

ANERA News

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40 Years of Commitment



In 1968, a small group of individuals, charities and emergency relief committees found the optimism to believe they could make a positive difference. ANERA was born out of that belief and has ever since provided a bright spot among the often dark moments of recent history in the Middle East.

With just \$155,000 in seed money, ANERA was founded to be a means of channeling Americans' sympathy and concern for needy Palestinians into a centralized, organized and professional response. ANERA's priorities in the beginning were to send humanitarian aid – in the form of food, clothing and medical in-kind donations – as well as financial support for education to the Middle East.

Now, in 2008, the needs have somewhat changed, but after four decades ANERA continues to stay true to the spirit of our founding.

(continued on page 3)

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

40 years of Commitment • ٤٠ عاماً من الإلتزام

ANERA News

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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"By the Numbers" sources:

U.S. Agency for International Development and International Fund for Agricultural Development

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Do you have ideas for future newsletters?
Are there stories you would like to see?

Please send suggestions to
anera@anera.org, with 'newsletter
suggestion' in the subject line.

by the  Numbers

 WATER IN THE WEST BANK

10 minutes showering in the U.S. = 1 day's water for an average Palestinian.

8 gallons per person per day is the typical amount used by rural villagers.

31% of communities are not connected to a water network.

67% of households in rural areas have water contaminated with bacteria.



West Bank father and son with their new cistern, 2007.

177 is the number of cisterns ANERA installed in the past 2 years.

What do 177 cisterns mean?

More than 1,062 people have access to 11 gallons of water a day.

2,803,680 gallons of rainwater are available to families for 8 months a year.

(Go to page 6 for more on ANERA's cistern work.)

Craig's Latrine

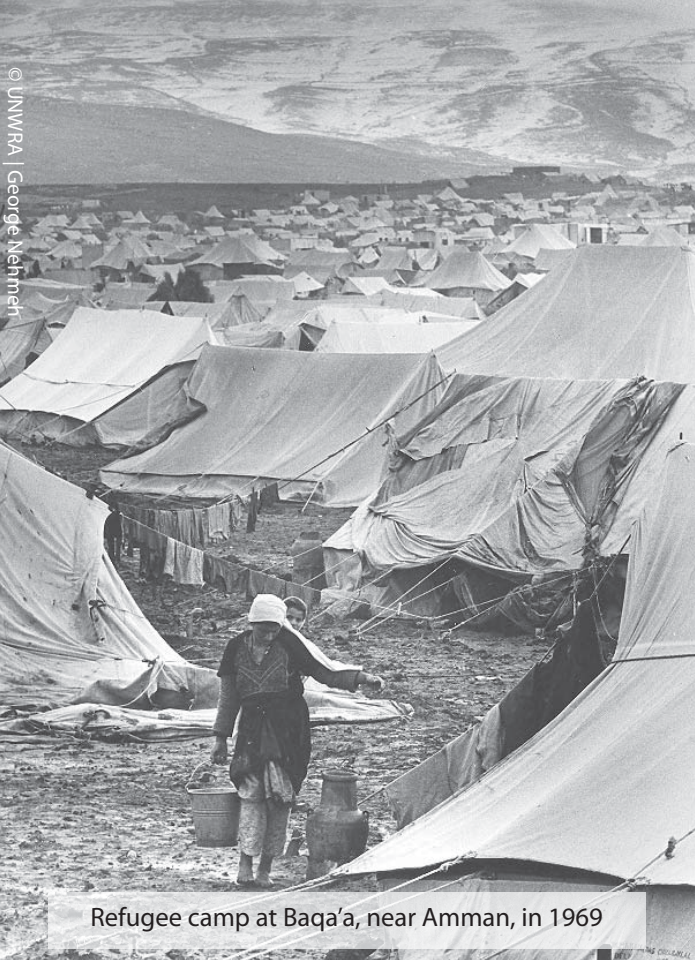
In the summer of 2007, Craig Newmark of "craigslist" fame gave ANERA a gift with a singular purpose in mind: to build toilets.

In the West Bank, institutions such as schools and health clinics often lack the means to properly maintain toilets, sinks and water tanks. Mr. Newmark's generous gift allowed ANERA to build toilet facilities and a cesspit at the Hasham ben Abdil Malek High School for Boys in Jericho (*photo on page 6*).

This latrine system, or "Craig's Latrine" as we like to call it, provides 590 students from six communities with hygienic bathroom facilities and, at the same time, eliminates a source of pollution from the local water table.

Over the last two years, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, ANERA has also equipped eight health clinics and schools with the proper sanitation facilities so medical staff can wash their hands before treating patients and children can learn in a clean and comfortable environment.

A clean bathroom seems so simple, yet it means so very much to creating a healthy learning environment. ANERA and the high schoolers in Jericho are very thankful to Craig Newmark for making this essential facility available. It is an inspiring example of how one person can do so much.



Refugee camp at Baqa'a, near Amman, in 1969

the guiding **genius** and **spirit** behind ANERA

Founders

- James F. Sams, Esq., Chair
- Karim Ajluni, Esq.
- D. Joseph Asfour
- Rev. Dr. Edward L.R. Elson
- Samuel Hassan
- Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Jr.
- Dr. Harry N. Howard
- Orin D. Parker
- Dr. M. Hadi Salem

40 Years (continued from page 1)

We note our 40th year with mixed emotions. We are proud to have contributed to the well-being of millions of people since 1968, but are saddened that our first annual report in 1968 was prophetic when it described the refugee problem as having no short-term solution. Great humanitarian needs still exist in the West Bank, Gaza and the surrounding region, and as long as they continue, ANERA will remain committed to meeting them head-on.

Today we are guided by a mission to bring about positive changes that will endure. We have built lasting relationships with countless local organizations to put in place economic, health and education

projects that fill the most urgent needs and are sustained by the communities they benefit.

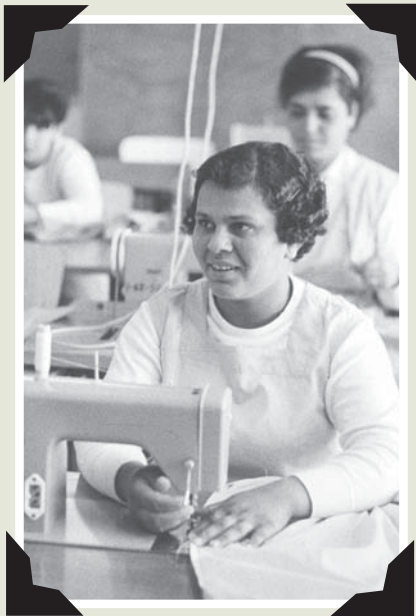
Over the years, with our partners, ANERA has built irrigation systems, schools, libraries and university IT centers. We have provided teacher training, educated mothers about the importance of nutrition, given loans to small entrepreneurs, rehabilitated greenhouses and brought water to villages.

And all of our work is undertaken with an eye to go deeper into the communities where we work, building relationships with local organizations and helping more families find stability and predictability for their lives.

ANERA is committed to solving the new and ever-changing problems brought about by the long-term effects of displacement, ongoing conflict and abject poverty. And we know this requires long-term thinking and creativity. We accept the complexity of the challenges ahead and will continue to tap into the potential of communities around the Middle East to help us tackle them.

Together with our ANERA community, we believe, just as ANERA's founders did, that we can make a difference.

40 Years at a Glance...



1968 In our first year, ANERA does relief work and provides scholarships for technical training.

1971 American Middle East Relief, the oldest non-sectarian American relief agency providing assistance to Palestinian refugees, merges with ANERA.

1973 ANERA distributes over \$2.1 million dollars in cash and in-kind donations.



1977 ANERA constructs a chicken feed plant with Ramallah Agricultural Cooperative.



1978 The Scholarship Program begins with two schools in East Jerusalem: Rawdat El Zuhur and Dar El Tifl.

1979 ANERA supplies pipes for the Gaza sewage collection system, with the municipality providing engineering skills and the residents contributing labor.



1982 As Israel launches a ground attack into Lebanon, ANERA sends \$325,000 worth of medical supplies to Beirut as relief aid.

1984 ANERA opens an office in Gaza.



1986 Distributing over \$400,000, ANERA helps 16 cooperatives around the West Bank buy mechanized implements to increase production on the limited land available.

1989 With ANERA's help, the first animal feed processing plant opens in the West Bank and the first modern slaughterhouse opens in Gaza.



2003 In partnership with Islamic Relief, ANERA's Milk for Preschoolers begins providing vitamin-rich milk and biscuits to children in Gaza.



1992 ANERA gives out \$250,000 in loans to assist Palestinian and Lebanese farmers, artisans and shopkeepers to generate employment.

1995 ANERA, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and several Palestinian organizations establish the Gaza Women's Loan Fund.



2008 The fourth IT Center of Excellence is inaugurated at Birzeit University.

See more of our work - visit our interactive timeline at www.nera.org/timeline.

Every Drop Counts



Dips in the pool, tall glasses of iced tea, strolls in green gardens, refreshing showers... all delights of summer. But what if your summer lacked the one essential ingredient to them all: water?

In the West Bank, Gaza and the surrounding region, water is scarce. Many communities are not even connected to water networks and might never be, because there are so few reliable, clean or convenient sources.

Families in those communities are sometimes forced to carry water from far-away springs to their homes or they use buckets to collect water from rain. Often the collected water is unclean and simply not enough.

The optimal solution for most families is to construct rainwater collection cisterns – a tradition mentioned in the Bible – which can provide enough rainwater for a family of seven over a period of eight months. A cistern can ease a family’s water burdens for generations.

ANERA has addressed water scarcity problems for decades by installing water networks in communities and constructing cisterns for the poorest families. In the past two years alone, ANERA has installed 177 cisterns in the West Bank.

There is still so much to be done, though. Families will continue to struggle this summer because they don’t have the water they need. ANERA remains committed to getting this precious resource to struggling families so they may experience some of summer's delights for generations to come.

Excavating & Using a Cistern

A hand-operated pneumatic hammer is used to dig the pear-shaped cistern.

Excavated material is pulled up manually and spread around the outside of the house.

After excavation, cement and crushed stones are used for plastering to prevent leakage.

When completed, the cistern collects rainwater in winter from the roof of the house.

The collected water is then pumped to roof tanks, which use gravity for supplying water to the house.

With local municipalities, ANERA selects candidates for cisterns by:

- **Household size** – priority is given to larger households.
- **Family income** – priority is on low income and the neediest families.
- **Presence of a suitable location** – far from cesspits or sewage systems.
- **Availability of an area for harvesting rainwater** – roof, back or front yard.



Craig of “craigslist” funded the toilet facilities at this high school. Story on page 2.

ANERA's Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

Friday, October 10, 2008

Capital Hilton
1001 16th Street NW
Washington, DC



Join us for a special evening reflecting on ANERA's 40 years of commitment to the people of the West Bank, Gaza and the surrounding region.

The evening's proceeds will go to ANERA's water projects. Help us bring reliable water systems to people in dire need.

Please visit www.anera.org/dinner to make your reservations.

Questions can be directed to dinner@anera.org or 202-842-2766, extension 20.

Lucius Battle

in remembrance

Lucius (Luke) Battle, a valued member of the ANERA community for many years, died at his home in Washington, DC, on May 13.

As Chair of the ANERA Board of Directors from 1989 to 1993, Ambassador Battle – who had a long, distinguished career in government and business – is remembered as a Southern gentleman who was always outgoing and generous, with an engulfing handshake. He continued his support of ANERA as Chair of its Advisory Council, contributing to project work in the Middle East in innumerable ways.

ANERA extends condolences to friends and family, including four children and eight grandchildren.

ANERA Monthly Giving Program

Your ongoing support is critical to ANERA's work.

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.

www.anera.org/monthly

Sign up online using credit card
or bank withdrawal.



from the desk of
Bill Corcoran, President

Dear Friend of ANERA:

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter. It is special in many ways.

Our faithful readers will notice that we have a new look. This design mirrors our website and provides more space for photos and other graphics.

We have dedicated this issue to the two themes that we will be highlighting at our Annual Dinner and Fundraiser on October 10:

- reflecting on ANERA's 40 years of commitment to the people of the Middle East, and
- ANERA's water projects.

As always, we are deeply grateful to you for the role you play by being a part of our ANERA community.

Gratefully,

ANERA

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