

NEWS

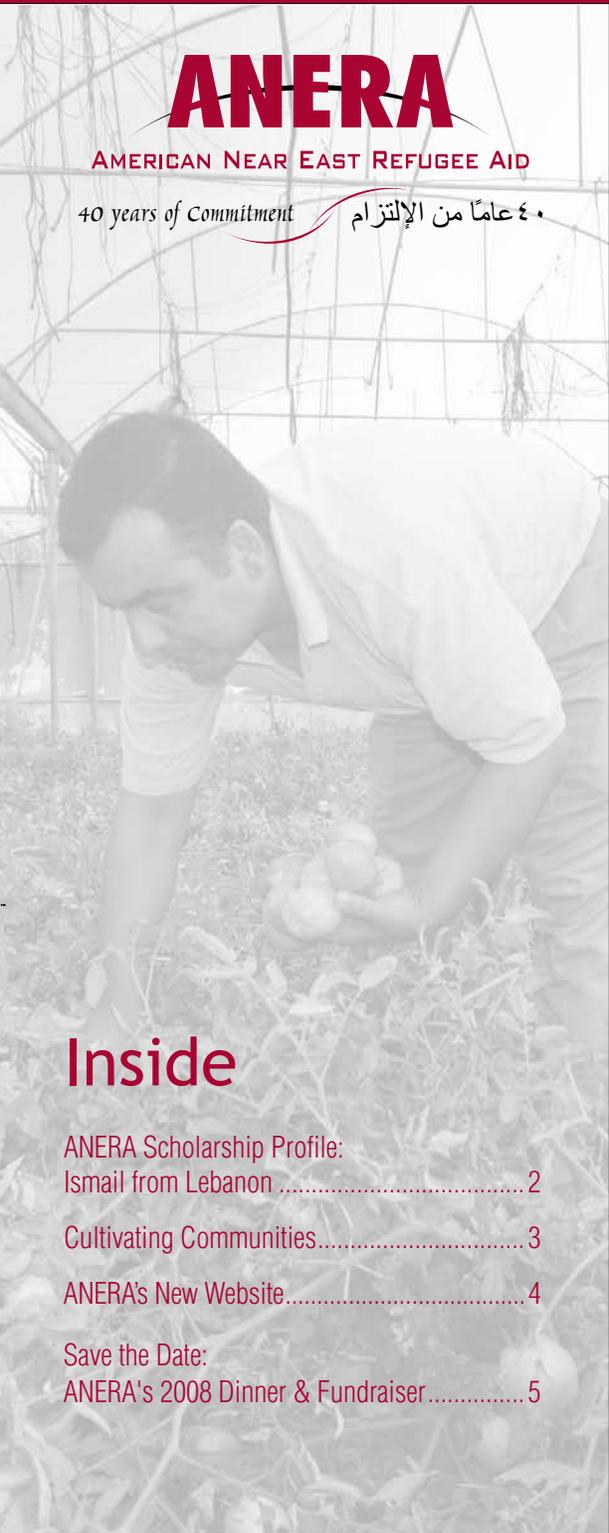
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ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

40 years of Commitment

٤٠ عامًا من الإلتزام



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Gaza Makes the Front Page Again

It would be nice to write an uplifting story about Gaza, but a brief look at the current realities shows the situation there is dire and getting worse.

Economic and social conditions are deteriorating. Thousands of families have no source of income and movement is restricted because of tighter-than-ever border crossings. Gaza has lost more than 50% of its electricity and experiences power outages through substantial parts of each day. Eighty percent of the households, or 1.1 million people, now rely on humanitarian aid from the international community.

The ongoing violence on both sides of the conflict means there is little sense of security.

Primary health care facilities lack vital supplies and a lot of the essential equipment is no longer functional. Some critical-care patients are allowed to leave Gaza, but this just reveals how unprepared and undersupplied the hospitals are.

Sadly, there is no end in sight.

A Few Revealing Statistics

- 80% of the population depends on humanitarian assistance
- 95% of industrial operations have been suspended.
- 30-50 million liters of sewage pour into the sea daily.
- For 8 to 12 hours a day, hospitals lose power.
- There is no chemotherapy treatment available.
- Nearly 80% of fourth to ninth graders are failing school.

*from 'The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion',
an Amnesty International report*

ANERA's Response

As always, ANERA feels a great responsibility to bring relief to Gaza's people.

We are raising funds to support our Milk for Preschoolers program, which helps stem malnutrition among Gaza's most vulnerable population. In the first weeks of March, miraculously, we were able to receive and distribute four shipments of milk and biscuits – enough to feed preschoolers throughout Gaza for two weeks. The

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Scholarship Program Profile: Ismail

Ismail comes from a simple and poor family living in a village near Tyre, in southern Lebanon. He has autism with a mild intellectual disability. Fortunately, in 2000, nine-year-old Ismail was able to join Al-Kafaàt.



Al-Kafaàt – long-time ANERA Scholarship Program partner located in the Beirut area – provides medical, rehabilitation, educational, and employment services to over 4,500 people with special needs.

For children like Ismail, Al-Kafaàt changes their

lives. Ismail most likely would have led an unhappy life because of his specific needs and would have been a real burden to his parents, who are not educated in how to cope with his condition.

At Al-Kafaàt, Ismail follows an individualized educational program in a specialized unit of the Foundation. He also lives there in an accepting environment with his peers.

His educational program is followed up at home through instructions carefully given to his parents by special educators, psychologists and social workers, with particular emphasis on stimulating Ismail's independence.

When Ismail is home, he helps his father in the garden, pulling weeds and watering the flowers. It is important for Ismail's parents to find ways to engage him in activities that will lessen his hyperactivity and display his competence. This allows for better acceptance in his community.

Ismail has benefited from Al-Kafaàt in countless ways. He is now independent in many daily acts and interacts well with adults.

A donation of \$175 (\$15 a month) will help children like Ismail – at schools in Lebanon, the West Bank, Gaza and Jordan – for a full school year.

For more information about the Scholarship Program, contact Ola Mahmoud at omahmoud@anera.org or (202) 842-2766 ext 22.

Gaza Makes the Front Page Again

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program flourishes and next year we will strive to help 25,000 preschoolers, 5,000 more than this year.

We are increasing shipments of donated medicine and related supplies into Gaza. In response to the latest crises, we have added temporary staff to speed delivery of medicines. In future shipments, we will send emergency surgical supplies which are urgently needed.

We are also responding to some of the serious environmental problems that exist in Gaza. For instance, plastic sheeting from greenhouses is strewn across agricultural fields, contaminating crops and, when burned for disposal, causing respiratory problems in children. With a grant from the Firedoll Foundation, we are collecting and recycling the sheeting, thereby benefiting the environment and creating short-term jobs that generate income to help households

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get by. The program also educates farmers about environmentally safe methods for using plastic sheeting.

ANERA has the staff and expertise to address many of the other environmental problems that plague communities, such as sewage spills, the lack of potable drinking water, and disposal of solid waste. To date, getting building materials and supplies of all kinds into Gaza is the largest obstacle to implementing any project. The moment materials arrive, we put them to use, as long as we have adequate funding from private donors.

Clearly, there is much to be done. Our 21 courageous and dedicated staff members are working in the midst of the crisis, responding with creativity and tenacity. They operate with strict security measures. There is so little gas that they share and rotate vehicles according to who is lucky enough to find a little fuel. We are proud of what they are able to accomplish against all odds.

Cultivating Communities

The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has been a supporter of ANERA's development programs in the West Bank and Gaza for many years. We are pleased to announce their support will continue in 2008.

From January 28 to February 3 of this year, IFAD visited our staff in the West Bank to strengthen our collaboration. As a result of that visit, a further \$2.3 million was approved to rehabilitate and/or expand schools, community centers, agricultural roads, wells and water collection cisterns.

ANERA's IFAD activities will improve access to essential social and physical community infrastructure, as well as create jobs. They are a continuation of projects we have been conducting in Qalqilia and the Jordan valley for five years.



ANERA added a second floor to Rafat Secondary School in the West Bank with classrooms, a laboratory and office, plus new bathroom facilities.



ANERA built this multi-purpose community center in the West Bank town of Jayyous with services for youth and women – among them, a sports facility and a savings & credit program.



At the pump station for the Ein Sultan water project in the Jordan Valley, there are four pumps that distribute the water to a network benefitting 900 families.

Some 2007 Results from IFAD Projects

- ▶ 53 new classrooms constructed in 14 schools
- ▶ five rural roads built
- ▶ clean drinking water provided for 110 houses
- ▶ a closed and pressurized water pipe system installed for farming irrigation
- ▶ three new community centers erected
- ▶ a health clinic constructed

These projects generated 20,000 days of employment.

The results of our IFAD work are dramatic. In building classrooms, we have created appropriate educational environments for thousands of students. By building rural roads, we have given farmers access to more land and have reduced the amount of time needed to get their perishable products to market.

In rehabilitating water supply networks, we have freed villagers from having to rely on water tankers, which have become increasingly undependable because of road closures. Families, inspired by our work, are now installing cisterns and water conservation systems on their own.

Ultimately, the overall impact of ANERA's work with IFAD is hard to calculate. When families and communities have the resources and tools to succeed, so much more than a well or a school or roadway is restored. The effects resonate long after the completion of one project thanks to each family's increased self-reliance and determination to improve their lives.

ANERA HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Just in time to commemorate our 40 years of work, ANERA proudly announces the launch of a new website that clearly communicates the scope and context of our work. Our mission for the new site is to bring more attention to:

- ▶ what makes ANERA unique
- ▶ our accountability and transparency
- ▶ the impact and reach of our work
- ▶ how website visitors can get involved with ANERA



getting involved

We are expanding our reach to more people who are concerned about the humanitarian crises facing Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan. We made it easy to **sign up** to be part of our online community and to **make an impact with a donation**.

what makes us unique

We focus exclusively on the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan. To describe our presence and what we are doing in each area we introduced an **interactive map** on the homepage and a **where we work** section under 'about us'.

We have been committed to the Middle East for 40 years. The homepage **slideshow** and the history section, under 'about us', with its **interactive timeline** dynamically commemorate this special anniversary.

We are highly effective with the funds we receive – 96% of which go to our programs. This is a proud accomplishment, which is why we have our **pie chart** on every page.

the impact we make

Because our work ranges from building irrigation systems to supporting arts education, we added **16 new project pages** to our website, in 'our work', to organize and illustrate all of the different kinds of projects we implement across three program areas.

Our 40 years in the region translate into stable and long-lasting partnerships and trust among donors. We use the **donors** page to express our gratitude and the **partners** page to bring special attention to one esteemed partner per month.

our accountability and transparency

It is important our donors know that ANERA is an efficient, wise and legally sound steward of their money. We have rigorous controls in place and we link to our **Accountability Statement** from every page.

Visit our new website today – www.anera.org – and tell your friends about it too.

from the desk of Bill Corcoran

Dear Reader:

Each week, as people see the spiraling violence and despair in the Middle East, they comment with frustration that they would love to do something to help the people there. But what?

Adding to this, they point to a discouraging U.S. economy and think twice about making contributions.

I have good news for you. You can take a positive step. And you can do it today.

Place the people of Palestine and Lebanon in your will.

With a gift to ANERA, you can ensure that your concern and compassion for them is matched by action. A bequest or estate is a wonderful way to care for them after all of your needs have been met. Support them from your surplus.

We have been very fortunate to receive gifts this year ranging from \$15,000 to \$250,000. The impact overseas is tremendous. Simultaneously, you buoy the spirits of our staff in places like Gaza when they hear the news that someone has remembered them.

Take a moment to notify us of your interest (donation@anera.org). We can send you a one-page sheet of suggested language to use in your will. If you seek some extra help, an ANERA attorney would be glad to speak with you. It is incredibly easy and you will have made a healing gesture to a fractured region that deserves better.

With gratitude for your support today and tomorrow,

Bill Corcoran
President

Giving a Bequest is Easy

- Let us know you're interested by sending an email to donation@anera.org.
- We'll send you a one page sheet of suggested language to use in your will.
- If you want extra help, an ANERA attorney can speak with you.

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Save the date!

2008 Annual Dinner & Fundraiser commemorating ANERA's 40 years

when: Friday evening, October 10

where: Capitol Hilton
101 16th Street NW
Washington, DC

Reservations for the event can be made on the website after July 1.

Questions about the event can be directed to dinner@anera.org.

ANERA's Monthly Giving Program

Your ongoing support is critical to ANERA's continued growth.

In order to expand our programs in education, employment and health care, we depend on a steady and dependable source of funding.

Can we count on you?

Your monthly support reduces administrative costs and helps us to plan for future projects with a solid financial footing.

Please consider commemorating ANERA's 40th year with a generous monthly contribution of \$40. Go to www.anera.org and sign up today or use the enclosed form to join via mail.

Minimum monthly donation: \$10 or more

YES, I want to join ANERA's Monthly Giving Program

- I want to commemorate ANERA's 40th year with \$40 a month.
 Other _____

I authorize the transfer of the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my 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, #600, Washington, DC 20005-1251, (202) 842-2766, or my bank.

Name

Address (/ /)

Signature Date (mo/day/year)

- I have enclosed a voided check for my first monthly contribution. (Please be sure to designate an amount above.)
 I want these donations to be charged to my credit card (Visa, MC, Discover or AMEX).

Account Number Expiration Date (mo/year)

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The ANERA Newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to creating opportunity and hope for people in the Middle East by improving health care and education and stimulating job creation.

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Editor: Liz Demarest, ldemarest@anera.org
Contributing Writers: Rania Elhilou, Liz Demarest, Michael Austin and Bill Corcoran.

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ANERA

1522 K Street NW, #600
Washington, DC 20005-1251
Tel: (202) 842-2766 • Fax: (202) 682-1637
anera@anera.org • www.anera.org

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Washington, DC 20005-1251

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