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Symbiotic Development in Gaza

Anera strives to create lasting solutions that meet a range of urgent needs at local nonprofits in every country where we operate. These are our valued partners that carry out the impactful and meaningful work that you, our supporters, make possible.

One of our key partners in Gaza is the Cooperative Society for Saving and Lending (CSSL) in Beit Hanoun. This women's center provides valuable services promoting economic and social empowerment to bolster the ability of women to become more independent. These programs include small income-generating activities for women, and services promoting their legal and economic rights.

Over the past couple years, Anera has been working with CSSL to improve their capacity to provide the kinds of programs and services that will help their members and surrounding communities to thrive. Our work there is a perfect example of the kind of multi-faceted interventions, outlined below, that we will tailor and replicate with other local partners throughout Gaza.

Building a new floor of classrooms and offices

Anera added a new second floor to the center with three large new rooms, expanding the training and working spaces for the members. We also built offices for staff. The construction provided much-needed jobs to 66 workers for 74 days.

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credits

The Anera newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (Anera), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to providing development, health, education and employment programs to Palestinian communities and impoverished families throughout the Middle East.

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Anera never rents or sells our list.

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Anera News Cover Photo:

Nisreen is a student in Anera's photography training course at the CSSL center in Beit Hanoun, Gaza.

Ibrahim Zanoun, photographer

Symbiotic Development in Gaza *continued from page 1*



Preparing lunches in the center's kitchen.



Plants growing in the center's hydroponic garden.

Providing women with job skills training

We supported job skills training and business development for 65 women from the local community, so they can better support their families. Fifty women took part in sewing, embroidery, beauty care and photography courses and 15 others received grants to improve their small enterprises.

Installing solar panels

When Anera undertakes a building construction project, solar is always included. At the women's center, Anera installed a solar panel system with a five kilowatt capacity, enough to operate the center during the frequent electricity cutoffs. It also powers the new hydroponic garden.

Making lunches for preschoolers

Anera's new school feeding program will employ 40 women at the center to prepare daily lunches for 1,000 children in 10 preschools across north Gaza. The produce will come from CSSL's hydroponic garden and from 30 local farmers who have Anera-supported greenhouses and small farms.

Piloting a new hydroponic garden

Anera installed a hydroponic garden on the center's roof. Plant roots grow directly in water or in a substrate other than soil, like gravel or coconut shells. Hydroponic agriculture can grow 10 times the number of plants using only 20 percent of the water that traditional farms use.

Anera's interventions at the center and its environs have created a mutually beneficial, symbiotic relationship. The new facilities provide space for the women, who learn new skills and produce merchandise to sell. The solar panels power the center and the hydroponic garden, which provides produce the women use to make catered meals. Produce also comes from nearby Anera-supported family-owned greenhouses. The lunches will feed children who benefit from our work at preschools that we renovated and where we trained teachers.

This is a model of development that we plan to replicate with other trusted partner organizations in Gaza. We welcome you, our supporters, to participate in this work.

To learn more, please contact us at anera@anera.org with "how can I support local Gaza orgs?" in the subject line.

BY THE NUMBERS

For Ramadan This Year in Gaza & Lebanon ANERA PROVIDED

3,555 food parcels to Gaza families



which included two rounds of fresh produce grown in local greenhouses that Anera built and supported.

16,000+ food parcels



to families in Lebanon who live in refugee camps and other vulnerable communities.

1,835 hot meals



during Ramadan to the elderly and others struggling with food insecurity in Lebanon.

ANERA VISIONARY | A FAMILY PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING REFUGEES

By Mike Kraft

I've moved around quite a bit during my lifetime, but at heart I'm a Midwesterner and lived most of my life in the "flyover" states. I grew up in Minnesota and my extended family is all there.

From 2013-2015 my family and I lived in South Korea while I was on an assignment with my company. We first became active in refugee causes while we were in Korea, where we got involved with an organization that helps North Korean refugees escape and resettle in South Korea.

After Korea, we relocated to Nashville, TN which has a very dynamic refugee community. **The personal relationships that came out of our volunteer work sensitized us to the political issues that impact refugees and their families back in their places of origin.**

I first became interested in Anera in 2018, as a response to some of the events that were affecting Palestinian refugee communities at that time. Then in early 2019, the Trump Administration took actions that effectively ended all US financial aid to the West Bank and Gaza. I knew this would have a huge negative impact and I wanted to do something.

I began researching aid organizations that were active in the region and was very impressed with Anera and the work that they are doing in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as in Lebanon and Jordan.

I provide monthly donations and try to help with additional donations during crisis situations such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. I stay connected to your activities by following Anera's email updates, the website, and social media. I also appreciate the regular personal contact from Anera staff members.

| Read Mike's full story on our blog: anera.org/visionary-family



Michael and Kelly

Anera's continued response to COVID-19 in Palestine and Lebanon



Anera distributed more than 13,500 hygiene kits with items like hand sanitizer and bleach to vulnerable refugee families in the Syrian and Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon. We also provided short, informative, and socially distanced COVID-19 hygiene awareness sessions.

In Lebanon, Anera launched a program to meet some of the needs for masks. We have made 400,000 surgical masks to date and are making another 800,000, which are being distributed to front-line responders, both medical and non-medical. This project employs 100 youths who have gone through Anera's vocational training programs.



Our communications staff curated and created health materials that address a range of topics, from spotting symptoms to protecting your immune system. In Lebanon and Palestine, we have shared materials through radio, social media and WhatsApp message trees based on issues that we identified as needing to be addressed in local communities.



In Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, our medical donations team has stepped up the number and value of shipments. Some contain COVID-19 related items like PPE while others support strained health systems with medicines for a host of conditions, like chronic diseases and and cancers. In fact, **this past year, Anera delivered \$85 million worth of in-kind medical donations – the most ever!**



Our cash-for-work strategy in Lebanon puts young people to work. Catering students cook meals for vulnerable families – 3,000 meals so far! Electrical and plumbing students constructed 40 sterilization gates for the entry points to camps and municipalities. Carpentry students built three COVID-19 isolation centers.

Fifty talented young women and men in Gaza started their journey to becoming professional coders. This is Anera's second cohort of coding students, but this time it's remote due to COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions. We're looking forward to following their progress over the next few months.



In Case You Missed It

THE LATEST FROM ANERA.ORG



Providing Food in Gaza and Lebanon During Ramadan

Every year during Ramadan, Anera assembles food parcels with an array of pantry essentials for hungry families in Gaza and Lebanon. COVID-19 meant our food parcels were more important than ever. To meet the heightened need, we expanded and incorporated new elements into our distributions this year.

At the end of April, with funding from Islamic Relief USA, our team began assembling Ramadan food parcels for 3,555 families throughout Gaza. The parcels included, for the first time, fresh produce grown in local family greenhouses that Anera supporters built.

Anera also delivered tens of thousands of food parcels to vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian refugee families throughout Lebanon.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/food



Living with Cystic Fibrosis in Bethlehem

“We are so thankful to Anera for providing the medicines to my children to help in treating their disease.” — Mohammed & Sara’s parents.

Mohammed and Sara are siblings. They both have cystic fibrosis and receive ongoing treatment at Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem — the only pediatric hospital in the West Bank. Both were prescribed an antibiotic that they need to take every other day for the rest of their lives. The medicine is in short supply in Palestine, and purchasing it is expensive.

Thanks to a recent donated medicine shipment that Anera delivered to the hospital, Mohammed and Sara can now obtain the medicine they need, free-of-charge. Since getting the medicine their breathing has improved.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/cystic-fibrosis



Ahed’s New Clothing Shop in Beit Hanoun, Gaza

“It is a life-changing experience to own a business and be able to give charity, rather than rely upon it.” — Ahed

Every morning, Ahed goes to work at her new shop, which she opened back in March. She is one of 15 women who received grants through Anera’s women’s empowerment program. Twice a month, Ahed goes to the central Shejaiya market in Gaza City and buys clothes at wholesale prices. She brings some of her own inventory to exchange. “Trading is fun,” she says. “It was difficult at the beginning. I was afraid of being deceived by the experienced retail traders. But I learned!”

The participating women received grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000. They also took part in management training.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/gaza-shop

Anera invites you to join us for our

2020 Virtual Gala

#OnThisLand

October 2, 2020, 7 PM EST

This year we cannot be together in person for our Annual Dinner, but we are planning a beautiful evening online with celebrity artists joining us from all over the world! So far we have confirmed Omar Kamal, Trio Joubran and 47 Soul. Stay tuned for more exciting news!

This Gala is our main fundraiser of the year, so please plan to join us for an inspiring and engaging event. Enjoy amazing performances while supporting the refugees and vulnerable communities of Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan.

We will be highlighting 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 using renewable energy sources.

Please sponsor or buy a ticket at anera.org/virtual-gala



The Trio Joubran



Omar Kamal



47 Soul

Anera’s Leadership Circle

When you join the Anera Leadership Circle, you invest in communities. Your support helps the most vulnerable refugees, families and communities overcome poverty and displacement. **The Leadership Circle recognizes the generosity of Anera’s most dedicated donors.** Various levels of membership are available and each comes with a variety of special privileges.

Would you like to learn more?
Contact Christina Andeweg at candeweg@anera.org or 202-266-9718



Making a donation from your IRA is an easy way to help refugees live with dignity, purpose and hope.

Questions?
Contact Maggie Forster Schmitz at 202-266-9720 or mfschmitz@anera.org



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Symbiotic Development in Gaza

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“I want to tell the young Palestinians everywhere that they should unite and remain united. Help one another. Stand with each other as one and keep Palestine on your mind in everything you do. Plan for returning to our Palestine and do not allow anyone to put shackles on your dreams. You’re our ticket back home.”

— Aisha, an 80-year-old Palestinian refugee in Lebanon who Anera supports