

# ANERA

— AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID —

FOUNDED 1968

## Newsletter

Number 125 Summer 1999

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS  
AND INTERNS FARIS GHAREEB AND ANNE O. KNIGHT  
JENNIFER KRUEGER AND ANDREW THARP  
THEIR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANERA ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED

## Running Dry: Water in a Troubled Land

The fresh water supply in Israel, West Bank/Gaza, and Jordan is in jeopardy. Yearly over-pumping of the natural ground water supply decreases the volume of water by approximately 500 million cubic meters. At the current rate of use, the ground water supply will eventually be depleted. As the water level goes down along coastal areas, saltwater is contaminating both the underground water supply and the ground water for years to come. Projected population increases and economic growth will further increase pressure on water supplies.

The Middle East and North Africa region has 3% of the world's population, yet only 1% of the world's water. Ground water (57%) and surface

water (35%) provide almost all of the water used in the area. The remaining water (8%) is from the reuse of wastewater, a by-product of domestic and commercial water use.

There is unequal use of the natural water supply. The amount of water used per person in Jordan and Israel is 244 and 344 cubic meters per year respectively. However, Palestinian water use in the West Bank and Gaza is a mere 93 cubic meters per person each year.

This past winter, the area suffered from a severe drought. By the end of the rainy season, Jerusalem, Amman and Hebron received only 7 inches of the normal 20.7 inches of annual rainfall. This quantity of rain is insufficient for growing wheat, a staple food

throughout the area. There are also other effects:

- ▶ The Sea of Galilee, an enormous water storage lake, has fallen to dangerously low levels. Israel and Jordan have severely reduced water supplies for their farmers. Agricultural income in the area will fall and the price of agricultural products for consumers will rise.
- ▶ Israel has informed Jordan that it will not provide the quantity of water required by their peace treaty. This matter is causing friction in their bilateral relations.
- ▶ Jordan, for the first time, is purchasing water from Syria.

While negotiations and discussions involving water are difficult and slow-going, ANERA and our project partners in the field are finding ways to provide people with access to water for personal, industrial and agricultural use. [See page 3 for information on ANERA's water projects.]

Given the many unresolved regional issues concerning borders and the future status of territories, water rights will be on the political agenda for years to come. Access to water and its use continue to be critical issues which will become more acute as domestic, industrial and agricultural demands increase. The current water shortage and the natural scarcity of water makes water equity one of the most sensitive and disputed topics in the areas' national and local politics.

*continued on page 2*

## Refugee Needs Discussed

On Sunday, March 14, Dr. Peter Gubser, President of ANERA, met with His Royal Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan. They discussed the question of Palestinian refugees, their status and the burden Jordan shoulders in accommodating more than 1.4 million refugees.

King Abdullah called for intensive international efforts to help refugees realize their rights to compensation and repatriation in accordance with U.N. resolutions. The king also thanked ANERA for its continued assistance to the Palestinian refugees. ■



This antiquated irrigation canal, built in the 1930s, loses water by both evaporation and leakage.

ANERA



Hope Cobb

Tour member Mrs. Anne V. Knight visits the Spafford Diabetes Clinic, funded with the help of ANERA's James V. Knight Memorial Fund.

## Leaders Tour ANERA Projects

Recently, participants in an ANERA Leadership Tour returned home with these comments about their experiences in the West Bank and Gaza:

"Meeting those wonderful, dedicated women at the schools who had such great hope and such a good outlook (was the highlight of my trip)."

"We renewed our faith in the patience and merit of Palestinians."

"It is hard to find enough praise for ANERA's staff, their colleagues in ANERA-supported projects, and the other dedicated Palestinians we met. The visit with them was an inspiration."

If you are going to be in Lebanon, Gaza or the West Bank and would like to see what your support helps achieve, contact ANERA. ■

*Water, continued from page 1*

This article is partially based on information found in *Water for the Future: The West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel, and Jordan*, which is available from the National Academy Press (800) 264-6242 or [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu). For other recommended resources on water in the Middle East, visit [www.anera.org](http://www.anera.org). ■

# West Bank Water Projects

ANERA has a long history of involvement in water projects, all aimed at greater user efficiency and increased supplies. Our three current projects are:

- ▶ The Jericho Irrigation System, to be built by ANERA and managed by a local cooperative, will replace an open canal network built in the 1930s. The new closed pipes will save water by preventing the considerable leakage and evaporation that now occurs, and by allowing farmers to more readily use modern mini sprinkle and drip irrigation devices.
- ▶ Outside the city of Jenin, ANERA is constructing a potable water network and helping to establish a water users association for 15 villages. This system uses water from a new well dug by USAID on the western slope of the West Bank hills. This project will provide a desperately needed water source for Palestinians.
- ▶ In Salfet, ANERA will install a system to deliver treated wastewater from Salfet's new sewage plant. This water will be used to irrigate 150 acres of land cultivated by Palestinian farmers from the surrounding villages. The project will be managed by the local agricultural cooperative and the Salfet Municipality. After treatment, the wastewater will be used for irrigating tree crops, such as olives and nuts, and for animals. ■



Philip Davies

After digging the trench, a construction worker near Jenin, West Bank, levels and compacts the dirt prior to laying distribution pipes.

### In Honor of...

All Arabians ■ Barbra Bruhn ■ Sue Carmichael ■ Kenneth Clark ■ Mary Penrose Copeland ■ Mr. & Mrs. Simon Estfan ■ Lucy P. Guilbeau ■ E. H. ■ Sabina & Ellen Halaby ■ King Hussein ibn Talal ■ Tai Y. Kilby ■ Ken Landis ■ Dr. Ameen Majaj ■ Barbara Ann Mishriki ■ Stella Pejo ■ the people ■ Mrs. Clarice Pleasants Bailey Robinson ■ Mrs. Rafica Sabri ■ Mrs. Sally Toshach Smith ■ Lourdes Z. Tubil ■ Dr. A.A. Yeni-Komshian.

## Staff Transitions



ANERA thanks **Cameron Haight** for his excellent work as Major Gifts Program Assistant in 1998-1999, and extend our best wishes to him as he proceeds with his career in international affairs. This summer we welcome **James Cramer** as Major Gifts Program Assistant. James is pursuing an M.A. at American University's School of International Service.

## \$8.3m in Medicines and Medical Supplies Given

**A**merican Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) is pleased to announce its best year ever in providing in-kind medicines, medical supplies, and nutritional supplements to the Palestinians. In the past three months ANERA made five sea and one air freight shipment of supplies from AmeriCares, Direct Relief International, Children International, and the American Priory of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Our partners who helped make the shipments possible included: US Omen, the World Council on Religion and Peace, American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

One AmeriCares shipment, valued at \$7.5 million, is the largest in-kind donation that ANERA has ever received. It comes at a time when the health system in the West Bank and Gaza face critical shortages of medicine and medical supplies. High levels of unemployment have severely depressed household income. Many families are unable to afford to pay for even the most basic medical and health needs.

The donations included significant quantities of analgesics, anti-

inflammatory drugs, antibacterial agents, intravenous (IV) equipment, and general hospital and medical supplies. These items are being distributed to dozens of clinics and hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza which are operated by charitable organizations, UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority. These medicines and supplies will directly benefit thousands of women, children and low income families. ■



Helen Grant (left) and Dr. Ahmad Annab (right) inspect donated medical supplies.

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## Stocks Appreciated!

Thanks to the many friends who have made gifts of appreciated stock to ANERA in recent months. These gifts are crucial for our work and have major tax advantages for you. For details, please contact Nina Dodge or Cyril Bindah at (202) 347-2558. ■

**YES, I want to help the people of the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon!**

### I want to give:

- \$200 for  General Programs
- \$175  Gaza/West Bank Fund
- \$100  Lebanon Relief
- \$75  A scholarship (\$175 each) for a child:
- \$50  at the school with the Greatest Need
- \$35  in Lebanon
- Other  in West Bank/Jerusalem
- in Gaza

I have remembered ANERA in my will.

*Scholarship Donors receive a student's photo and letters from their school.*

### I want to support ANERA's work by being a:

- Founder:** \$10,000 or above
- Builder:** \$5,000 to \$9,999
- Benefactor:** \$2,500 to \$4,999
- Sponsor:** \$1,000 to \$2,499
- Sustainer:** \$500 to \$999
- Creator:** \$250 to \$499

Donors giving \$250 or more to this year's Annual Fund will be recognized by category in ANERA's 2000 Annual Report.



Dar Bishij

Please charge to my credit card:  Visa  Mastercard

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is tax-deductible.

G4 29

## Making Peace...Every Month

Through our monthly giving program, **ANERA's Peace Plan**, you can be part of the solution to the troubled peace efforts in the Middle East. Consider making a modest monthly donation through our automatic giving program. In the past 30 years we have learned that ANERA's programs cannot run in a stop-and-go fashion. These programs require dependable resources over a sustained period of time. By joining **ANERA's Peace Plan**, you play a significant role in our work to bolster Palestinian and Lebanese long-term economic and community development, education and health programs.

► Decide how much you would like to give, send us the coupon below with your check for the first monthly gift, and we will take care of the rest!

► Each month your bank will automatically deduct the amount from your account and deposit it into ANERA's account. Donations will be clearly listed on your bank statement. You can change or stop your donation at any time.

► Not only does this make donating to ANERA quick and easy, it also helps to lower our administrative costs. ■ *Your personal commitment makes a difference in the lives of others!*

### 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. 

## Annual Fund Record Set!

**T**hanks to the generous participation of our donors in ANERA's 1999 Annual Fund (June 1, 1998-May 31, 1999), we reached our record goal of \$1,100,000! Your wonderful support expands job creation programs, and improves education and health services in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. ■

## Your Legacy

Through a bequest in your will or trust, you can extend your support for Palestinians and Lebanese in need and the worthy institutions that help them, beyond your lifetime. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. *Please use ANERA's full name "American Near East Refugee Aid" in your bequest documents, followed by our address.* For information on the ANERA Legacy Society or bequests to ANERA, please contact Nina Dodge at (202) 347-2558. ■

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AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

FOUNDED 1968

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*ANERA does, from time to time, exchange our mailing list with similar humanitarian organizations. We never rent or sell our list. If you wish not to have your name exchanged, please let us know in writing.*

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*Water in a Troubled Land*

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