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ANERA *25* years of service Newsletter

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 114 Fall 1996

CHALLENGING VOCATION

When Dr. Lamis Abu-Nahleh transfixes interlocutors with her firm, inquisitive gaze, restrained passion vibrating in her voice, one is left in no doubt as to where she stands. If, perchance, you still don't get her drift, she will readily spell it out: "No society can be just, and no human or economic development even-spread and sustainable if women, who represent half of the population, are left behind, if their needs and aspirations are not addressed." Dr. Abu-Nahleh believes that, despite all the constraints and uncertainties of this transitional period, Palestinians have a golden opportunity to define the society they want for



Palestinian Women in the Education System: a Study

themselves by recognizing in women an engine for change.

As one of the founders of the Women's Studies Program at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, Dr. Abu-Nahleh is only too aware of how gender

perceptions (the way men and women perceive their different roles) are difficult to redress. At any latitude, to be sure, it takes more than a village. However, the village — the sense of reaching out to the community level — is all too often the missing link between policy and development. Dr. Abu-Nahleh set out to prove precisely this point with a two-year research project on how women fit in the vocational school and community college system (VETT) in the West Bank. Her aim was to contribute "informed research for policy formulation". She accepted to share some of her findings with ANERA.

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The Forgotten Refugees

"The Palestinian refugee situation in Lebanon is one of the most deplorable humanitarian situations in the region. With the attention of the international community being focussed on the West Bank and Gaza, the refugees in Lebanon seem to be forgotten," reported the Middle East Coordinator of the American Red Cross at a briefing to ANERA's Medical Committee.

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Donors Respond To Medical Emergencies

ANERA's latest appeal for emergency funds to help cash and supplies-strapped hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been very successful. The quick response of numerous donors made it possible to ship medical supplies worth \$500,000 to hospitals and clinics throughout the area.

Donations will replenish basic stocks that were depleted in the convulsive aftermath of the crisis triggered

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What was the most striking point that emerged from your research?

My research focussed both on the gender perceptions of 854 students, and the educational system's perspective on this issue. It emerged quite clearly that a majority of the interviewed men and women considered women's education as a basic or as a religious right. However, on the average, male students failed to see the connection between women's education and employment. In other words, they had no clear perception of how education should serve women other than making them better mothers. This perception is somehow re-enforced by the VETT system and its neglect in reaching out to students and their families. For example: when the PNA took charge of the educational system in 1994, it introduced some important innovations by upgrading the vocational curriculum and status and emphasizing non-traditional tracks such as land organization and engineering, hotel catering, fine arts, and physical education. Unfortunately, the schools often did not explain to the students and their families how women could take advantage of such courses. Thus, girls' parents were reluctant to enroll their daughters in the fine arts track fearing that the courses would teach them singing and dancing. Others did not understand that "land organization and engineering" does not lead to frequent trips in the countryside, but prepares students in laboratory analysis and in office-based work.

What are the consequences of this missed opportunity?

Basically women's energies are channeled into traditional fields that are closer to their reproductive role and away from the formal system of employment. This, and the lack of social security benefits, makes them more vulnerable to the vagaries of the economy and to the exploitation of middle-men. Some college deans are now trying, on their individual capacity, to promote women's enrollment by disseminating information in the remote villages, introducing quotas and career guidance, calling on successful professional women to act as role models for students. However, proper planning cannot be totally achieved in this blurry stage of our history. So far, the labor market to be served is undefined; the kind of economy to build is unclear; and overall, the kind of human society we want to establish is still in the air.

Would it not make sense, then, to draw from the educational experience of long-established grass-roots organizations?

Some form of cooperation and bridging of different experiences is certainly necessary if we don't want to have a replica of what has happened in the past 30 years. ■

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United Nations sources estimate that 60% of Palestinians in Lebanon now live below the poverty level. The percentage of hardship cases amongst Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is now the highest in the region. Six thousand refugee families are homeless due to the destruction of four refugee camps.

The issue of the Palestinians in Lebanon is on the agenda of the Oslo final status negotiations. The future looks dim. In the meantime their conditions continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate.

Most foreign remittances sent back to Lebanon by Palestinians working in the Gulf region stopped in the wake of the Gulf War. Lebanon's inflation has led to an increase in the hardship cases among the Palestinians and recent enforcement

of labor laws by the Lebanese government has made it difficult for them to find employment other than in the most menial jobs allowed to them. Under recent agreements, Syrian workers are replacing Palestinians and poor Lebanese in these jobs as well, including the many new jobs connected with the reconstruction of Beirut. To be sure, the PLO's departure from Lebanon eliminated the largest single employer of the refugees.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) continues to be the primary body responsible for the refugees. Though UNRWA has increased its budget for Lebanon in the past years, it cannot keep up with the needs of the Palestinian refugee population, especially in health and education, given the extraordinary demands for basic welfare assistance.



"No economic development is sustainable if women are left behind."

In this desperate scenario, organizations such as ANERA have a strong role to play. Thanks to your support, ANERA was able to make a grant of \$10,000 for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon this year through the Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps, in support of women's loan fund and job creation projects.

We are currently seeking donations to expand such grants. (Ellen Siegel, ANERA Medical Committee member co-authored this article) ■

Scholarship Information

If you would like to provide a one-year scholarship at one of the six schools in the ANERA scholarship program, please use the coupon on page 3.

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last September by the opening of a tunnel beside one of Islam's holiest places in Jerusalem. ANERA's gift will also contribute to upgrade services of hospitals and clinics in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by freeing up resources that can now be devoted to ameliorate medical treatment.

The positive reaction of ANERA's donors to medical emergencies was already tested earlier this year. Last April, in fact, your response to the bombing in Lebanon enabled ANERA to deliver an immediate cash grant to the Lebanese Red Cross. Your generosity also made it possible to send a shipment of medical and relief supplies to the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestinian Red Crescent, the organizations that took charge of the relief efforts.

In addition to our medical relief work and quick responses to emergencies, ANERA continues to develop long-term health projects in both rural and urban areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

APPRECIATING STOCKS...

Thanks to our many donors who have responded to the opportunity to make gifts of appreciated stocks to ANERA. These gifts are crucial for our work and have major tax advantages. Such gifts can be arranged by check or direct transfer. For further details please contact Nina Dodge, Director, Major Gifts.

The newest of these initiatives is the creation of a medical library at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in the Gaza Strip. Not only will the library provide Gazans with a modern — and sorely needed — research facility. It will also represent a uniquely imaginative approach to the development of local public health resources in an area where lack of access to them has always been prevalent. With this goal in mind dedicated library science specialists and medical professionals are joining ANERA's staff as volunteers to harness support for the Medical Library project. Stay tuned for further updates on this and other projects of ANERA Medical Committee. ■



ANERA's emergency relief shipment to Lebanon last June included a donation of supplies for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society's hospitals and clinics that helped replenish stocks depleted in the aftermath of last spring's bombing campaign in southern Lebanon.



Friends of Musa Alami

Since 1960, you have supported the projects established by the Palestinian lawyer and philanthropist Musa Alami. Under the management of the Arab Development Society (ADS) the vocational school for orphan boys in Jericho and the experimental farm which partially supported it have survived nearly fifty years of challenges. At present the Jericho farm continues to operate on a limited scale and the school remains in transition.

In the last few years, new ADS projects have been "on hold". The committee directed money raised in Musa's name to orphans in Gaza one year and subsequently for several years to provide office equipment for the Palestine National Authority offices in Jericho.

The committee is now dissolving itself as a separate committee. Future needs for the projects Musa established will be met, as with all other Palestinian projects, through the regular project grant process of ANERA.

We hope you will continue to support the broader programs of ANERA as we continue to help the Palestinians to help themselves through this exceedingly difficult and historic period.

*James V. Knight
Chairman, Musa Alami/ADS Committee*



YES, I want to help ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon

- ___ \$10,000 and above: Founders
- ___ \$5,000 to \$9,999: Builders
- ___ \$2,500 to \$4,999: Benefactors
- ___ \$1,000 to \$2,499: Sponsors
- ___ \$500 to \$999: Sustainers
- ___ \$250 to \$499: Creators
- ___ I have remembered ANERA in my will.

Contributions of \$250 or more to this year's Annual Fund will be recognized by category in ANERA's Annual Report (FY97). Further recognition opportunities exist for large, special project gifts.

- General Programs
- Gaza/West Bank Fund
- Lebanon Relief
- Scholarship:

I would like to provide a one year scholarship (\$100 per child) for a:

- Palestinian child
- Lebanese child
- School where need is greatest

Sponsors receive a photo of the child and letters from the child's school during the year.

___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$75 ___ \$50 ___ \$35 ___ \$25 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

G4.18

ANERA's Peace Plan: Looking Ahead

Through ANERA's monthly giving program, ANERA's Peace Plan, you can be a part of the solution to the currently troubled peace efforts in the Middle East. If you can contribute a modest monthly donation, please consider joining our electronic giving program. Your ongoing commitment will provide a steady, year-round stream of resources to support peace through ANERA's economic and community development, education, and health programs.

Here's how you can join. Decide how much you would like to contribute. Then send us the

coupon and your check for your first monthly gift. We take care of the rest. Each month your bank will automatically deduct the amount from your account and send it to ANERA. Donations will be clearly listed on your bank statement. Of course you are under no obligation. You can choose to change or cancel your donation at any time.

Not only does the plan make donating to ANERA quick and easy, it also helps to lower ANERA's administrative overhead costs.

You will be amazed at the difference a personal commitment like this can make. ■

Yes, I want to join ANERA's Peace Plan.

Here is my monthly gift of: \$54 \$36 \$27 \$14 \$10 Other \$ _____

I authorize my bank to transfer the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my bank statement and serve as my receipt. I understand that I may stop my contribution at any time, by contacting ANERA at 1522 K. St., NW Suite 202, Washington, DC 20005-1270, (202) 347-2558, or my bank.

Signature _____ Date _____

I have enclosed a check for my first monthly contribution, made payable to ANERA.



Memorial Funds

Many thanks to our donors for having several memorial funds established through ANERA to perpetuate the memory and work of persons deeply concerned with just and lasting peace in the Middle East. These funds, in memory of Munir Daoud, Henry O. Selz, Olga Mary Wilder and Joachim Zaucker made it possible to make grants for projects of special interest to these individuals and to expand ANERA's general program funds.

We are continuing to receive donations. For additional information about named memorial funds, and special gifts or recognition possibilities, please contact Nina Dodge, Director, Major Gifts.

ANERA Legacy Society

You can join ANERA Legacy Society (ALS) either on a named or anonymous basis, by including ANERA in your will or trust, or through other deferred gifts. Many thanks to our current ALS members. If interested in joining, please contact Nina Dodge.

ANERA

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At ANERA we are concerned about the proliferation of junk mail. However, mail is a very economical way to reach new people. For this reason we occasionally trade our mailing list with similar humanitarian organizations, although we never rent or sell our names. If you wish to have your name removed from this list, please let us know in writing.

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INSIDE:
ANERA
PROJECTS
1996.

25 years of service
ANERA

CHALLENGING VOCATION

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Dr. Peter Gubser, President

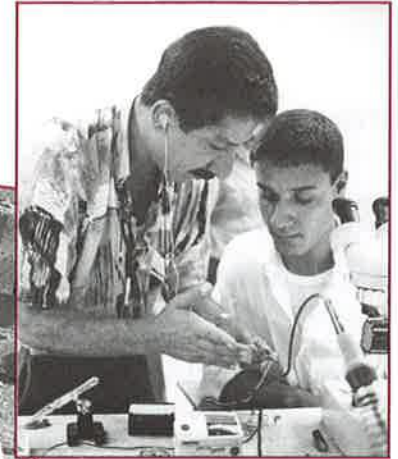
Jane W. Schweiker, Treasurer

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

A History of Service in the Middle East

PROJECT ACTIVITY 1996

In fiscal year 1996, (extending from June 1, 1995 through May 31, 1996), ANERA and its AMER Medical Division gave development assistance and relief aid totaling \$3,434,260 to local institutions providing economic and community development, education and health services, assistance for the poor and indigent, and related technical assistance and training to the Palestinians, Lebanese, Jordanians, and other civilians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel.



COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Grassroots Service and Urban Economic Projects

Partial funding for local non governmental organizations and other institutions which provide essential services: mother/child health care, food for the needy, literacy programs, vocational training for women, and job creation. These projects are with Arab Women's Union of Ramallah (West Bank), Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps (Beirut), Bethlehem Societies Committee for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (West Bank), Community Development Association (West Bank), Community Friends Society of El-Bireh (West Bank), EcoPeace (headquartered in Jerusalem), Free Thought and Culture Society (Gaza), Gaza Women's Loan Program (Gaza), Institut de Reeducation Audio-Phonetique (Lebanon), Jericho Municipality (West Bank), Kufr Nimeh Cooperative (West Bank), Al-Nahda Charitable Society (West Bank), Palestinian Olympic Gymnastics Committee (Gaza), Palestinian Non Governmental Organization (Jerusalem), Silwan Youth Club (West Bank), Suba Charitable Society (West Bank), Workshops for the Blind (West Bank).

\$428,090

Agricultural Projects: Irrigation, Credit, Extension, and Produce Marketing

Partial funding for revolving loan funds for poor farmers and irrigation, extension, and marketing systems. These projects are with Agricultural Credit Project, Al-A'uja Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), Al-Azhar University (Gaza), Bani-Naim Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), Baqqar Cooperative (West Bank), Beit Lahia Agricultural Cooperative (Gaza), Gaza Livestock Agricultural Cooperative (Gaza),

Hebron Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), Hebron Livestock Cooperative (West Bank), Hebron University (West Bank), Jayyous Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank), Jericho Livestock Cooperative (West Bank), Jericho Agricultural Cooperative Society (West Bank), Khan Younis Agricultural Cooperative (Gaza), Al-Nahda Livestock Cooperative (West Bank), Nwei'meh Village Council (West Bank), Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture — Extension Department, Ramallah Agricultural Marketing Cooperative (West Bank), Tulkarem Agricultural Cooperative (West Bank).

\$1,749,768

TOTAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$2,177,858

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Provision of training and consultants in agriculture, job creation, credit, health and education.

TOTAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

\$264,623

EDUCATION

Child Scholarships

Scholarships for orphaned, destitute and handicapped children. Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Center (Lebanon), Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children (Gaza), Dar El-Tifl (Jerusalem), Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem), Sun Day Care Center (Gaza), Dar El-Yateem (West Bank).

\$92,000

Youth Programs, Schools and Universities

Sports and school equipment, expertise and books for educational institutions. Bir Zeit University (West Bank), Maghazi Refugee Rehabilitation Center (Gaza), Gaza Elementary, Junior and Senior High Schools.

\$91,975

TOTAL EDUCATION \$183,975

HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics, Hospitals and Health Training

Partial assistance for upgrading clinics' ability to deliver health services. Al-Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza), Al-Amal Charitable Society for the Deaf (Gaza), Halhul Women's Charitable Society (West Bank), Hebron Women's Charitable Society (West Bank), Al-Ihsan Charitable Society (West Bank), Jenin Charitable Society (West Bank), Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children (West Bank), Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanon), Palestinian Ministry of Health — Department of Community Diseases, Sanabel Society for Asthma (Gaza), Shifa Hospital (Gaza), Sinjil Health Clinic (West Bank), Society of the Physically Handicapped (Gaza).

TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES \$123,443

IN KIND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Medicines and health material for hospitals and clinics. Jordan Red Crescent, Palestinian Ministry of Health, Patient's Friends Society Hospital — Hebron (West Bank), St. Luke's Hospital — Nablus (West Bank).

TOTAL IN-KIND \$684,361

TOTAL \$3,434,260

PUBLIC EDUCATION

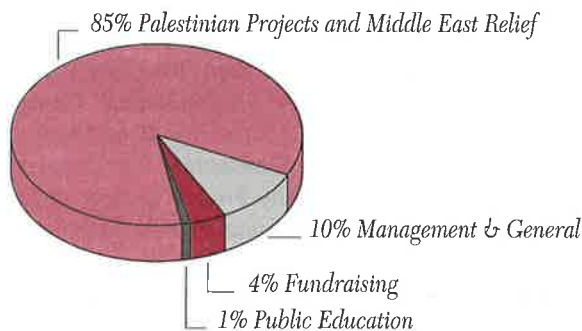
ANERA has long supported modest activities that seek to inform Americans about the Middle East, the need for peace, the condition of the Palestinians and Lebanese, and the value of economic and social development. To this end, we publish a newsletter, speak at civic and educational events, comment on radio and television, and, last year, conducted a roundtable focused on Middle East economic development. Our new World Wide Web site on the internet (www.anera.org) helped reach new audiences.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 1996

ANERA is grateful for the generous donations received this year from individuals, organizations, corporations, foundations, the US Agency for International Development and the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The chart at right represents ANERA's expenditures in fiscal year 1996, which total \$4,889,187. A copy of ANERA's FY 1996 annual report and audit may be obtained by contacting the ANERA office.

ANERA is proud that 85% of every dollar goes to people and projects in the Middle East. This is an excellent record among charitable organizations and is made possible by the generosity of ANERA donors and the efficiency of ANERA staff.



Total Expenditures for FY 96 \$4,889,187

ANERA

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