

ANERA *Newsletter*

INSIDE:
HELP VICTIMS OF WAR

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 92 Winter 1991

WAR: ANERA RESPONDS

This was the tenth major conflict in the Middle East in this century and the first to involve massive numbers of U.S. troops. When the war began on January 15th, Americans, and the entire world, watched unprecedented television coverage of the destruction of the Iraqi army by allied forces. While we are thankful that the conflict was relatively swift, those of us who work with Arab institutions and care deeply about the people of the Middle East know that the process of picking up the pieces is just beginning. While we watched and agonized over the fighting, we knew our role at ANERA was to ask "what is happening to innocent people caught in the midst of this tragedy and how can we help?"

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PEOPLE?

The situation in the **West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem** was exceedingly difficult during this war. In addition to the psychological and physical trauma suffered by Israelis and Palestinians during the Scud missile attacks, most of the Palestinian population was con-

finned to their homes under a total curfew for up to 23 days. During this period the ANERA office was managed by Deputy Director and East Jerusalem resident Ibrahim Matar. The remainder of our twenty Palestinian staff were confined to their homes until travel permits could be secured.

In the week prior to the war, ANERA sent \$60,000 to its East Jerusalem office to purchase first aid kits for ambulances and small villages. Funds also supported blood banks and hospitals including Maqassid, Al-Ahli Al-Arabi, Augusta Victoria and Itihad hospitals. ANERA granted emergency funds to grassroots community organizations for emergency food distribution. Relief funds continue to be channeled to hospitals, clinics and charitable societies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The post-war situation is grim. Curfews and lack of Gulf funds have devastated the Palestinian economy, over 50% of the population has not been able to return to work. Travel is still difficult. Families are destitute, people are hungry. Schools remain closed. Much of the

(Continued on Page 3)

AMER DELIVERS MEDICINES



AMER Director Lisa Gilliam labels a shipment for delivery to the West Bank.

AMER has shipped over \$550,000 worth of pharmaceuticals to needy institutions since the war began on January 15th. *Sterling Drug, Squibb, Upjohn, Bristol-Meyers and Direct Relief International* responded to ANERA'S emergency appeal on behalf of Queen Noor of Jordan, with medications which will be used to re-supply refugee camps on the Jordan-Iraq border. *Inter-Church Medical Assistance* donated \$200,000 worth of cardiac medicine for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In Lebanon, *Operation USA* donated \$99,000 worth of medications to the American University of Beirut Hospital.



Sealed donations are stored in an Alexandria, Virginia warehouse before transport from the port of Baltimore.



UNRWA

HELP VICTIMS OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

War means refugees, evacuees, suffering and misery. Children and families need food, medicine, clothing and shelter.

Through ANERA—American Near East Refugee Aid—you can send emergency humanitarian relief. ANERA has provided aid and long-term development assistance to families in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan and Lebanon for over 22 years. Your donation will directly benefit those in need—over 88% of our funds are spent on programs; only 12% on support services.

We are rushing aid to victims of war in the Middle East, wherever the need is greatest. We will continue our work to help people survive and rebuild their shattered lives.

HELP US HELP VICTIMS OF WAR

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID
Attn: Dr. Peter Gubser, 1522 K St., NW #202-N
Washington, DC 20005
phone: 202-347-2558 fax: 202-682-1637

YES, *I want to help. Here is my emergency donation for humanitarian aid to victims of war in the Middle East.*

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other Send me information

Name

Address

City, State, ZIP Telephone

Your donation is tax-deductible. Founded 1968. Registered with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid for U.S. AID, the NCIB and InterAction. Member International Service Agencies.

WAR: ANERA RESPONDS, *Continued from Page 1*

seasonal agricultural work has been interrupted during the last three months, causing both immediate and long-term economic damage and loss of income.

Jordan was not overwhelmed with refugees as had been feared since the Baghdad-Amman highway was impassible during the bombing. After eight months of sanctions and trade restrictions however, the economy is in ruins. Many of the Palestinians who prospered in **Kuwait** have lost their jobs and life's savings and are liv-

What You Can Do To Help

→ Cash is the best and most useful form of assistance. Most essential relief goods can be purchased locally or in neighboring countries. Cash involves no shipping, packing or transport costs.

→ Please post the flyer on the opposite page on your community or school bulletin board or in your church, mosque or synagogue. Write to *Tom Webster* or call us (no collect calls please, we cannot accept them) for additional copies.

→ Donations designated for "Gulf Relief" will be used directly by ANERA in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will support relief activities in other countries affected by the war.

→ Do you have contacts with pharmaceutical manufacturers? AMER Director *Lisa Gilliam* has specific medical needs lists from various hospitals and Red Crescent organizations. She is prepared to request and arrange shipment for professionally packaged and labeled drugs and hospital supplies.

→ Can you arrange telephone interviews with your local radio stations? *Dr. Peter Gubser*, ANERA's president, has been speaking extensively to radio audiences about post-war economic redevelopment for the Middle East. Please contact *Jonathan Bronsky* for more information.

→ Please do not send food or clothing, we cannot accept or ship them. If you want to collect money as a group and send it through ANERA, please contact *Paula Stinson* or *Kathryn Powell* to clarify what ANERA can and cannot do, and to let us know it is coming.

→ Few organizations need American volunteers for Iraq or Kuwait at this time. However, we appreciate your selfless offers of skills and time.

ing in Jordan, unable to return to work. ANERA has shipped pharmaceuticals (see box) and sent relief funds through the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

WHAT NEXT?

Post-war **Iraq** is in turmoil. The extent of civilian casualties as a result of allied bombing attacks remains unknown, although seemingly lower than anticipated. The civil war rages on and sanctions on food and humanitarian supplies are crippling the country. Without power, water cannot be pumped or treated. With the increasing temperatures, polluted water and environmental contamination comes the threat of widespread disease and epidemics. The number of children being treated for diarrhea and gastroenteritis, the major causes of infant mortality, have quadrupled. Relief and distribution channels in Iraq remain severely limited.

ANERA is also gravely concerned about the fate of **Palestinians** and other **vulnerable populations** in Kuwait. In March, ANERA contributed funds towards a mobile surgical unit which was organized by the American Red Cross and other American voluntary agencies. It has arrived in Kuwait City and is being assembled for civilian use.

ANERA is accepting donations earmarked for "Gulf Relief" to attempt to help meet emergency needs in all affected countries. We will send funds through the International Committee of the Red Cross or other relevant institutions for relief in Iraq and the countries affected by the war. Our development projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are continuing and we will sustain relief assistance there as needed.

THANK YOU

During these tense three months, you, our individual donors and supporters, have been wonderful. You have sent over \$150,000 for relief since the war began. Many of you have called or written to ask how you can help. We pass these messages of support and concern along with the funds, and it makes a real difference. This winter has been hectic here in the Washington office where we monitor events, assess needs and determine the most effective humanitarian responses. On behalf of our colleagues and counterpart agencies abroad, we thank you for your concern and compassion for others, and for your desire to help people who are suffering the consequences of yet another war in the Middle East.

A special thanks to our institutional donors: the *Ford Motor Company*, the *Texaco Foundation*, *Santa Fe International* and the *Unitarian Universalist Service Committee* for their humanitarian donations.

**NEXT ISSUE:
BUILDING THE PEACE**

ANERA has received gifts...

IN HONOR OF: Ahkmed ■ Herbert B. Allinger ■ Cecil J. Badway ■ birth of Carrie Elizabeth Blodgett ■ Jesus Christ ■ Anita Derwig ■ Mr. & Mrs. Parke A. Dickey ■ Lillian Dockweiler ■ Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Ferris ■ Al-Kafaat ■ Doyne and Dorothy Michie ■ Dr. & Mrs. Wadi Sawabini ■ Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sawabini ■ Sheri A. Selway ■ Mr. & Mrs. O. Keith Smith ■ Mother Theresa of Calcutta ■ Barbara and Vern Varenhorst ■ Ms. Georgia Villegas ■ Karen and James Weidenheimer ■ Mildred Wentner ■ Dr. & Mrs. Francis M. Woods ■ Mrs. Robert Woods ■ all people in the Middle East, pray to disallow war ■ children of the *intifada*. ■ family harmony ■ a friend ■ victims of the 1991 Mid-East war ■ the heroic Palestinians ■ Jerusalem and its people ■ a noble cause ■ Palestinians robbed of their land ■ Middle East peace ■ the plight of the Palestinians ■ three years of *intifada*

IN MEMORY OF: Neva D. Adriance ■ Musa Alami ■ Jack & Rebecca Bergson ■ Rita Mills Chappell ■ Dr. John Davis, ANERA's first President ■ Mr. & Mrs. Simon Estfan ■ Mr. Widad Gedeon ■ Mr. Nicolas Halaby ■ Macdonald Brooke Halsey ■ M. T. Headed ■ James Houghteling ■ the parents of Miss Violet V. Hyder ■ Clara Jenny Joseph ■ Mrs. Arynness Joywickens ■ Ali Seydo Kurdi ■ Elizabeth Langstaff ■ James Lipscomb ■ Mrs. Pauline Makdisi ■ Myra Mangialino ■ the Martins and the Mildons ■ Howard McAfee ■ Mary Anna McHugh ■ John Hamad Mikhail ■ Maralyn Miller ■ Farid Mouchabek ■ Felicia M. Ojarovsky ■ Frederica H. Parmelee ■ Joseph Rapa ■ Bruce E. Schein ■ Mrs. Leo P. Sherman ■ Eduardo Sierra ■ Dr. Fouad Tabry ■ Dr. Burton Thurston ■ Maurizio Touche ■ Dorothy Whalen ■ Charles & Mary Whittlesey ■ Lawrence Williams ■ Grant Wolf ■ Fuad Zaru of Ramallah

A grateful acknowledgement from ANERA to long-time supporters Mr. Najeeb Sinunu, Mrs. Mary W. F. Whittlesey and to those who made contributions in their memory.

Enclosed is a gift for ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

_____ \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in Gaza. (\$100 per child)*

I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in Beirut. (\$100 per child)*

I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in East Jerusalem. (\$100 per child)*

**Sponsors receive a photo of the child and a letter from the school during the year.*

Text and photos by Paula Stinson, ANERA Vice President. UNRWA provided the photo on page 2. Welcome to Steve Webster, who replaces Lowell Hoover as ANERA's Assistant Accountant.



1522 K Street, N.W. #202
Washington, D.C. 20005

ADDRESS CORRECTION
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ANERA OFFICERS, 1990-1991
The Hon. Lucius D. Battle, Chairman
Dr. Peter Gubser, President
Ms. Jane W. Schweiker, Treasurer

WAR: ANERA RESPONDS

Nonprofit Organization
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