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Anera is Back in Jordan!

With an influx of refugees from four regional wars in just 70 years and a lack of water and other resources, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its people face many challenges. Millions of refugees from these conflicts live in Jordan. The country has more than two million Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA. It has the second highest number of UNHCR-registered refugees in the world, at 655,000.

The refugee population places a huge burden on the country's services and resources. In order to help respond to the enormous needs, Anera returned to Jordan in 2019, after an eight-year absence. Our support in the initial stages focuses on medical aid and humanitarian relief and educational programming, which are particularly important during COVID times.

Delivering Medical Aid

Shortages of medicines and healthcare supplies are a chronic problem in Jordan's refugee camps. Anera has a venerable track record in delivering medical donations across Palestine and Lebanon, and we are well positioned to do the same in Jordan.

In 2020, Anera delivered two pilot shipments to Jordan as a test to

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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:

Jerash camp is located in a beautiful, verdant area of northern Jordan. The residents there are 1967 Palestinian refugees and they have no rights (as opposed to those who came in 1948, who have full rights). They are very limited in the professions they can practice. In other camps, there is a mix of ‘48 and ‘67 refugees. In Jerash, the 40,000 refugees are from ‘67 so they do not have social security numbers. They cannot enroll in schools or qualify for health care. Anera will be working in the camp to address some of these pressing needs.

Photo by Liz Demarest

Anera is Back in Jordan!

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Education is core to breaking the cycle of poverty for refugees in Jordan.

navigate the importation and distribution processes after our absence. The shipments, valued at \$18,000 and \$12,000 respectively, included chronic medicines and vitamin D droplets distributed to two of Anera’s excellent in-country partners, Jordanian Medical Aid for Palestinians (JMAP) and Syrian American Medical Society, which were previously forced to reduce or halt their operations due to COVID-19.

Anera is currently sending another shipment to Jordan of vital medications for chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension. Despite facing significant delays due to COVID-19 restrictions at the port, Anera’s shipment will depart from the UK soon. We are working with International Medical Corps, a leading health partner, to provide these medications that target vulnerable Jordanians as well as in-camp and out-of-camp refugees.

Closing the Education Gap

Education is core to breaking the cycle of poverty in which refugee families in Jordan have been trapped.

We are currently starting a program that will address learning gaps by providing gently used laptops with educational enrichment materials loaded onto them that help students better prepare for and participate in the formal education system. The laptops address challenges imposed by the pandemic, by giving teachers the opportunity to expand their ability to teach in a remote learning environment using digital academic materials.

We are also securing funding for early childhood development (ECD) to reach young learners during the most critical cognitive and social developmental phase of life. In these efforts we will build on our strong programs and experience with preschools in Palestine.

Anera’s ECD pilot project in Jordan will go hand-in-hand with women’s economic empowerment. Women who have opportunities to send their young children to school are better able to find jobs outside of the home.

Our Jordan reentry is still in the early phases, but we have cultivated good relationships with local partners and we are identifying donors who want to help. We are well on our way to building a strong and impactful presence there.

Learn more about our Jordan work at anera.org/jordan

BY THE NUMBERS

Some facts about refugees and vulnerable communities in Jordan

10 Palestinian & 5 Syrian refugee camps exist in Jordan, though the vast majority of refugees live in Jordanian cities.

13% of Jordanian citizens live below the national poverty line and lack access to quality education and health care.

2 million Palestinian refugees live in Jordan, with a large percentage living below the national poverty line.

1.4 million refugees from Syria live in Jordan. Although Jordan has five refugee camps for Syrians, 83 percent live in poverty in Jordanian cities.

WHY I SUPPORT ANERA | DOING SOMETHING TO HELP PALESTINE

By Janah Szewczyk

In 2009, I got interested in a work camp opportunity with a group called Volunteers for Peace. I saw that the International Palestinian Youth League had a camp in the West Bank and I jumped at the chance, since I had long wanted to visit Palestine.

I spent two weeks there in the Bethlehem area, specifically in the Beit Jibrin and Aida refugee camps. I got to know farmers, kids, their parents, and so many other wonderful people. Hebron was the most impactful thing I saw and experienced. The old city is strangled by an Israeli settlement and businesses are barely surviving. I thought I was prepared for what I’d experience in Palestine, but there was a lot that was hard to bear witness to. Though the experience was fun and fruitful, it also gave me nightmares.

When I came back to the US, I was talking to a colleague of mine about my time in Palestine. And she told me that I should talk to her sister, who worked at a wonderful organization called Anera. She even arranged a meeting with her sister and two of Anera’s program staff from Ramallah and Gaza. That was when I started my donations to Anera.

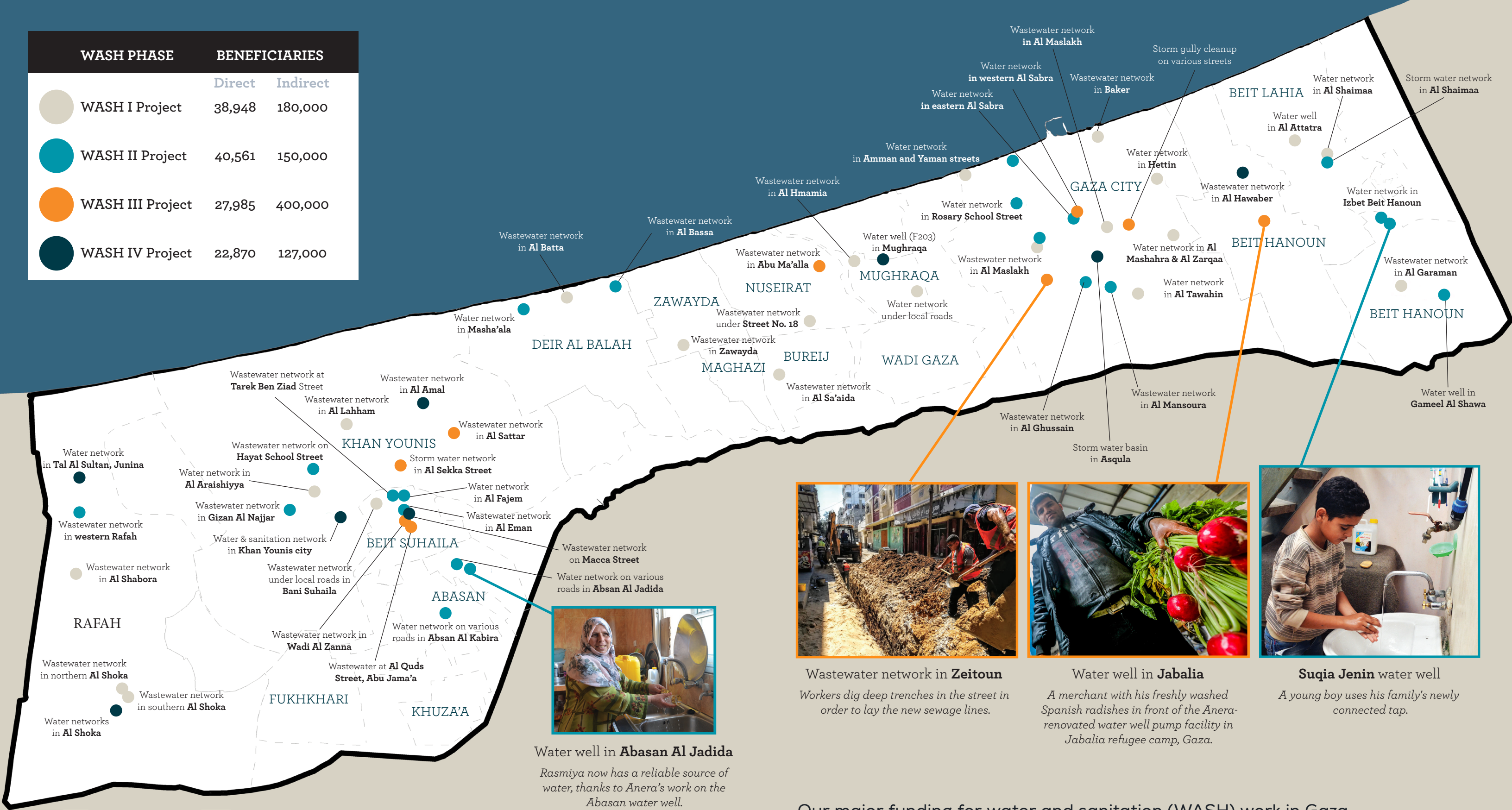
A few years ago, I discovered that there was such a thing as discounted stock purchases for employees at my company and that I could give donations to organizations from my purchased stock. This way I can give significantly more than I could have if I were giving cash. After some initial paperwork and a little planning, it’s now a simple process. Frankly, it feels good to be using stocks to do something noble in the world!

Learn more about donating stocks to Anera, at: anera.org/donate-stock



Anera community member, Janah Szewczyk.

| WASH PHASE | BENEFICIARIES | |
|------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Direct | Indirect |
| WASH I Project | 38,948 | 180,000 |
| WASH II Project | 40,561 | 150,000 |
| WASH III Project | 27,985 | 400,000 |
| WASH IV Project | 22,870 | 127,000 |



Wastewater network in Zeitoun
Workers dig deep trenches in the street in order to lay the new sewage lines.



Water well in Jabalia
A merchant with his freshly washed Spanish radishes in front of the Anera-renovated water well pump facility in Jabalia refugee camp, Gaza.



Suqia Jenin water well
A young boy uses his family's newly connected tap.



Water well in Abasan Al Jadida
Rasmiya now has a reliable source of water, thanks to Anera's work on the Abasan water well.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Projects in GAZA

Funded by Islamic Relief USA
Implemented by Anera

Our major funding for water and sanitation (WASH) work in Gaza comes from Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA). With their support, our team has implemented 50+ WASH projects across Gaza over six years. Our work has followed a two-pronged approach:

- » Improve water infrastructure
- » Spread awareness of practical hygiene practices



In Case You Missed It

THE LATEST FROM ANERA.ORG



Rewiring Lebanon’s Labor Market for Young People

“I had no idea that I would be passionate about this field, but it’s so practical – and eventually, it’s lucrative. Electricians are always needed!”

The economic collapse is contributing to an increase in Lebanese youth seeking employment in fields like plumbing, electrical maintenance and construction. Anera's vocational education program is helping youth weather the country's economic crisis.

With the support of UNICEF and in partnership with the Culture & Sciences Association in Saida, Lebanon, Anera has organized an accelerated electrical maintenance course. Twenty-two young people from Saida and surrounding areas have enrolled.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/rewiring-lebanon



Vitamin D Supplements Make a Difference for Refugee Children

Vitamin D deficiency is very common in Jordan, particularly in refugee communities. Ensuring access to health services for Jordanians and refugees alike is a challenge in Jordan due to an overburdened public healthcare system. Barriers to access are particularly steep for refugees.

Anera is partnering with Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians (JMAP) to help ensure vulnerable children receive the medical treatment they need. JMAP provides high-quality medical care and services to vulnerable patients. Through this project, Anera aims to identify the key drivers of vitamin D deficiencies among children living in Palestinian refugee camps and provide supplements to improve overall health conditions.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/vitamind-jordan



Meet Niveen, An Anera PLUS Coding Graduate from Gaza

Niveen, 19, is based in Gaza. After graduating from Anera PLUS, she now works as a freelance front-end software developer and user-experience and user-interface developer.

“My job involves analyzing a system, creating a sketch of it, and then working on the design. Now, I need to turn the design into reality through a programming language. This job has unlocked new potential for me to grow as a professional coder.”

“I am obsessed with technology. Unemployment is rife in Palestine – particularly for women. So programs like PLUS motivate people in Gaza and give them skills to set them up for a better future.”

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/plus-grads

BBB ACCREDITED CHARITY
bbb.org/charity

CHARITY WATCH TOP-RATED

CHARITY NAVIGATOR

GUIDESTAR PLATINUM PARTICIPANT

Empowering Refugees in the New Year

These are two easy ways you can support Palestinian and Syrian refugees in the Middle East in 2021 – *and they may bring you financial benefits and peace of mind.*

»» Anera supporters can visit FreeWill.com/Anera to write a legal will for free, and create a lasting legacy gift to help hope find its way. Legacy gifts cost nothing today but make a powerful impact that will help keep families together for future generations.

»» Or, if you’re 70.5 or older, you can create a tax-advantaged gift from your IRA. These gifts reduce your future tax burden, and make an immediate impact on the health and well-being of refugees making a better life for themselves. Visit FreeWill.com/QCD/Anera to get started.

Anera is Back in Jordan!

ANERA NEWS, ISSUE 211 | **WINTER 2021**

Palestinian farming families in Gaza like this one continue to harvest produce throughout the winter months in their Anera-provided greenhouses.

