



American Near East Refugee Aid

ANNUAL REPORT

1975-76

American Near East Refugee Aid
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American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) is a non-profit, charitable organization working to increase total assistance in cash and kind from Americans to Palestinian refugees and other needy individuals in the Arab World. ANERA also responds to civilian emergencies, usually the result of conflict in the area, and seeks to increase American understanding of the plight of the Palestinians. Most of ANERA's efforts are currently directed toward social and economic development in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

American Middle East Rehabilitation (AMER) is the medical division of ANERA. Before becoming part of ANERA in 1971, AMER was the oldest, non-sectarian American voluntary agency providing assistance to Palestinian refugees and other needy individuals in the Arab World. AMER assists medical programs in meeting their annual requirements of drugs and medical supplies.

During 1975-76 ANERA disbursed more than one-half million dollars to institutions in the Arab World, most in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. More than 100 established Arab organizations were involved, most of which have been serving the people of the area for decades. The majority of these are engaged in education for Palestinian youth, and others in welfare and health support. They are, without exception, well-managed and responsible organizations.

ANERA has directed the bulk of its assistance to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because the need there is so great and because most of the organizations assisted count on outside assistance such as ANERA's to help offset inflation, devaluation of currency and generally rising costs. These organizations are important now to the people living under occupation, and they will be even more needed once occupation ends and economic development gets under way.

Because in 1975 and '76 the critical needs of Palestinians living under occupation have been far greater than ANERA's ability to assist through funds raised from private sources, ANERA has supplemented its own effort by a grant from AID, which ANERA is now administering.

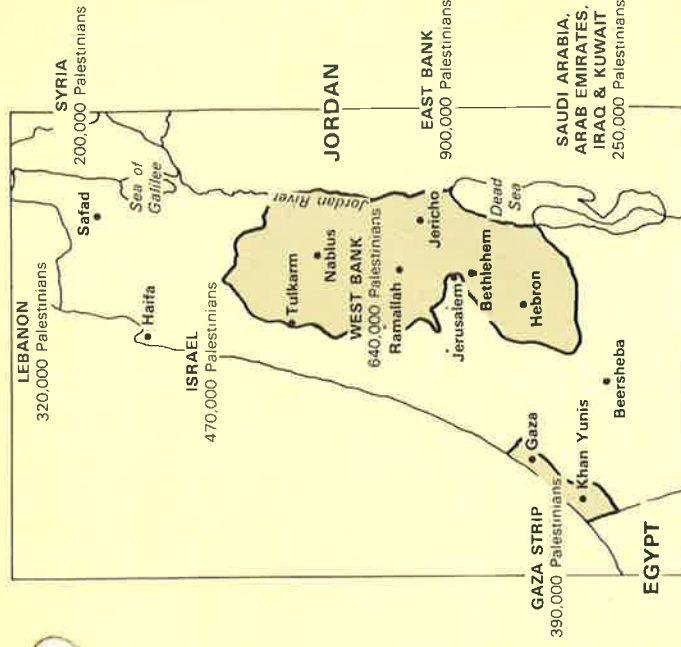
This document is a report of ANERA's stewardship during the past year.

John H. Davis
Chairman of the Board

1975-76 was a good year for ANERA but a deeply troubled year in the Middle East. The tragic civil war in Lebanon and inter-Arab strife temporarily overshadowed continuing military occupation of large areas of Arab territory. Throughout, ANERA has kept at what it knows best: providing direct assistance in cash and kind to organizations meeting pressing human needs. While responding to suffering in Lebanon with shipments of medical supplies, ANERA strengthened its program in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip through utilization of a grant from the Agency for International Development (AID) for vocational training. ANERA's emphasis is shifting from relief projects to those which contribute to the economic development of the region. The motivation for this emphasis is ANERA's conviction that only a strong and stable West Bank and Gaza Strip can participate fully in the future life of the region.

John P. Richardson
ANERA President

THREE MILLION PALESTINIANS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST



Historical

Background

The Palestinian refugee problem is the result of political-military conflict in Palestine and includes those Palestinian Arabs (and their offspring) who fled or were driven from their homes at the time of the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars. Unlike most civilians who leave their homes in wartime, the Palestinians have not been permitted to return to their towns and farms. There are today some 3 million Palestinians in all; 1.5 million are registered as refugees with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Since the June 1967 war, about 1 million Palestinians have lived under military occupation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Long respected among the peoples of the Middle East, the Palestinians are intelligent and hard-working. They are a Semitic people of predominantly two faiths: Islam and Christianity. Understanding the plight of the Palestinians is the key to understanding the present-day crisis in the Middle East.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

During the past fiscal year ANERA and AMER gave assistance in cash and kind totalling \$616,986 to organizations and institutions providing Palestinian refugees and other needy individuals with vocational and academic training, medical relief, and a broad range of community development programs. Of the total, \$547,543 was in cash grants and \$69,443 in medical supplies. The most significant initiative of the year was application of a substantial grant from the Agency for International Development (AID) to vocational (including nurses') training projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. A second grant agreement was signed between ANERA and AID at the close of the fiscal year, for utilization during 1976-77.

The following organizations received ANERA assistance in fiscal year 1976:

1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

| <u>Institution</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|---|---------------|
| In'ash El-Uusra Bireh, West Bank | daycare center, kindergarten, literacy programs, vocational training & employment of refugee women | \$ 1,000 |
| Palestine Women's Union Gaza, Gaza Strip | libraries, daycare centers, literacy programs, training of refugee women, & other special programs | \$ 2,000 |
| World Alliance of YMCA's Amman, Jordan | leadership & sports programs for refugee youth | \$ 2,500 |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency Lebanon & Jordan | books for school children & emergency donation of kitchen equipment for refugee victims of Israeli bombing raids in Lebanon | \$ 1,510 |

ANERA
TOTAL, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS \$ 7,010

2. EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

A. Vocational Training Programs:

| <u>Institution</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|--|---------------|
| Al-Bir Society Jericho, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian refugees in carpentry, blacksmithery, upholstery, painting, leather work, sewing, commercial laundering, & literacy program | \$39,760 |
| Arab Women's Union Bethlehem, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian refugees in traditional arts such as painting & sculpting in olive wood, stone, marble, mother-of-pearl | \$15,920 |
| Arab Women's Union Jerusalem, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian women in sewing & embroidery | \$50,030 |
| East Jerusalem YMCA Vocational Training Center Jericho, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian refugees in carpentry, blacksmithery, upholstery, painting, leather work, commercial laundering, & building maintenance | \$95,678 |
| Four Homes of Mercy Bethany, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian women & men in practical nursing | \$75,890 |
| Industrial Islamic Orphanage Jerusalem, West Bank | food, clothing, shelter, medical care, general academic education & vocational training in carpentry, painting, printing, book binding, rattan furniture construction, upholstery, tailoring, & shoemaking for Palestinian orphans | \$57,300 |
| Near East Council of Churches Vocational Training Center Gaza, Gaza Strip | equipment & training for Palestinian refugees in carpentry, furniture construction, metal-work, welding, upholstery, sewing, knitting, & secretarial skills | \$23,400 |
| St. Luke's Evangelical Hospital Nablus, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian men & women in practical nursing | \$39,720 |
| Salesian Technical School Bethlehem, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian refugees as mechanics, electricians, tailors, carpenters, & technical artists | \$91,000 |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency Occupied Territories, Jordan, and Syria | scholarships to Palestinian men & women for vocational training in teaching, general & auto mechanics, construction, & business administration | \$ 7,600 |
| Women's Charitable Society F on, West Bank | equipment & training for Palestinian women in sewing, knitting, & traditional Palestinian embroidery ^{AN} | \$11,190 |

Elementary & Secondary Schools/Orphanages:

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| Dar Al-Awlad Jerusalem, West Bank | education, food, clothing, & shelter for orphaned & destitute Palestinian children | \$ 2,000 |
| Gaza College Gaza Strip | scholarships to needy Palestinian refugees for secondary education | \$ 3,000 |
| Jeel Al-Amal Bethany, West Bank | education, food, clothing, & shelter for orphaned & destitute Palestinian children | \$ 2,000 |
| Rawdat El-Zuhur Jerusalem, West Bank | elementary education & health care for destitute Palestinian children | \$ 2,500 |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency Karameh, Jordan | scholarships to Palestinian refugee children for elementary education | \$10,820 |
| C. University Education: | | |
| Birzeit University Birzeit, West Bank | scholarships for needy Palestinian students & general support | \$ 3,725 |

TOTAL, EDUCATIONAL GRANTS \$531,533

3. MEDICAL AID GRANTS

| <u>Institution</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|---|---------------|
| Lebanese Ministry of Public Health Beirut, Lebanon | drugs & medical supplies for civilian victims of the Lebanese War | \$20,229* |
| Lebanese Red Cross Beirut, Lebanon | emergency relief efforts among civilians in Karantina and Damour, Lebanon | \$ 5,000 |
| Maqqased Hospital Jerusalem, West Bank | health care for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip & West Bank | \$ 2,000 |
| Palestine Red Crescent Society Beirut, Lebanon | emergency medical relief for victims of the war in Lebanon | \$ 2,000 |
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & the Occupied Territories | drugs and medical supplies for Palestinian refugees | \$49,214* |

*These figures are the value of gifts given in kind.

TOTAL, MEDICAL AID GRANTS \$78,443



Community Development —
WORLD ALLIANCE OF YMCAS

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), in cooperation with the World Alliance of YMCAs, carries on a program of Youth Leadership in Community Services to provide boys and young men with opportunities for self-improvement, and to foster the concept of working together for the good of the community.

The program is operated in 10 refugee camps in Jordan where UNRWA maintains Youth Activities Centers, providing premises, basic equipment, and program supplies. The World Alliance assists the Agency in developing youth activities and community services programs through the training of voluntary leaders and providing technical advice and guidance to leaders in camps. The World Alliance also provides assistance to self-help projects, supplementary equipment and supplies, and a portion of the salary of the Youth Activities Field Supervisor.

The Youth Activities Centers with their programs of youth leadership are a vital force in the lives of young people living in the refugee camps. (*UNRWA photo*)

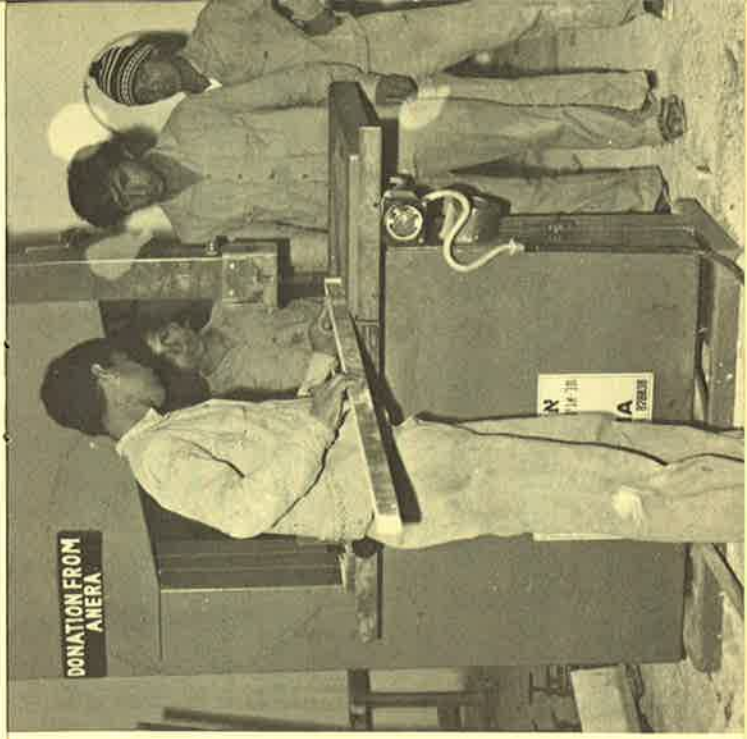
Educational Training —

AL-BIR SOCIETY

The Al-Bir Society for Martyrs' Sons was founded in 1952 to care for boys orphaned in the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. The Society is located in Aqabat Jaber refugee camp near Jericho on the West Bank.

Originally intended to house and educate the orphaned, it now helps both destitute and orphaned Palestinian boys from the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The Society provides academic education for boys below 12 years of age and vocational training for older boys.

The Society is currently operating under an ambitious "five-year plan" to expand vocational training courses, tailored to local needs and emphasizing practical experience. Over 90% of the Palestinian refugees completing the Society's vocational training program are employed within a year after graduation. (*AL-BIR photo*)





Medical Relief —

LEBANESE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In addition to its regular programs, ANERA responds to appeals for relief among civilians during times of conflict in the Middle East. In November, 1975, during a ceasefire in the war in Lebanon, AMER sent \$20,000 worth of antibiotics, medical and surgical supplies for those wounded in the conflict.

The Lebanese Consul General in New York arranged for the *gratis* airlifting of the supplies to the Ministry of Health in Beirut, where they were distributed among the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and local hospitals. (*UNRWA photo*)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

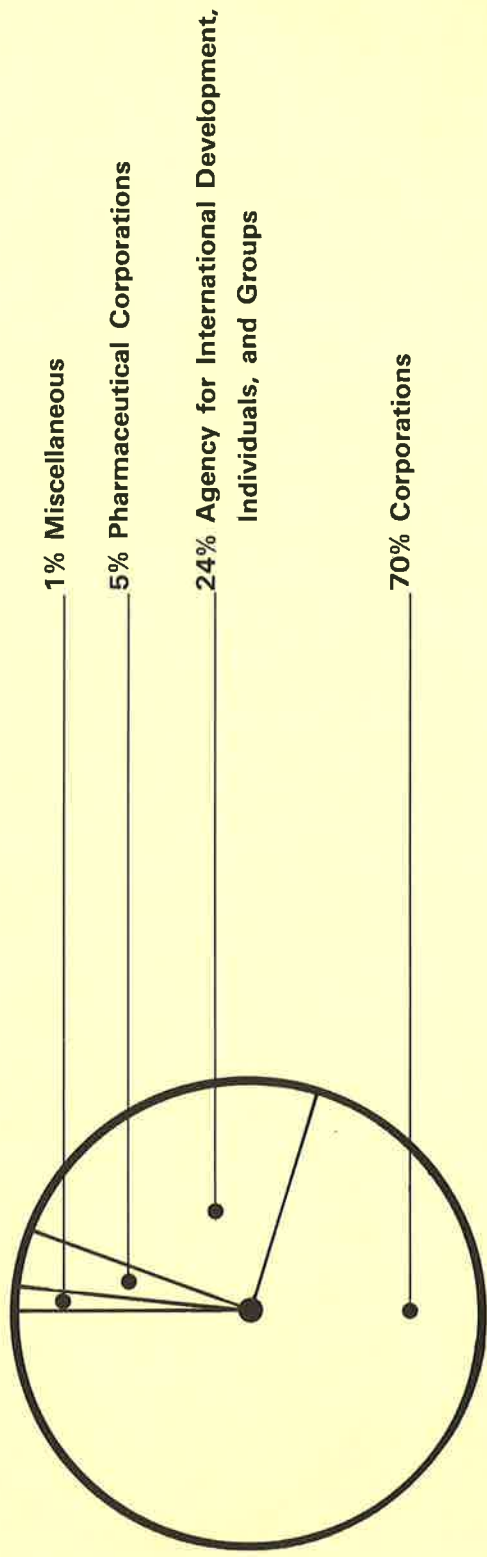
Contributions to ANERA are tax-deductible, and ANERA is annually audited by the firm of Ernst and Ernst. ANERA is registered with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of the Agency for International Development and with the National Information Bureau in New York City. ANERA adheres to standards of the two organizations for operations of private, charitable organizations in the United States.

Contributions to ANERA often vary widely from year to year. This fluctuation in income reflects growing awareness of the needs of the Palestinians, concern during times of conflict in the Middle East, and the state of the economy in the United States.

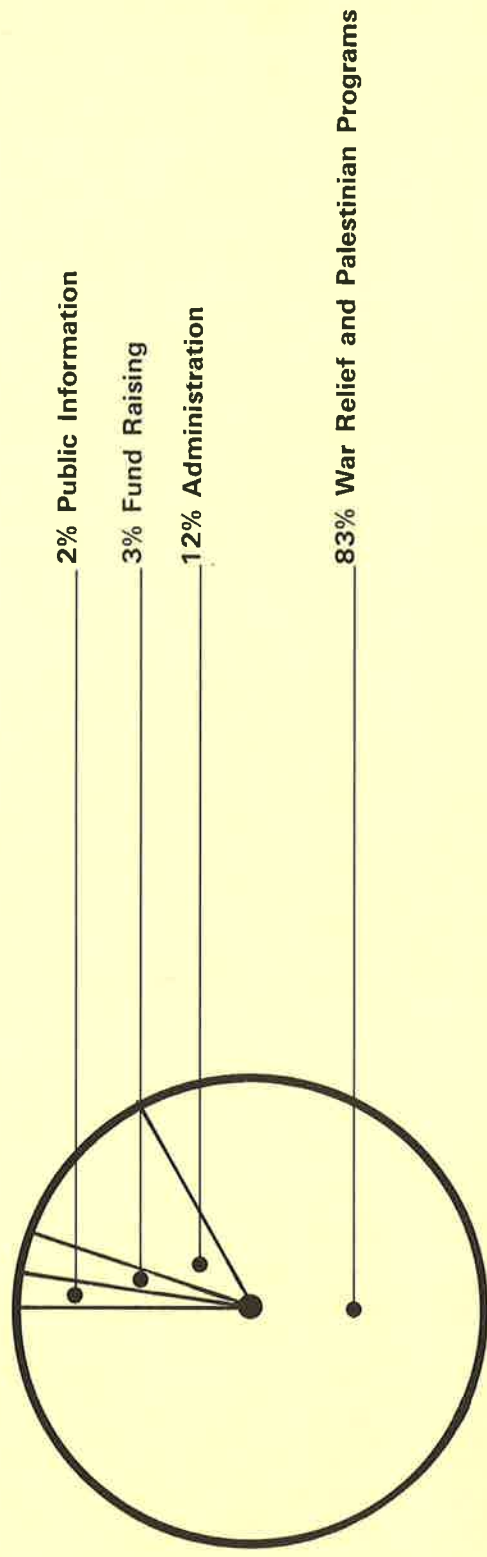
For example, in fiscal year 1974, ANERA's income was \$2,490,473. In 1975, income totalled \$294,963, and for the past fiscal year 1976, income was \$867,978.

Because of annual swings in income, a more complete picture of ANERA's finances should average the totals for the past 3 fiscal years as shown below:

Sources of Income 1974 - 76



EXPENDITURES 1974 - 76



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