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Our Community Responds in the Face of Adversity

BY SEAN CARROLL

Like me, you may be thinking that the end of 2020 can't come soon enough. At the same time, I want you to know that in the face of the pandemic and myriad other challenges around the world we are doubly committed to providing critical emergency response and continuing to build better lives in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. **Where health and hope, dignity and prosperity have been threatened or diminished, Anera supporters have been there to replenish.**

When COVID-19 began to spread globally in March, we all knew it would be only a matter of time before it reached refugee camps and marginalized communities where Anera works. Anera moved quickly to transition education courses online and to ship medicines, PPE and other medical supplies to hospitals and camps. Our medical donations team worked overtime to ship healthcare supplies throughout Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. In 2020 alone, Anera delivered more than \$84 million worth of medical aid.

credits

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Anera never rents or sells our list.

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Anera News Cover Photo:

Anera is employing its vocational students in the Tripoli area to respond to the new economic and public health challenges facing Lebanon. One of those initiatives is the production of cloth face masks. Pictured are Bilal, a 22-year-old Syrian trainee and Hasna, a 14-year-old Lebanese trainee.

Our Community Responds in the Face of Adversity

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Anera is employing women in Beit Hanoun, Gaza to produce face masks for their communities.

We also pivoted long-term development programming towards humanitarian response. Youth in our non-formal education program in Lebanon gained experience and income, as carpentry students construct COVID-19 isolation centers, plumbing and electrician students build disinfection gates, and catering students make meals for the elderly and infirm. To date, our sewing students have made 1.6 million face masks. Our Lebanon team recently shared their mask-making techniques with a women's cooperative in Beit Hanoun, Gaza (our partner featured in the last newsletter). Members of the cooperative are now making thousands of masks for communities across Gaza.

In 2020, we have had to pivot our work three times, from our "normal" political and economic challenges, to revolution and economic collapse, then to COVID-19, and finally to the terrible explosion that rocked Beirut.

Despite the shock our own staff in Lebanon suffered, the team moved quickly to respond in the immediate aftermath of the Beirut blast. They mobilized volunteers to clean streets and distribute food, PPE and cleaning supplies to hundreds of families who were picking up the pieces. Now, they are working quickly to rehabilitate 2,000 homes before cold weather sets in.



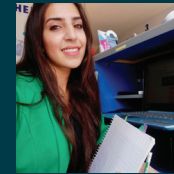
Anera construction students from Shatila Palestinian refugee camp, cleaning up rubble at the port.

All that Anera's programs have accomplished would not be possible without Anera's community of supporters. You have really come out in force to meet the challenges that 2020 brought.

Thank you!

BY THE NUMBERS

Because of your support in 2020...



5,264 young people from Lebanon's camps and surrounding communities learned Arabic, English, math and job skills.



56 shipments of donated medicine (valued at \$82.8 million) and supplies went to hospitals and clinics across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.



160,000 Palestinians gained access to clean water through well repairs and installation of water filtration systems in Gaza.



38,113 families received hygiene kits across Lebanon and Gaza – vital in the fight against COVID-19.

Learn more at: anera.org/annualreport

WHY I SUPPORT ANERA | I FEEL PROUD TO BE SUPPORTING ANERA

By Arthur Baur

I grew up in the country, outside of New York City. It was the sort of place where there were a lot more cows than people.

It was during my college studies that I first learned about the unjust arrangements that the British government instituted in the Middle East and how that impacted the Palestinians. The plight of people forced to live in refugee camps really touched me. It was an injustice that had a lasting impact on me. So I've felt connected to the Palestinian issue for a long time.

I've been more actively engaged on the Palestinian issue for the last 15 years. I was particularly horrified when Israel invaded Gaza during the 2008-2009 conflict.

To be honest, I can't remember how I first found Anera but it felt like a great match for me. I was drawn to Anera by its humanitarian mission. I liked what they were doing and their message. (I was also happy to find that they didn't overwhelm my inbox and mailbox with constant fundraising appeals!) I started giving to Anera three to four times a year for their different campaigns.

I became a monthly donor. I feel proud to be supporting Anera. Eventually I went on to add Anera to my estate plan, becoming a member of the Legacy Society. Fortunately, it was quite easy to do. I needed to redo our will anyway and I decided to set up a trust. The estate lawyers asked if there were any legacies I wanted to support and from there it was very straightforward. I give to a dozen or more organizations but Anera is the only organization that I've actually put in my will.

Messaging in this country is blind to the reality of the situation there. I wanted to do something more than the usual to say that we don't all see the situation this way. | [Become a monthly donor like Arthur, at: anera.org/monthly](http://anera.org/monthly)



Art Baur in his vegetable garden.

With your support, Anera's 60 staff in Lebanon are helping to rebuild Beirut after the cataclysmic explosion on August 4, 2020 – one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history.

Distributing Relief Items

Within days of the explosion, Anera set up a tent in the Mar Mikhael neighborhood, about a kilometer from the blast site. From this location, we mobilized hundreds of youth volunteers from all over Lebanon to clean up rubble and glass, sort trash, make and distribute sandwiches, and hand out water, face masks, and hygiene kits to families affected by the explosion.

Delivering Medicines and PPE

Anera's well-established medical donations team in Lebanon was quickly able to spring into action. We maintain a continuously updated needs list of emergency medicines and medical supplies based on our ongoing direct communications with hospitals and clinics in Beirut.

We communicate needs to our amazing network of partners that includes Direct Relief, Americares, International Health Partners (IHP), Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), Lutheran World Relief, Heart-to-Heart, Wheels-to-Heal, Hikma, and others. Since the Beirut blast, we have delivered 30 shipments, and we are working on another 10-15. Four recently went through the clearance process in Beirut: donated anesthetics from Americares, an HPIC shipment of donated chronic disease medicines, donated antiviral and chronic disease medicines from CMMB, and a procurement of PPE from China. Shortly after the explosion, we delivered a 56-ton air shipment of donated medicine and medical supplies.

Rehabilitating Homes

Anera assessment teams with backgrounds in construction, social work and engineering have been continuously visiting Beirut neighborhoods affected by the blast. We work in areas that were already economically vulnerable, and then suffered the most from the blast: Karantina, Borj Hammoud, the Zoqaq El Blat and Basta Tahta areas of the Bachoura neighborhood, the Beydoun area of Achrafiye, and Gemmayze and Mar Mikhael. Anera is working with partners like Muslim Aid USA and CARE International, to repair damaged homes in Beirut, Lebanon. Anera has so far surveyed 1,700 homes, completed renovations on 220, and is in the process of working on 200.



What has happened to our lovely city is heartbreaking, but what's inspiring is that everyone wants to help Beirut and is coming together in solidarity, volunteering their time, and giving what they can to make things better. We'll rebuild beautiful Beirut together!"

*- Leen Ataya, Anera's education program manager in Lebanon
Leen with a team of graduates from Anera's vocational education courses in construction, social work and engineering set out to conduct damage assessments following the August 4 explosion in Beirut. Anera is employing its construction vocational graduates to perform these assessments and repair work.*

anera's
Global Gala
 Reuse, Respect, Replenish



In a year filled with uncertainty and social distancing, our Anera community came together for our first virtual gala. Even though we could not gather for our traditional in-person gathering, our community reaffirmed its commitment to supporting refugees and vulnerable communities across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.

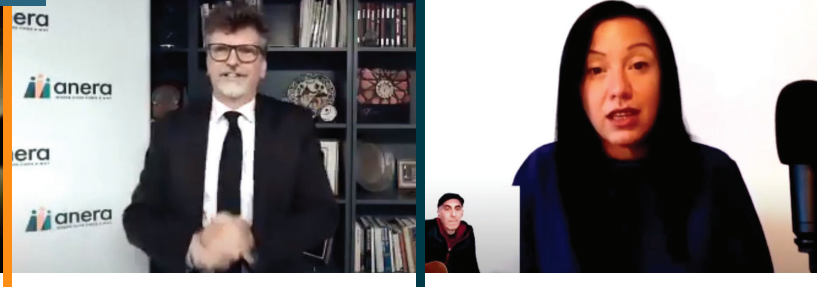
Our 2020 Global Gala highlighted Anera's green programs that **reuse** resources that would otherwise go to waste, **respect** land and water by using these natural riches in the most eco-friendly ways, and **replenish** the beauty of the land through responsible waste and water management and the use of renewable energy sources.

President and CEO Sean Carroll led guests through Anera's work over the past year, with particular emphasis on our staff's ability to transition programs quickly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The symbiotic nature of Anera's programs made them easy to adapt and implement when facing public health crises in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. We also highlighted Anera's quick response to the Beirut explosion in August — rehabilitating 1,700 homes and delivering 22 shipments of vital medicines and PPE to Beirut hospitals.

Noura Erakat, human rights attorney and assistant professor at Rutgers University, returned as master of ceremonies. The gala featured engaging, original performances from artists around the world, including Joubran Trio, Omar Kamal, 47 Soul, Lina Makhoul, Amine Hashem and Palestinian poet Rafeef Ziadah.

And we had special cameo appearances from US Representatives Nita Lowey and Rashida Tlaib, and US Senator Chris Van Hollen, the Qatari Ambassador to the US Sheikh Meshal Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Lebanese Ambassador to the US Gabriel Issa, and actor Yasmine Al Massri.

To watch a video of Anera's Global Gala, visit: anera.org/live



Despite these difficult times, people can count on good days to come because of your generosity.

With your support, we will replenish hope together.

anera.org/replenishhope



Anera is excited to announce a new partnership with FreeWill to help create support and provide resources to refugees and vulnerable communities across the Middle East — forever.

With our new, free online resources, creating a planned gift to Anera is quick, easy and accessible for all. By visiting FreeWill.com/Anera, our community can use a **free will-writing tool** to make an estate plan at no personal cost, and create a lasting gift and a legacy of hope for future generations of refugees. Or, if you're 70.5 or older, you can visit FreeWill.com/QCD/Anera to give a **tax-free gift from your IRA** to make an immediate impact on our mission, while gaining great tax benefits.

Consider these new resources to help hope find a way in Palestine and Lebanon — today, tomorrow, and always.





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Asma is a preschooler at the recently-opened Madama preschool in the West Bank, Palestine. Anera built the preschool as part of its early childhood education program.