Y
et again, as I write this, electricity is out in Gaza. The fuel that is needed to operate Gaza’s one power plant is in short supply because of the continued closure of Gaza's borders. The cuts last about 18 hours a day, which means no clean water, no heat, and no sewage treatment. This adds up to increased health risks for 1.7 million people who were already suffering. Families here are spending their daily lives trying to secure food, find jobs or get medical care.

So what do we do? We make the most with what we have. When it rains, we collect the water. We use the sun to grow vegetables and nourish our families. We rebuild using recycled materials. When the electricity is on, I will be able to turn on my computer and type this to you.

Since my childhood, I wanted to be a journalist to chronicle our daily struggles so people outside Gaza could understand our lives.
We Said YES

A ll of us know that when medical emergencies occur, there is no time to waste. The response must be immediate.

From time to time, ANERA faces a different kind of emergency — a medical “opportunity” where immediate action is also required. Routinely, ANERA ships donated medical supplies to partner hospitals and clinics in the Middle East. Sometimes, we are offered special shipments of donated medicine, usually antibiotics or other much-needed pharmaceuticals. Accepting these large containers means that thousands of dollars in shipping and handling costs must be generated with very short notice. We knew we had to raise the shipping and handling costs before we could say “yes.”

When ANERA was offered two shipments of medicine for Gaza recently, we knew we had to raise the shipping and handling costs before we could say “yes.”

Thanks to an unprecedented response from ANERA’s online community, shipping costs for one container were donated in less than 48 hours. And long-time donors to ANERA, Abbas and Samar Zauner generously covered the cost of the second shipment.

Whether it is a child with an ear infection or an adult facing surgery, thousands of families in Gaza get the medicine they urgently need because ANERA donors respond quickly.

A Voice for Humanity in Gaza (continued from page 1)

I wanted to highlight the resilience of Gazans. Through my work at ANERA over the past five years, I’ve been able to do just that. I am thankful to realize that I look at our crisis differently because of my work. I am able to find some inspiration from families who are surviving and building.

I have two powerful tools for reporting from Gaza: words and pictures. I use them to share the voices of those who benefit from ANERA’s work and show you how your support makes a difference in Gaza.

Shaker & Mohammed (photo on page one)

Eight-year-old Shaker and his cousin Mohammed have been inseparable since they were infants. They share everything. Last September, when ANERA provided their family with a 67.5 square meter greenhouse, and an irrigation system and water tank, the boys developed a new shared passion: growing vegetables for the family. They helped Shaker’s father plant the seeds and have watched with amazement as the seeds turned into juicy red tomatoes. Shaker and Mohammed can tell you all about how beneficial tomatoes are for their health. Shaker’s mother is relieved that the vegetables provide a healthy meal and his father, who is out of work, hopes to sell some of them to raise money for his family.

Ajyal Al Tahrir Preschool, Khan Younis

The preschool was in terrible shape, with below-standard facilities. The children had to use an old clay basin of water with only four water taps. They would get wet and their feet dirty from the water that sprayed from the taps. But what a change after ANERA’s renovations! When I visited the school again I hardly recognized it: the sink had been redone and lowered to the children’s height with 10 new taps that let the water flow evenly. Each child could easily reach the taps to fill a cup with clean water. It makes me happy and proud that ANERA can make such a difference.

I know there are lots of people who care about Gaza but don’t know how they can help. You probably know a few of them yourself. Please let them know about ANERA’s work and the enormous impact they could have on people’s lives by getting involved. — Rania Elhilou, ANERA Communications Officer in Gaza

We Said YES

Number of people connected to clean and regular public water sources: 7,400
Number of people with upgraded sanitation facilities: 1,470
Number of Gaza preschools ANERA has renovated: 48
Number of preschoolers last summer who attended ANERA’s health-themed summer camps all over Gaza: 2,000
Number of families who are now able to grow their own food for consumption and income-generation, thanks to ANERA’s home garden project: 53
Number of new playgrounds installed at schools and in communities: 5
Cost to send a single shipment of essential medicines to Gaza last month, just one of 60 shipments sent in the past three years: $15,000

Statistics on what private donations to ANERA have paid for in Gaza over the past three years:

How You Have Helped People in Gaza

We Said YES

A ll of us know that when medical emergencies occur, there is no time to waste. The response must be immediate.

From time to time, ANERA faces a different kind of emergency — a medical “opportunity” where immediate action is also required. Routinely, ANERA ships donated medical supplies to partner hospitals and clinics in the Middle East. Sometimes, we are offered special shipments of donated medicine, usually antibiotics or other much-needed pharmaceuticals. Accepting these large containers means that thousands of dollars in shipping and handling costs must be generated with very short notice. We knew we had to raise the shipping and handling costs before we could say “yes.”

When ANERA was offered two shipments of medicine for Gaza recently, we knew we had to raise the shipping and handling costs before we could say “yes.”

Thanks to an unprecedented response from ANERA’s online community, shipping costs for one container were donated in less than 48 hours. And long-time donors to ANERA, Abbas and Samar Zauner generously covered the cost of the second shipment.

Whether it is a child with an ear infection or an adult facing surgery, thousands of families in Gaza get the medicine they urgently need because ANERA donors respond quickly.

A Voice for Humanity in Gaza (continued from page 1)

I wanted to highlight the resilience of Gazans. Through my work at ANERA over the past five years, I’ve been able to do just that. I am thankful to realize that I look at our crisis differently because of my work. I am able to find some inspiration from families who are surviving and building.

I have two powerful tools for reporting from Gaza: words and pictures. I use them to share the voices of those who benefit from ANERA’s work and show you how your support makes a difference in Gaza.

Shaker & Mohammed (photo on page one)

Eight-year-old Shaker and his cousin Mohammed have been inseparable since they were infants. They share everything. Last September, when ANERA provided their family with a 67.5 square meter greenhouse, and an irrigation system and water tank, the boys developed a new shared passion: growing vegetables for the family. They helped Shaker’s father plant the seeds and have watched with amazement as the seeds turned into juicy red tomatoes. Shaker and Mohammed can tell you all about how beneficial tomatoes are for their health. Shaker’s mother is relieved that the vegetables provide a healthy meal and his father, who is out of work, hopes to sell some of them to raise money for his family.

Ajyal Al Tahrir Preschool, Khan Younis

The preschool was in terrible shape, with below-standard facilities. The children had to use an old clay basin of water with only four water taps. They would get wet and their feet dirty from the water that sprayed from the taps. But what a change after ANERA’s renovations! When I visited the school again I hardly recognized it: the sink had been redone and lowered to the children’s height with 10 new taps that let the water flow evenly. Each child could easily reach the taps to fill a cup with clean water. It makes me happy and proud that ANERA can make such a difference.

I know there are lots of people who care about Gaza but don’t know how they can help. You probably know a few of them yourself. Please let them know about ANERA’s work and the enormous impact they could have on people’s lives by getting involved. — Rania Elhilou, ANERA Communications Officer in Gaza

We Said YES

Number of people connected to clean and regular public water sources: 7,400
Number of people with upgraded sanitation facilities: 1,470
Number of Gaza preschools ANERA has renovated: 48
Number of preschoolers last summer who attended ANERA’s health-themed summer camps all over Gaza: 2,000
Number of families who are now able to grow their own food for consumption and income-generation, thanks to ANERA’s home garden project: 53
Number of new playgrounds installed at schools and in communities: 5
Cost to send a single shipment of essential medicines to Gaza last month, just one of 60 shipments sent in the past three years: $15,000

Statistics on what private donations to ANERA have paid for in Gaza over the past three years:

How You Have Helped People in Gaza

We Said YES

A ll of us know that when medical emergencies occur, there is no time to waste. The response must be immediate.

From time to time, ANERA faces a different kind of emergency — a medical “opportunity” where immediate action is also required. Routinely, ANERA ships donated medical supplies to partner hospitals and clinics in the Middle East. Sometimes, we are offered special shipments of donated medicine, usually antibiotics or other much-needed pharmaceuticals. Accepting these large containers means that thousands of dollars in shipping and handling costs must be generated with very short notice. We knew we had to raise the shipping and handling costs before we could say “yes.”

When ANERA was offered two shipments of medicine for Gaza recently, we knew we had to raise the shipping and handling costs before we could say “yes.”

Thanks to an unprecedented response from ANERA’s online community, shipment prices for one container were donated in less than 48 hours. And long-time donors to ANERA, Abbas and Samar Zauner generously covered the cost of the second shipment.

Whether it is a child with an ear infection or an adult facing surgery, thousands of families in Gaza get the medicine they urgently need because ANERA donors respond quickly.
A QUIZ FOR YOU:  
Match the Before and After Images from Gaza

A. D.C.B.
Your answer:

ANERA installed this KinderUSA playground in the Ajyal El-Tahrir Preschool in Khan Younis and now the neighborhood children have a safe, fun place to play.

Your answer:

With funding from USAID, ANERA asphalted a kilometer-long dirt road through the agricultural community of Abasan Al Kabira, near Khan Younis. Now children can get to school more easily and farmers can move their livestock and produce to market.

Your answer:

At the Barzem Al-Amal wa Al-Mahaba Preschool, ANERA hung new chalkboards, repaired crumbling walls and roofs, upgraded playground equipment, and installed new sinks and toilets.

Your answer:

Hamda Saleem is from one of the 53 families who have taken part in ANERA’s home-gardening project. She now has a greenhouse in her yard, where she grows an array of vegetables for her family to eat and sell for extra money.

Your answer:

ANSWERS (clockwise): Playground - B, Road - C, Garden - D, Classroom - A

Get your pen out!
Dear Ms. Geraldine Shawa,

I hope to grow up as matured women in my society just like you, my previous headmistress Geraldine Shawa. You were a mentor for poor deaf children, visiting them and never ceasing to care about them. You used to send supervisors and other teachers to check on them, sending gifts, clothes, sweets and sometimes food.

I also want to build mature social and friendly relationships inside and outside my school as you are my high example on that you used to speak to us quietly, gave us the time, had a permanent smile on your face and turned a blind eye to mistakes we made, which occurred as a result of our deafness.

You are a lady who considers and pays attention to everything around you. You have chosen the right people for our education and you even hired older deaf people to help us in our hearing impairment or deafness to show us that we are able to be successful like them. Those teachers taught us updated sign language to cope with international scientific progress and to cope with our curriculum. Whenever, we asked for trips, you approved them (of course we had to convince you first about the benefits of the trips).

Let me tell you about my hopes. I wish I could be loved by deaf and non-deaf people. What a nice thing to be loved by those around us and get their support. I also want to be around the people whom I love and gain their trust. We together can overcome the difficulties that we all face. I hope I can travel all around the world to gain experience and return home with ideas that can help me serve my people, as well as contributing to my educational development.

Just like you Ms. Shawa, I will strive to publish sign language in my community to put it on the same level as verbal language – the same as you did. You learned about our world of sign language and worked hard to raise it to a higher level. I want to work hard to develop my sign language and to expand it to my peers so that it is a language capable of accommodating scientific progress.

I am deaf but have the power of giving. I am an artist just like you, Ms. Shawa. You are a talented artist. I love you and admire you Ms. Shawa! You are my high example!

With all my love, Wafaa' Abu Aser

Grade 9 | Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children

---

GERRY’S RESPONSE

Dear Wafaa’,

Not a day goes by without my thinking about the students at Atfaluna and hoping that circumstances improve in the Gaza Strip so that they can have a better life. I miss all of you very much.

Thank you for all of your kind words, Wafaa. You and other Deaf people like you are the true future of the Deaf in Palestine. With your giving heart, your many talents, and your intelligence and creative mind, you can play a big role in improving the situation of the Deaf children and adults tap into their abilities and participate fully in their society.

Warmly, Gerry Shawa
from the desk of

Bill Corcoran, President

Dear Friend of ANERA:

Too often when talking about Gaza with friends or family someone will say, “Well, it’s complicated.”

For our staff working on the ground in Gaza and from the humanitarian perspective of people like you and me, it is not complicated. Innocent people are suffering and they deserve a chance at life with dignity.

In April, our communications officer from Gaza, Rania Elhilou, is visiting members of ANERA’s community in the United States to fundraise and tell them firsthand about what she sees every day in Gaza and how ANERA is making a real difference in many people’s lives. To her, and to all of us who support ANERA’s work, it’s simple: we can help them, so we do help them.

You can help us spread this message. Share this newsletter with others, let them know they can help families in Gaza.