



ANERA

Improving Lives in the Middle East

Since 1968

2009 *Annual Report*

MISSION STATEMENT

American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) advances the well-being of people in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan. Through partnerships and close consultation with local groups and communities, ANERA responds to economic, health and educational needs with sustainable solutions and also delivers humanitarian aid during emergencies.

- Committed.** Since 1968, ANERA — a U.S.-based, nonprofit organization — has been expanding programs throughout Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon to reach more Palestinian families in need. Our education, health, and job creation programs help many thousands of people every year.
- Ready.** ANERA is ready to respond to changing conditions on the ground with flexibility and resiliency. We work with over 200 local partners and have a staff of engineers, medical professionals, I.T. specialists, educators and international development experts.
- Respected.** We earn respect with the results we deliver. ANERA's Board includes retired diplomats, international business executives, noted scholars, and citizen activists. All have chosen to join ANERA because of our mission and our ability to efficiently deliver programs and relief.
- Trusted.** From a Lebanese businesswoman in London to the U.S. Agency for International Development, thousands of donors from around the world trust us because they know their money is safe and spent on their intended purpose: to help people in need.

A farmer near Qalqilia, in the West Bank, shows off some of his new crop of tomatoes, grown in a greenhouse ANERA constructed on his land.



REPORT FROM *the* PRESIDENT *and* CHAIR

Although we could say this every year, Fiscal Year 2009 tested ANERA's resiliency. The defining event was the war in Gaza. During the three weeks of bombing, we called every day to check on staff and provide moral support. While our Gaza staff were struggling to stay alive, the frustration was palpable in other ANERA offices and amongst our donors who called or wrote of their anguish. Thankfully, our brave staff survived and our work has actually expanded. We have 16 professionals in Gaza alone.

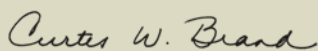
Additionally, the U.S. economic decline touched ANERA's individual contributors and the portfolios of institutional funders. Staff have needed to double their efforts to secure the same amount of funding. Fortunately, our actions were rewarded because of your generosity. For this, we thank you all.

ANERA received its largest-ever grant, \$50 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development under the Emergency Water and Sanitation II program. This is a major vote of confidence in our professionalism and abilities and allows us to deliver fresh water and efficient sanitation systems to more struggling families.

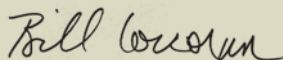
Building our staff capacity has been a priority even in a recession. In Lebanon, we hired an experienced country director, John Viste. Having lived for years in the Middle East, he has adapted rapidly to the urgent challenges of Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages. At headquarters, a Board member became our first-ever Media Officer. Laurie Kassman has elevated our image with segments on BBC, CNN and in the *New York Times*. The selection of Bill Hopkins as our first Chief Financial Officer was another milestone. He provides a level of field experience and corporate oversight that allows us to have even more financial control over all our operations.

Our Medical Committee recommended a revision of policies regarding the acceptance of in-kind medicines to ensure top quality. That, coupled with the reduction of inventory by drug manufacturers, capped the program at nearly \$30 million for the year.

From war-torn Gaza to refugee camps in Lebanon, time after time we have shown our ability to endure and even thrive. Much of that has been attributable to your moral support, suggestions and generosity. ANERA understands this has not been easy in a down economy, so we are all the more grateful to you!



Curtis Brand
Chair of the Board



Bill Corcoran
President & CEO



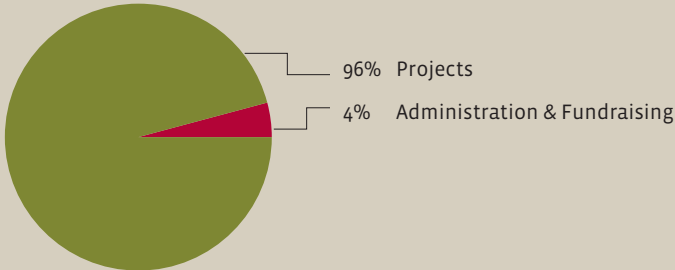
ANERA delivered hearing aids and other supplies to Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza.

Fiscal Year 2009

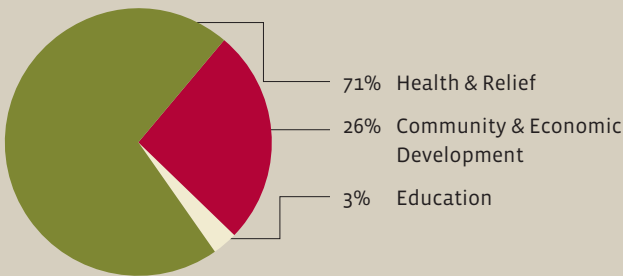
(June 1, 2008–May 31, 2009)

Total Expenses *

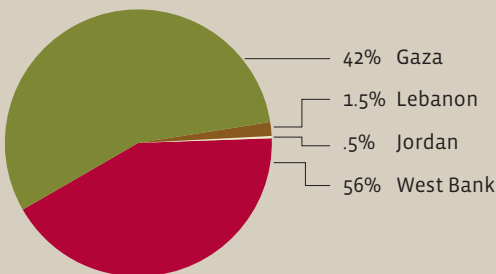
ANERA's total expenses of \$48.5 million were distributed in the following manner:



Program Expenses *



Program Expenses by Location *



ANERA is committed to spending funds in an efficient and accountable manner. We consider every dollar crucial to the delivery of our projects throughout the Middle East.

* For detailed, audited financial reports, visit www.anera.org



Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator, awarded ANERA our 6th consecutive Four-Star rating for excellent financial stewardship. Only 2% of the 5,300 organizations evaluated have received this ranking. Charity Navigator describes the consistency in ANERA's rating as "an exceptional feat, especially given the economic challenges many charities have had to face in the last year."



Long-time member in good standing of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance

"A" rated charity by the Institute of Philanthropy

Gaza Relief



Throughout January 2009, during the 22 days of bombing and the months after, the 16 Palestinians who make up ANERA's staff in Gaza responded rapidly and with creativity to the dire humanitarian situation.

In the months immediately after the bombing stopped, ANERA delivered food packets containing pasta, tuna fish, oil, baby food, and other basic items to families throughout Gaza.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF ANERA'S RESPONSE

(early winter and spring 2009)

- Delivered \$4.76 million in health care supplies and medicines to clinics and hospitals.
- Distributed \$1.4 million in food aid to needy families.
- Distributed chickens to 450 families for breeding and egg harvesting.
- Provided psychosocial assistance in war-ravaged areas to 6,500 traumatized children, ages 8–14, and 1,500 parents.
- Cleaned farmlands of agricultural plastic waste – later recycled –creating 4,500 days of work and employing 30 workers in dire need of an income.
- Expanded the Milk for Preschoolers program, delivering vitamin-fortified milk and biscuits to over 25,000 children at more than 180 preschools.
- Delivered 100 hearing aids and audiology equipment to Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children.



Children in Gaza families, who received chickens for breeding and egg harvesting, really enjoy the new additions to their homes.

Community and Economic Development

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

- Awarded a \$50 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to repair infrastructure in public buildings and provide access to water and sewage services in the West Bank.
- Two major USAID programs were completed. Jobs Opportunity & Basic Services and Emergency Water and Sanitation created thousands of jobs and allowed ANERA to link families to water networks, rehabilitate hospitals and schools, install farm-to-market roads, and build rainwater drainage systems.
- Worked with five West Bank agricultural cooperatives to build greenhouses and consult with farmers. The income level of 350 farmers was raised as a result. Funding came from the U.N. International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- At Nahr El Bared Refugee Camp in Lebanon, helped families return to their homes after being displaced by fighting in 2007. In collaboration with partners, a community center was rehabilitated, health care supplies delivered, a playground constructed, and homes linked to water supplies.
- With U.S. government funding, installed a well, an electrical network, a park, playground and pedestrian path in the “gatherings” (informal Palestinian refugee camps) of southern Lebanon. During these activities, ANERA promoted better relations between poor Lebanese and Palestinian communities living closely together.

BEFORE

Rob Mosrie





The Beit Aftal Assamoud community center in Lebanon's Nahr El Bared Refugee Camp before and after ANERA and partners renovated the building.

Health and Relief



UNWISSEN/REUTERS

Though the overall value of shipments in ANERA's In-Kind Medical and Relief program decreased from 2008 to 2009, there was actually an increase in the number of shipments. The value went down because this year ANERA shipped fewer high-cost medicines, such as those used to treat chronic conditions. In the aftermath of the bombing in Gaza, more basic supplies and less expensive medications were required.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

- Supplied over 25,000 preschoolers at more than 180 schools in Gaza with nutrient-fortified milk and biscuits each school day. The program has reduced the rate of anemia in this population from 39.5% to 19.6%.
- In Lebanon, with 80 local partner agencies, directed the Creative Health Campaign, which makes healthy living fun through interactive educational materials and events, such as health parades and festivals. Twenty community festive events attracted more than 8,500 participants and more than 100,000 different public health materials were distributed through hundreds of local groups.
- Delivered \$29 million worth of donated health care supplies to the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan.
- In the West Bank, renovated 11 clinics and 4 major hospitals in the West Bank with funding from USAID and local municipalities.
- With funding from the Academy for Educational Development, provided technical assistance and support for the design, regulation, implementation, marketing, supervision, and monitoring and evaluation of food fortification practices in the West Bank.



Martine Btaich

In Lebanon, ANERA's Creative Health Campaign bravely took on the task of spreading the word about the evils of smoking. Campaigns across the country featured anti-smoking signs and written materials.

Maysa Gayyusi



The delivery room at Jenin Hospital in the West Bank was in dire need of renovations. With USAID funding, ANERA was able to make it an environment where new mothers can feel comfortable.

Education



Photocredit

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009

- Commemorated the Scholarship Program's 30th year of providing financial assistance to outstanding schools in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan. The program grew from just two schools in 1979 to eight in 2009. The schools serve the most vulnerable population groups—orphans, children with disabilities, children in refugee camps, and those who are very poor.
- With funding from the U.N. International Fund for Agricultural Development, the U.S. Agency for International Development and local municipalities, constructed and renovated 16 kindergartens and secondary schools in the West Bank.
- Installed two playgrounds and playing fields in Lebanon, at Nahr El Bared Refugee Camp in the north and the small community of Burghliyeh in the south.
- Helped integrate 820 Iraqi refugee and Jordanian children, living in three poor communities, into Jordanian public schools by addressing their psychosocial and academic needs. Students were 6 to 12 years old and enrolled in the first through sixth grades. This project in Jordan was funded by the U.S. State Department.
- ANERA's four I.T. Centers of Excellence, built between 2002-2008 and located at four major West Bank universities, formed a consortium to better inform prospective students, the business community and funders about the academic offerings and technical capacity at each of the centers.



A young student at the Gaza Music School is happy to return to her studies after the winter 2008-2009 bombing ended. Their old facilities were destroyed and ANERA helped them restart their program.



Rania Elhilou

A teacher in Jordan is giving a lesson in remedial Arabic to her Iraqi refugee students, who participate in ANERA's program to integrate them into Jordanian schools.



Nada Dajani

Ephphata, a school for deaf children in Bethlehem, is the eighth and newest addition to ANERA's Scholarship Program.



Nada Dajani

This preschool in Almdawar, a small agricultural village near Qaliqilia in the West Bank, is one of 16 schools that ANERA built or renovated in fiscal year 2009.

ANERA hosted a successful tour of the Oriental Music Ensemble from the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Washington and New York. Among other venues, the Ensemble performed at the Kennedy Center during the Arab Music Festival. At the same time, ANERA expanded its scope of future activities from cultivation of Palestinian music to the broader area of Arts & Culture.



Laurie Kassman

2009 Bequests

Although we mourned the passing of these valued members of our community, ANERA continues to benefit from their generous spirit. Through their bequest gifts, they continue to demonstrate their commitment to ANERA's work and set an example for others. These gifts mean ANERA will be here tomorrow, so people throughout the Middle East may live with the dignity we all deserve.

LUCILLE ABLAN

MARY BATES

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VIRGINIA B. LLOYD

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FRANCES WRIGHT



This playground and soccer field in Nahr El Bared Refugee Camp in Lebanon was financed by a private donation from Mary Lou and Jamal Afifi, in honor of their husband and father (respectively), Mazen.

David Snyder

“My late husband, Mazen, had a strong desire to improve the lives of the children in the refugee camps in some way. My son and I felt a playground in his honor was the perfect tribute to him — and thanks to ANERA’s support and hard work, we were able to make it happen.”

— Mary Lou Afifi, an ANERA donor

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In neighborhoods devastated by bombing in Gaza, ANERA set up tents to create environments of love, safety, and trust. Children have a place to play games, draw pictures and sing, supported by trained professionals. Pictured is one of the counselors explaining a painful drawing by one of the children.

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Thousands of families were displaced by the bombing in Gaza in early 2009 and are still living in tents. ANERA delivered much needed food and hygiene items to families like the one pictured.

Rania Elhilou





ANERA has recently upgraded its already stringent requirements on expiration dates for donated medicines—only accepting medicines with nearly a year's shelf life.

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These five-year-olds are getting essential vitamins from the milk and biscuits ANERA delivers daily to their preschools throughout Gaza.

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At the Creative Health Campaigns in Lebanon, everyone has fun spreading the word about healthy living. The fresh watermelons are a particular favorite.

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COVER IMAGE:
In Nahr El Bared Refugee Camp in northern Lebanon, a youngster enjoys a new swing set in a park established by ANERA.

David Snyder



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