Summary of Maktabat al-Fanoos (Lantern Library) Survey 2016–2017

Maktabat al-Fanoos served about 90,000 children in 2016–2017, with each child receiving eight books, delivered to the classroom. Price Philanthropies and Keren Grinspoon Israel, who partner with the Ministry of Education in carrying out Maktabat al-Fanoos, commissioned a survey of teachers’ assessment of books used in the program in 2016–2017, teachers’ use of the program’s Facebook page, and sought to identify any delivery problems. The survey was conducted by random phone to 345 teachers throughout Israel (i.e. 12% of those in the program).

- By and large the teachers liked the books, with 75% of teachers ranking all the book their class received at the highest levels (4 and 5 on a scale of 1–5).

- The most popular books for the younger children were Mummy and Me (by Emma Chichester Clark) and The Mouse and the Apple (by Stephen Butler). The most popular books for the older children were Where Do I Go When I’m Angry (by Malak Abu-Raya), and Sa’ad’s New Haircut (by Olof and Lena Landstrom).

- Book delivery was largely smooth. Some 14% of teachers reported a problem with delivery, but in 96% of these cases, problems were solved -- usually by calling or emailing Maktabat al-Fanoos offices.

- 55% of the teachers said they were aware of the program’s Facebook page and looked at the page. Of those using Facebook, about 30% looked at program updates on Facebook at least once a week; the rest said they visited the page about once a month or less.

- Of those who did not use the Facebook page, 70% said it was because they do not have Facebook accounts; 12% said it was because they were not aware of the page, and 24% said it was due to lack of time. Only one teacher said she had no interest in seeing the Facebook page.