



Jarrah, the son of Zohair, is benefitting from the new water cistern.

Bringing water to people

How EWAS changes lives

Zohair, his wife and children constantly struggle against poverty. One of his biggest problems is ready access to clean, affordable water. Until now, he has had no direct access to running water. Purchasing water in small quantities is costlier than in larger amounts, and all Zohair has is a small plastic container. Also, he must walk long distances to a tanker and then wait in line for hours. EWAS arranged for the excavation of a water cistern for his family.

“Life is easier now,” Zohair explains. “Thanks to ANERA, we have a regular supply of water, which saves time and money. We don’t have to worry anymore.”

Under the EWAS project, ANERA excavated 30 cisterns in Majdal Bani Fadil alone. Construction is typically performed by local contractors, thus positively impacting the local economy.

ANERA

Creating opportunity and hope for people in the Middle East by improving health care, education and stimulating job creation.

ANERA – American Near East Refugee Aid – is a leading international non-governmental organization that provides humanitarian aid to Palestinians and other populations in need in the Middle East. We are an independent, apolitical and non-religious entity. Since 1968, ANERA has partnered with local groups in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan to work on education, health care, community and economic development projects. Our funding comes from private, public and corporate donors.

ANERA’s projects improve the quality of life for countless families by increasing agricultural production, expanding and improving domestic water supplies, and helping small, local businesses grow and thrive. We provide education scholarships and specialized postgraduate training, helping men, women, and children learn and find jobs.

ANERA also delivers emergency relief and ongoing support to health facilities that offer quality care and public health education. ANERA’s projects translate into growing economies, higher individual incomes, healthier families, and prospects for a better future in the Middle East.



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Front page photo: Boy fetching water in An Nuweimeh.



ANERA
AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

EWAS PROGRAM
Emergency Water and Sanitation Program



EWAS provides job opportunities where work is scarce.



Being able to wash your hands make a huge difference.



Children benefitting from better water in Jabalya.

Emergency Water and Sanitation Program

The EWAS program is a \$16.8 million program funded by USAID and implemented by ANERA. From August 2006 to September 2008, EWAS will respond to emergency needs concerning water and sanitation in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, short-term jobs are created for the local population in these poverty stricken areas. All EWAS projects are emergency responses in nature and will be of long-term benefit to the targeted communities.

Providing water

The daily amount of water available to Palestinians falls far below minimum levels set by the WHO. To address this situation, ANERA expands and rehabilitates existing water networks. After one year, more than 19,500 households are now enjoying access to clean water at a reasonable price. The immediate impact is evident: cost for water is reduced and sanitation standards improved.

Discharging sewage

Only 12% of Palestinian villages are connected to sewage networks. The EWAS program upgrades and expands sewage networks. Up to now, ANERA has connected about 30,000 households to local networks. These projects have reduced waterborne diseases because sewage is now being safely disposed.

Excavating rainwater collection cisterns

Only 69% of Palestinian communities are connected to a water network. Many villages are isolated and modern water services are not likely to reach them. In these cases, villages can collect rainwater, which after chlorination is fit to drink. So far, 140 cisterns have been created for poor Palestinian families through EWAS projects.

Improving water and sanitation in schools and clinics

Due to the current economic situation, schools and clinics do not have means to properly maintain toilets, sinks and water tanks. The EWAS program addresses these problems arising in the West Bank. Up to date, two clinics now have proper sanitation facilities in their examination rooms, so staff can wash their hands before treating patients.

Other EWAS projects focus on improving rainwater drainage systems and bringing water to people by tankers.

*“Water is the nerve system of our lives... Could we live without it?”
(beneficiary from Gaza)*

Accomplishments in one year

August 2006 - July 2007

- 865,000 people benefited from EWAS assistance
- 19,500 households now enjoy access to clean water at a reasonable price
- 30,000 households are connected to sewage networks
- 140 cisterns excavated for poor Palestinian families in the West Bank
- Two clinics now have water and sanitation facilities that allow health staff to wash their hands before they work
- Six communities have proper rainwater drainage systems in place
- 35,000 days of employment created in rural areas
- 100 projects commissioned in the West Bank & Gaza
- 98% of beneficiaries are very satisfied with the EWAS project in their neighborhood (mid-term evaluation, October 2007)