

ANERA

Newsletter

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ANERA'S PROJECTS

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 87 Fall 1989

GAZA'S CHILDREN

A Generation at Risk

Recently ANERA began a new scholarship program with the Society for the Care of Handicapped Children in the Gaza Strip. The Society provides help to both handicapped and non-handicapped children living under the severe social and economic conditions in Gaza. The Society will be a welcome addition to our two existing programs that aid Palestinian children in East Jerusalem and handicapped children in Lebanon.

Situated between Israel and the Sinai desert along the Mediterranean Sea, an area 25 miles long and 6 miles wide, the tiny Gaza Strip is home to over 650,000 Palestinians. More than 70% of its Palestinian population are refugees who live in overcrowded towns, underdeveloped villages and squalid refugee camps. Once the home of a flourishing trade in citrus fruits and vegetables, the area is now a nucleus of poverty and economic stagnation. Prolonged curfews and violent suppression of the 'intifada' (uprising) make life in the Strip particularly tenuous.

Economically stifled, the Gazans depend on income from day-labor in Israel. They know, "If we work today, we eat tomorrow." Today they have not worked. For the children, the innocent, life is extremely harsh. These second and third generation refugees grow up in an environment of poverty and turmoil. The camps are pathetically overcrowded and dirty. Families of 12 to 15 are forced to share two- or three-room shacks. Drinking water is rationed and unclean. Open sewage flows in the streets, collecting in fetid pools. As described by one resident of the Shati' refugee camp: "Children do not have to go down to the sea, they play in these 'little rivers' near their homes."

Over 100,000 children under the age of four live in Gaza. Due to poor nutrition, inferior health conditions, and a violent and stressful existence, almost all these children are at risk of disease, disability and slowed development. This will seriously jeopardize their ability to succeed in school, as well as their ability to become contributing members of their community. Early intervention is the best way to ensure that all at-risk children become productive adults.

The Society for the Care of Handicapped Children in the Gaza Strip, a private not-for-profit Palestinian organization,

provides the help these children need. The Society assumes that most poor and traumatized Palestinian children in Gaza are at risk of developing a handicap at a later age. To meet the special needs of these children, the Society formed the Mothers Home Care/Early Intervention Outreach Program. The program, nearly four years old, serves approximately 640 handicapped and at-risk, non-handicapped children and their families.

The Early Intervention Outreach Program trains teachers to meet with mothers and their children at home on a weekly basis. They give lessons using an established curriculum, emphasizing cognitive and language development, motor skills, and socialization. By working alongside the teachers,



Above: A mother and son participate in the Home Care/Early Intervention Program.



Left: Children playing near exposed sewage.

mothers learn to better understand, educate and care for their handicapped or traumatized children. The only requirement for participation in this program is the families' desire to improve their children's lives.

While this program cannot solve the tremendous economic and social dilemma in Gaza, it does reach the children who are the victims of these problems. By providing scholarships, ANERA donors can help. Your funds will be used to provide the children with teachers and school supplies. A scholarship will give another needy child the opportunity to receive the specialized attention she or he deserves.

With the help of ANERA and its supporters, the Society for the Care of Handicapped Children in the Gaza Strip will be able to give children a head start in coping with the difficulties that await them.

Project Activity

In fiscal year 1989, extending from June 1, 1988 through May 31, 1989, ANERA and its AMER Medical Division gave assistance totalling \$2,766,532 to institutions providing economic and community development, education and

health services to Palestinians and Lebanese in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Israel. Of the total, \$2,193,809 was in grants and services, and \$572,723 was in medical supplies and shipping.

Project List

Community and Economic Development

Women's Service Organizations

mother/child health care, food for the needy, literacy programs and vocational training for women. Arab Women's Union (Jerusalem, West Bank), Child and Welfare Society (Beirut, Lebanon), Kalandia Refugee Camp Cooperative (Kalandia, WB), Women's Charitable Society (Hebron, WB), YWCA (Jerusalem, WB).

\$37,100

Revolving Loan Funds

revolving loan funds to assist Palestinian farmers, artisans and shop keepers to generate employment. Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps (Beirut, Lebanon), Nablus Agricultural Marketing Cooperative (Nablus, WB), Center for Jewish Arab Economic Development (Israel).

\$30,000

Irrigation

establish irrigation infrastructures and networks with West Bank village cooperatives in Kufr Malik and Nazlah Sharqiya.

\$80,000

Municipal Projects

construction of slaughter houses, a wholesale fruit and vegetable market, and a rainwater conservation project in conjunction with the training of personnel to serve the needs of the region and generate funds for municipal services. The projects are with the municipalities of Bethlehem, El-Bireh, and Halhul in the West Bank and Gaza City and Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip.

\$384,397

Grassroots Community Organizations

libraries, clinics, literacy programs, vocational and leadership training workshops for the handicapped and assistance to orphans. Four Homes of Mercy (Jerusalem, WB), The House of Hope (Shefa-Amr, Galilee, Israel), Institut de Re-education Audio-Phonetique (Lebanon), Jerusalem Institute for the Blind (Jerusalem, WB), Sheltered Workshop for the Blind (Jerusalem, WB), YMCA (Gaza), YMCA (Amman, Jordan), Zahra Society (Agada, Galilee, Israel).

\$44,000

Technical Assistance

provision of consultants in agriculture and cooperatives, introduction of appropriate technology at farm level, provision of equipment for research on and subsequent introduction of new crops for farmers' use and research on resources for agriculture and industry. The cooperative project is jointly conducted with the Near East Foundation; local institutions in the West Bank and Jerusalem conduct the technology and research projects.

\$170,113

Agricultural Produce Marketing and Land Improvement

partial funding to establish mechanized units to improve land as well as sort, grade, and box agricultural produce with cooperatives in Azzoun, Beit Jala, Deir Istiya, Hebron, Jericho, Jenin, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tarqumiya in the West Bank and Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. With Hebron Agricultural Cooperative, the phylloxera (grape vine disease) eradication program was continued.

\$801,395

Dairy and Livestock Cooperatives

partial funding to establish model dairies, feedlots and breeding centers for cattle and sheep to improve hygienic and animal husbandry practices. The projects are with West Bank village dairy and livestock cooperatives in Beit Nuba, Jericho, and Sawahreh Sharqiya.

\$235,434

Total Community and Economic Development \$1,782,439

Education

Child Scholarships

scholarships for orphaned, destitute and handicapped children. Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem, WB), Dar El-Tifl (Jerusalem, WB), Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Center (Beirut, Lebanon)

\$97,820



Students at the Society's main building

Youth Programs and Schools

equipment and expertise to improve programs and scholarships to attend leadership/peace camps. Hebron Union of University Graduates Polytechnic (Hebron, WB), Gaza College (Gaza), and Legacy International Youth Program.

\$113,788

Aid to the Handicapped

equipment, training, and support for programs assisting the handicapped. Society for the Care of Handicapped Children (Gaza City, Gaza), Princess Basma Crippled Children Center (Jerusalem, WB).

\$20,000

Scholarships at Universities

scholarships for needy Lebanese and Palestinians to attend American University of Beirut (Lebanon), Beirut University College (Lebanon), Bethlehem University (Bethlehem, WB), Birzeit University (Birzeit, WB), Najah University (Nablus, WB).

\$97,000

Total Education

\$328,608

Health Services

Relief Organizations

providing assistance to the victims of conflict in Lebanon, West Bank, and Gaza: food, shelter, clothing, blankets, clinics. Orthodox Society for the Relief of the Sick (Jerusalem, WB), Amel-Lebanese Association for Popular Action (Lebanon), Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanon), Secours Populaire (Lebanon).

\$35,000

Hospitals and Clinics

hospital and clinic services as well as consulting services. Augusta Victoria Hospital (Jerusalem, WB), Ittihad Hospital (Nablus, WB), Maqassid Hospital (Jerusalem, WB), Mt. David Hospital (Bethlehem, WB), The Nazareth Hospital (Nazareth, Galilee, Israel), Patient's Friends Society (Hebron, WB), St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital (Jerusalem, WB), St. Luke's Hospital (Nablus, WB).

\$47,762

Total Health Education

\$82,762

In-Kind Materials

Pharmaceuticals

medicines for hospitals and clinics that serve the poor and destitute. American University of Beirut Hospital (Lebanon), Middle East Council of Churches (Lebanon) in cooperation with Grassroots International, and local Washington, D.C. charities.

\$567,923

Shipping Costs

\$4,800

Total In-Kind

\$572,723

TOTAL

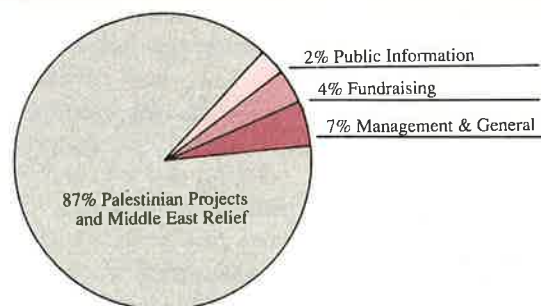
\$2,766,532

Financial Review

The ANERA staff is grateful for the generous donations this year from individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations.

The "pie" at right represents ANERA's expenditures in fiscal year 1989, which total \$3,617,716.00. ANERA's FY 1989 annual audit may be obtained by contacting the ANERA office.

ANERA is proud that only 11% 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.



Total expenditures for FY 89
\$3,617,716.00

ANERA has received gifts...

IN HONOR OF:

- The Good People of Beirut
- Hasan Saleh
- Maysa Siham

IN MEMORY OF:

- Maria Haddad
- Ellen Nassab
- Victor Asfour
- George Husson
- George Barakat

We salute THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND for its generous donation this year to ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Lebanon, and for its continued support over the years.

New ANERA Video

ANERA recently completed a new 13-minute VHS videocassette tape entitled "We Are Here." The video, shot by ANERA donor, Anthony Mansour, highlights ANERA's projects. It may be obtained from our office at no cost.

Please write Caroline Houston at

ANERA for a copy or more

information.

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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.

Contributions to ANERA are tax-deductible and should be sent with this form to the ANERA office. Thank you for your help!

This newsletter was produced by Jonathan Bronsky, ANERA's Executive Assistant. Photos courtesy of Margaret Bay and UNRWA.



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Washington, D.C. 20005

**Gaza's Children:
A Generation at Risk**

Nonprofit Organization

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