adele Ambra Paola Anselmo

Position: Treasurer

Date: 24.01.2022

Name of Administrator: Clara-Lou Michal

Position: Chairperson

Date: 24.01.2022

Future Plans

Computer Literacy Program

At the beginning of 2021, Hal Far Outreach was kindly donated 30 used devices. The majority of these were laptops, including some tablets. With this donation, Hal Far Outreach is now able to start the Computer Literacy Programs for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. During our outreach activities, namely those dealing with job search and CV writing, it was noted that many beneficiaries may possess certain job skills however they lack basic computer literacy to access employment. The aim of the computer literacy program is to equip the migrants with basic computer skills, such as the use of Microsoft Office and Programs, the use of emails and to give an overview of cybersecurity. The donated computers have been restored and updated by another local NGO, Agara. Currently the curriculum is being drafted with the aim of starting classes in 2022.



Malta Migrants' Befriending Project

Hal Far Outreach is excited to introduce our new befriending project which seeks to promote integration of asylum seekers into the Maltese society. We aim to achieve this through pairing citizens/long-term residents of Malta with asylum seekers on a one-to-one basis. Hal Far Outreach will facilitate several fun group events over the course of 6-8 months. This project will also give the volunteers an opportunity to experience cultural diversity through the provided training sessions. It allows the opportunity to form meaningful, life-long friendships that bridge together communities in Malta.