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 20 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  
President
THREE MILLION PALESTINIAN 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

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

TOTAL, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS $ 7,010
2. EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

A. Vocational Training Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Bir Society</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian refugees in carpentry, blacksmithery, upholstery, painting, leather work, sewing, commercial laundering, &amp; literacy program</td>
<td>$39,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Women’s Union</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian refugees in traditional arts such as painting &amp; sculpting in olive wood, stone, marble, mother-of-pearl</td>
<td>$15,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab Women’s Union</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian women in sewing &amp; embroidery</td>
<td>$50,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Jerusalem YMCA</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian refugees in carpentry, blacksmithery, upholstery, painting, leather work, commercial laundering, &amp; building maintenance</td>
<td>$95,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Homes of Mercy</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian women &amp; men in practical nursing</td>
<td>$75,890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Islamic Orphanage</td>
<td>food, clothing, shelter, medical care, general academic education &amp; vocational training in carpentry, painting, printing, book binding, rattan furniture construction, upholstering, tailoring, &amp; shoemaking for Palestinian orphans</td>
<td>$57,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near East Council of Churches</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian refugees in carpentry, furniture construction, metal-work, welding, upholstery, sewing, knitting, &amp; secretarial skills</td>
<td>$23,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Luke’s Evangelical Hospital</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian men &amp; women in practical nursing</td>
<td>$39,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salesian Technical School</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian refugees as mechanics, electricians, tailors, carpenters, &amp; technical artists</td>
<td>$91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Relief and Works Agency</td>
<td>scholarships to Palestinian men &amp; women for vocational training in teaching, general &amp; auto mechanics, construction, &amp; business administration</td>
<td>$ 7,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman’s Charitable Society</td>
<td>equipment &amp; training for Palestinian women in sewing, knitting, &amp; traditional Palestinian embroidery</td>
<td>$11,190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Elementary & Secondary Schools/Orphanages:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dar Al-Awlad, Jerusalem, West Bank</td>
<td>education, food, clothing, &amp; shelter for orphaned &amp; destitute Palestinian children</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza College, Gaza Strip</td>
<td>scholarships to needy Palestinian refugees for secondary education</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeel Al-Amal, Bethany, West Bank</td>
<td>education, food, clothing, &amp; shelter for orphaned &amp; destitute Palestinian children</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rawdat El-Zuhur, Jerusalem, West Bank</td>
<td>elementary education &amp; health care for destitute Palestinian children</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Karameh, Jordan</td>
<td>scholarships to Palestinian refugee children for elementary education</td>
<td>$10,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birzeit University, Birzeit, West Bank</td>
<td>scholarships for needy Palestinian students &amp; general support</td>
<td>$3,725</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL, EDUCATIONAL GRANTS** ........................................ $531,533

**3. MEDICAL AID GRANTS**

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

*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

- 1% Miscellaneous
- 5% Pharmaceutical Corporations
- 24% Agency for International Development, Individuals, and Groups
- 70% Corporations

EXPENDITURES 1974 - 76

- 2% Public Information
- 3% Fund Raising
- 12% Administration
- 83% War Relief and Palestinian Programs
ANERA
BOARD

* Member of the Executive Committee
† Member of the Projects Committee

Dr. John H. Davis*†
Economist. Former UNRWA
Commissioner-General and Asst, 
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Karim F. Ajluni
Attorney. Honorary Consul of Jordan
Detroit, Michigan

Mansour Armaly, M.D.*
Professor of Ophthalmology,
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

D. Joseph Asfour
Insurance Executive
San Francisco, California

Hugh D. Auchincloss, Jr.
Management Consultant
New York, New York

Roy E. Brakeman, Jr.
Foreign Affairs Advisor
Standard Oil of California
San Francisco, California

Dr. Norman Burns†
Economist. Former President,
American University of Beirut
Arlington, Virginia

J. Richard Butler
Middle East Working Group,
National Council of Churches
New York, New York

Peter R. Chase
International Government Affairs
Advisor, Mobil Oil Corporation
New York, New York

Franklin C. Cook†
Business Executive
Los Angeles, California

Bertram C. Cooper*†
Writer/Editor
Fairfax, Virginia

Virgil C. Crippin†
President, American Friends of
the Middle East
Washington, D.C.

Gerald D. Dorman, M.D.
Medical Consultant, Former President,
American Medical Association
New York, New York

Dahl M. Duff
Public Affairs Advisor,
ESSO Middle East
New York, New York

Reverend Dr. Edward L. R. Elson
Chaplain, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Michael Gannam
Attorney
Savannah, Georgia

Mrs. Parker T. Hart*†
Former Assistant Editor,
Middle East Journal
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Harry N. Howard†
Middle East Historian and Author
Bethesda, Maryland

Col. Floyd M. Johnson, USMC (Ret.)*†
Former Deputy Chief, U.N.
Truce Supervisory Organization
(Jerusalem)
Lorton, Virginia

Ribhi Kalla
Engineer and Businessman
Chicago, Illinois

Dayton S. Mak
Consultant, Middle East Institute.
Retired Diplomat
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Laurence Michelmore*†
International Civil Servant.
Former UNRWA Commissioner-General
Washington, D.C.

David G. Nes*†
Journalist/Lecturer.
Retired Diplomat
Owings Mills, Maryland

Msgr. John Nolan
President, Pontifical Mission
for Palestine
New York, New York

Nestor C. Ortiz*†
Foreign Affairs Representative
Gulf Oil Corporation
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. John W. Pendleton
Writer
Bethesda, Maryland

Margaret Pennar
Professor of Arabic,
Columbia University
New York, New York

M. Hadi Salem, M.D.
Thoracic Surgeon
Los Angeles, California

James F. Sams
Attorney
Washington, D.C.

Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr.
Dean, Washington Cathedral
Washington, D.C.

Wafiya Shafey
Former Assistant to the Cultural
Attaché, American Embassy (Cairo)
Key Biscayne, Florida

Evan M. Wilson*†
Author and Retired Diplomat
Washington, D.C.
AMERICAN MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Gerald D. Dorman, M.D., Chairman
Consultant for the American Cancer Society
Past President of the American Medical Association
New York, New York

Mansour Armaly, M.D.
Professor of Ophthalmology, George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.
President of Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Elinor F. Downs, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Public Health Practice, Columbia University
Bronxville, New York

Alfred Farah, M.D.
Chairman, Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute
Rensselaer, New York

Onver Mahadeen, M.D.
Pediatrician
Paterson, New Jersey

Charles Hazzi, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, New York University
New York, New York

Rosa Lee Nemiir, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, New York University School of Medicine
Brooklyn, New York

M. Hadi Salem, M.D.
Head of the Thoracic Surgical Clinic, Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital
Los Angeles, California

John C. Saunders, M.D.
Psychiatrist specializing in neuropsychopharmacology and research
Upper Nyack, New York

Mary Anne Kolidas
Director, AMER Division
New York, New York

OFFICERS

John H. Davis .................................................... Chairman of the Board
Laurence V. Michelmore ................................. Vice Chairman of the Board
Nestor C. Ortiz ................................. Vice Chairman of the Board
John P. Richardson .................................................... President
Bertram C. Cooper .................................................... Treasurer
Joyce M. Stewart .................................................... Assistant Treasurer
Cheryl D. Stewart .................................................... Secretary