

ANERA ²⁵ years of service Newsletter

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 108 Winter 1995

UNCERTAIN FUTURE: Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon



In the last issue of the ANERA Newsletter, we reported that the horrible conditions among Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon continue to deteriorate rapidly. As Palestinians and Israelis negotiate the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, recent reports indicate that the future of the estimated 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon remains discouragingly unsettled.

Since the creation of Israel in 1948, the Palestinian Diaspora has been a problem for neighboring Arab countries, especially Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. While wanting to help their Arab brothers and support the Palestinian cause, the burden of accepting such an enormous number of refugees threatened to destabilize the demographic, cultural and religious composition of the recipient countries.

Today, Palestinians compose over 10% of the total population of Lebanon, with a growth rate of 2.9%. The vast

majority came as a result of the creation of Israel in 1948. Another smaller wave was caused by the 1967 Six Day War when Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moreover, many of these refugees were again displaced during the 1975–1990 Lebanese Civil War. Recently dubbed “the forgotten refugees”, these Palestinians who reside in both official and unofficial camps in Lebanon can only look forward to a most uncertain future.

Although many refugees have assimilated into the political, social, and cultural mainstream of their host-countries, Palestinians retain aspirations of eventually returning to their ancestral homes in Palestine. Over the years though, many who were given permanent, or semi-permanent status in their host-countries, grew less intent on returning than did those who were left in political or social uncertainty.

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ANERA President Condemns Violence

Since the signing of the Palestinian–Israeli peace agreements last year, several of our supporters have expressed concerns regarding the continued violence in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel.

We at ANERA share those concerns and condemn the use of violence and terrorism, by any government, group or individual for any means. ANERA does not support organizations which advocate violence.

As a non-political, non-religious American charity, ANERA strives to promote peace and development, not hatred and divisiveness. Through both technical and financial assistance, ANERA supports local grassroots organizations in providing vital services such as health care, education and employment opportunities to their communities. Because ANERA has two offices in the region, in East Jerusalem and in Gaza, our staff knows these organizations and their members very well and oversee their progress regularly. It is through these means that ANERA also promotes peace.

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While Palestinians in Jordan were given Jordanian citizenship, and those in Syria have been fully integrated into society with most rights except full citizenship, the status of Palestinians in Lebanon has never been resolved. While a minority, mainly Christians, have been naturalized, most are considered temporary residents (i.e. guests) and have been issued special Lebanese-Palestinian documents. Palestinians are routinely excluded from political and civic participation and about half reside in decrepit refugee camps. They are also officially denied access to government health care and job opportunities.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), created in 1950 to assist Palestinian refugees, is still the primary international humanitarian organization responsible their care. UNRWA administers 12 refugee camps in Lebanon, and also runs schools, health clinics, child immunization programs, and social welfare services which serve Lebanon's almost 330,000 registered Palestinian refugees. Of these, half live in UNRWA camps and almost 10,000 families, or just under 35,000 individuals, receive monthly UNRWA food rations.

There are also thousands of "unregistered" Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, most of whom live in shantytowns and squatter camps. With no passport or UNRWA support, their fate is perhaps the most precarious. The Lebanese government's plan to rebuild war-torn Beirut proposes to develop land now occupied by these unregistered Palestinian camps. Some areas have already been cleared for construction.

For instance, Sikki camp, on the outskirts of UNRWA's Ain al-Hilweh camp near Sidon, was destroyed last summer. The camp was home to an estimated 720 families, many of whom helplessly stood by and watched their homes of tin, cinderblock, and burlap being bulldozed by government contractors. With no money, tremendous difficulties in finding employment and housing, and no agency to relocate them, these refugees have nowhere to go.

In the meantime, living conditions in the remaining camps worsen, and hopelessness and despair grow. The discouragement and frustration of being virtual-



For many refugee children, this is the only childhood they have ever known.

ly excluded from the Middle East peace process has incited violent clashes and protests. Until a long-term solution is found, emergency humanitarian assistance for the refugees is essential.

Garbage and rubble are everywhere in the camps. The Palestinians in Lebanon have not been allowed to rebuild their homes since the camps were bombed ten years ago. Raw sewage flows in the streets. Rats the size of cats roam freely at night. Because there are no garbage removal services, walls of garbage encompass the camps.

An ANERA colleague who recently visited one of the unregistered camps reported: "The matter is an urgent one. A kindergarten in one of the unregistered camps was just demolished. The school was burned, you could see the marks that the black smoke left behind as the buildings were being destroyed. No one knows when the next camp will be destroyed but the problem is with the people who are still left in the camps with no electricity or water. The problems they felt 25 years ago when they were shoved from their original camp area are happening again!"

But where are they to go? United Nations Resolution 194, passed December 11, 1948, states that "refugees wishing to return to their homes and live

at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practical date, and that compensation should be paid for property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property." But, without full sovereignty, and no way to enforce international law, the new Palestinian government cannot, and the Israelis will not permit them to return.

In October 1994, ANERA launched a campaign to increase support for local organizations which are helping the Palestinians in Lebanon. By strengthening local Lebanese and Palestinian charities already on the ground, ANERA hopes to provide these refugees with emergency food donations, shelter and welfare services.


If you would like to join the many ANERA donors who have contributed to ANERA's relief efforts in Lebanon, please check off the Lebanon Relief Fund box on the coupon on page 3 of the Newsletter. We will let you know how your donations are being spent in helping these forgotten refugees. ♦

Continued from page 1

To ensure successful, well-managed projects, organizations which receive ANERA support must adhere to the following guidelines. The organization must:

- * make a significant contribution to the project of money, time and labor;
- * follow legal requirements for competitive bidding and audited financial statements;
- * include all members of the community - women in particular;
- * membership in the organization must be open to all, with democratically elected leadership.

These guidelines have been ANERA policy since our founding in 1968. We take pride in the success of our programs and projects, and as our supporters, we hope that you do as well. ♦


Peter Gubser
President

PARTNERS FOR PEACE PLAN

ANERA would like to thank the many donors who joined the Partners for Peace Plan during the holidays.

In the past 26 years ANERA has learned that small-scale economic and social development programs cannot be run in a stop-and-go fashion. The Partners for Peace Plan helps to provide these organizations with a steady and reliable source of assistance by deducting a set donation from your bank account on a monthly basis.

Here's how you can become a Partner for Peace:

1. Decide how much you would like to contribute each month.

2. Fill out the attached coupon.
3. Send in the coupon and a check for your first month's pledge.

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 each month.

Of course you are under no obligation and you can choose to change or cancel your monthly donation at any time.

Not only does the plan make donating to ANERA quick and easy, it also helps to lower ANERA's already low administrative overhead costs because your bank makes the donations for you automatically.

Join the Partners for Peace Plan today — see what a difference you can make. ♦

Yes, I want to join the Partners for Peace Plan.

Here is my monthly gift of:

\$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. ✂

FYI...

VIDEOS AVAILABLE

ANERA has recently produced a 15-minute promotional video portraying our work entitled, "Projects in Palestine and Lebanon." If you would like to receive a copy of the video for yourself, or to show to others, we would be pleased to send it to you.

TRIP REPORTS

ANERA President Peter Gubser has recently returned from a trip to the West Bank, Gaza and Jordan. Please let us know if you would like a copy of his trip report.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

If you would like for a friend, organization, or place of worship to receive a free subscription to the ANERA Newsletter, please send us their names and addresses.

ANERA LEGACY SOCIETY

Have you considered making ANERA a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or certificates of deposit — in whole or in part?

Some of our donors have.

If you are interested, please contact Nina Dodge, Director, Major Gifts, at ANERA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 202, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 347-2558. ♦



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

_____ \$10,000 and above: Builders

_____ \$500 to \$999: Sustainers

_____ \$2,500 to \$9,999: Benefactors

_____ \$250 to \$499: Creators

_____ \$1,000 to \$2,499: Sponsors

_____ I would like to learn more about funding a special project through ANERA.

Contributions of \$250 or more to this year's Annual Fund will be recognized by category in ANERA's Annual Report (FY95). Further recognition opportunities exist for large, special project gifts.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

- General Programs
- Gaza Renewal Fund
- Lebanon Relief Fund
- 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.

G4.11

TRANSITIONS



After eight years as ANERA Middle East Representative, Lance Matteson, his wife Candace, and their three Jerusalem-born children have decided to return to the United States. With both strength and perseverance, Lance served during some of the most arduous years in ANERA's history. We thank him for his dedication and service.



This fall, Dr. Thomas Neu arrived in Jerusalem to replace Lance as ANERA's Jerusalem Representative. Tom brings with him years of experience in the region including Save the Children and UNRWA. On the dawn of a new era in Middle East politics, we wish he and his family all the best.



Isam Shawa, director of ANERA's Gaza office, retired this fall after almost nine years with ANERA. A native of Gaza, Isam and his family plan to remain in Palestine. We wish them health and happiness.

THANK YOU 1993-94 INTERNS!

ANERA would like to thank the following interns and volunteers who helped during the past year: Candice Allagaier ■ Fida Awadallah ■ Beth Craig ■ Khalid Galant ■ Marianne Habesch ■ Sabrina Joseph ■ Leena Khan ■ Jud Niremberg ■ Phoebe Simpson ■ Blanca de la Torre ■

In Honor of . . .

Labib Abu-Akel ■ Mrs. Delores Almond ■ Dr. Hani Bizri ■ Fielding Brown ■ Dr. John Davis ■ Edward ■ Stella Hanania ■ Mrs. Adeline C. Jones ■ Helena Matas ■ Bill Millard ■ Joey & Joseph Rapa ■ Nicholas Robinson ■ Virginia Robinson ■ Mrs. Frances Scurlock ■ Siham G. Sifri ■ Mrs. Martha Whitney ■ Ruth Kassab Yusuf ■

In Memory of . . .

Blessed Mary ■ Leila and Rima Bordcosh ■ David and Doris Dodge ■ Sam Gabriel ■ Notory Yoko Meyataki ■ Dr. and Mrs. Wadi I. Sawabini ■ Karim and Zina Sawabini ■ Diana Yacob ■

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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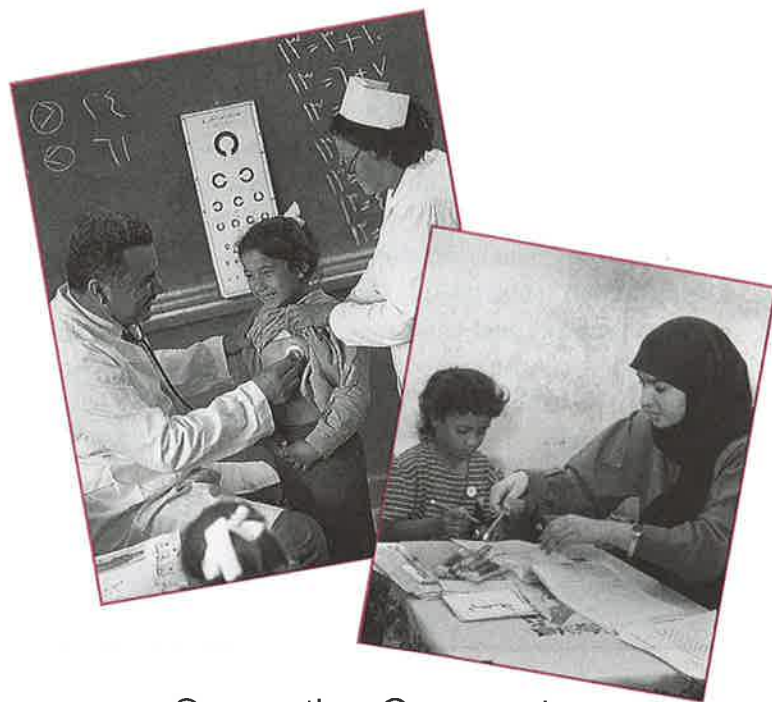
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Dr. Peter Gubser, President
Ms. Jane W. Schweiker, Treasurer

UNCERTAIN FUTURE:
Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

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MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLAN ANERA Projects 1994

In fiscal year 1994, (extending from June 1, 1993 through May 31, 1994), ANERA and its AMER Medical Division gave development assistance and relief aid totalling \$2,786,701 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, and other civilians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Israel.



Supporting Grassroots
Development is an Investment
in Peace.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Grassroots Service Organizations

Mother/child health care, food for the needy, literacy programs, vocational training for women, and job creation. Beit Sahour Islamic Charitable Society (West Bank), Child and Family Consultation Center, (WB), Crippled Children's Center (Jerusalem), Gaza Chamber of Commerce (Gaza), Hebron Chamber of Commerce (WB), Al-Ihssan Charitable Society (WB), Jericho Chamber of Commerce (WB), Nablus Chamber of Commerce (WB), Qalqilia Chamber of Commerce (WB), Sheltered Workshops for the Blind (WB), Union of Charitable Societies, (WB), Union of Chambers of Commerce (WB), Y.W.C.A. (Jericho), Al-Yamoun Charitable Society (WB). **\$84,250**

Agriculture: Irrigation, Mechanization, Credit, and Produce Processing and Marketing

Partial funding to establish mechanized units and irrigation systems, revolving loan funds to assist Palestinian farmers to generate employment and improve their farms, and facilities to process and market produce. The projects are with cooperatives located in Beit Lahia (Gaza), Hebron (West Bank), Al-Jalazone (WB), Jenin (WB), Khan Younis (Gaza), Nablus (WB), Qalqilia (WB), Ramallah (WB), Salfit (WB), Tulkarem (WB), Al-Uja (WB). **\$694,002**

Urban Economic Projects

Construction of slaughterhouses, wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable markets, and light industrial complexes as well as creating the management capabilities for the facilities. The projects are with the municipalities of Anabta (WB), Gaza City (Gaza), and Jabalia (Gaza). **\$253,519**

**TOTAL COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$1,032,271**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

TOTAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE \$502,238

EDUCATION

Child Scholarships

Scholarships for orphaned, destitute and handicapped children. Atfaluna (Gaza), Dar El-Tifl (Jerusalem), Al-Kafa'at Rehabilitation Institute (Beirut, Lebanon), Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem), Society for the Care of the Handicapped, (Gaza City, Gaza). **\$117,898**

Youth Programs, Schools and Universities

Equipment, expertise, and books for educational institutions. Bir Zeit University (West Bank), Early Childhood Resource Center (Gaza), Hebron University (WB), Islamic Industrial Orphanage School (Jerusalem), Israel Palestine Center for Research and Information (Jerusalem), Jalboun Charitable Society (West Bank), Jeel Al-Amal (WB), Union of Gaza Women's Committees (Gaza), Hebron University Graduates Union (WB), Young Women's Muslim Society (Gaza). **\$182,650**

TOTAL EDUCATION \$300,548

HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics and Health Training

Partial assistance for upgrading clinics' ability to deliver health services. Arab Colleges of Medial Professions (West Bank), Bethlehem Clinic for Orthopedics/Gaza Society for the Rehabilitation of Girls (WB), Birzeit Environmental Health Center (WB and Gaza), Jenin Red Crescent Society (WB), Al-Najah Almond Cooperative (Gaza), Palestine Health Council (WB), Jenin Patient's Friends Society (WB), Jericho Patient's Friends Society (WB) Qarat Beni Zeid (WB), Tulkarem Red Crescent Society (WB), Sinjel Clinic (WB), The Orthodox Society (Jerusalem), The National Society for Mental Health (WB), Zababdeh Clinic (WB), Zakat Qalqilia (WB). **\$343,415**

Hospitals

Hospital Services for Palestinians. Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza) and Hebron Patient's Friends Society (WB). **\$150,000**

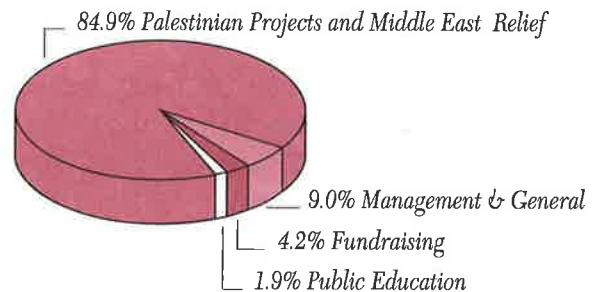
TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES \$493,415

IN-KIND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Medicines and health material for hospitals and clinics. Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza) Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanon), Hebron Patient's Friends Hospital (WB), Abu Raya Clinic (WB). **\$423,229**
Shipping costs **\$35,000**

TOTAL IN-KIND \$458,229

TOTAL \$2,786,701



TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$4,140,952

FINANCIAL REVIEW 1994

ANERA is grateful for the generous donations received this year from individuals, organizations, corporations, foundations and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The chart above represents ANERA's expenditures in fiscal year 1994, which total \$4,140,952. A copy of ANERA's FY 1994 annual report and audit may be obtained by contacting the ANERA office.

ANERA is proud that less than 15% of its income was needed for fundraising and management. This is an excellent record among charitable organizations and is made possible by the generosity of ANERA donors and the efficiency of the ANERA staff.

ANERA

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