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**Photo:**

*People gather amidst the rubble of Al-Sharouk tower that collapsed after being hit by an Israeli air strike, in Gaza City, on May 12, 2021. Photo by Mohammed Zaanoun (@m.z.gaza).*

# Responding to Calamities

## GAZA

May was a month of crisis in Palestine. Precipitated by the threat of Palestinian families being displaced in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, where Anera has had an office for decades, violent conflict erupted across Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Thousands of Palestinians sustained injuries in the West Bank, while residents of Gaza experienced the fourth major escalation in just 12 years.

Just as Anera's offices in Palestine continued to operate through past Gaza wars and both intifadas, we were ready to respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable Palestinian communities — providing medical aid and food assistance.

In Gaza, the 11 days of Israeli airstrikes caused extensive damage. Many in Gaza said it was the most intense bombing campaign they'd ever experienced. Palestinian families face enormous challenges working to recover and rebuild. Some 8,400 people are still displaced from their homes in Gaza. Another 200,000 Gazans still lack access to basic necessities like piped water.

*continued on page 2*

credits

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Did you know...

Anera has built or fully renovated 15 percent of preschools in Palestine.

Responding to Calamities

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Many of these families were left without access to kitchens to prepare food for themselves. So Anera partnered with World Central Kitchen, the Cooperative Society for Saving and Lending, and local restaurants to provide meals to affected families. Hot meal preparation and distribution began on May 23, two days after the ceasefire, and concluded at the end of June, after making and distributing over 108,000 hot meals.

The May 2021 conflict weakened an already fragile healthcare system and caused shortages of critical medicines and medical supplies. Mere hours after the ceasefire took effect on May 21, Anera sent into Gaza three shipments of medical aid. Since then, we delivered another four shipments and have 12 more slated for delivery in the next three months.

When Gaza’s only blood bank zeroed out its stock of the blood testing kits needed to screen for HIV and Hepatitis B and C, Anera mobilized to provide the blood bank with enough testing kits and other vital supplies to keep them operational for a year.

Longer term, Anera is helping to combat Gaza’s water crisis by installing reverse osmosis desalination units at healthcare facilities and other community meeting points, as well as upgrading water infrastructure.

LEBANON

As in Gaza, the people of Lebanon are caught in the middle of a man-made calamity. In Lebanon, the culprit is bad governance and corruption.

For those without generators (and the fuel to run them), electricity now lasts for only two hours a day. Fuel has also become incredibly scarce, with lines at gas stations that force people to wait for many hours. Perhaps most worrying, many medicines have become hard to find, making Anera’s medical aid program more vital than ever.

Anera is working to provide cash and food assistance to refugees and other vulnerable communities. We are integrating our jobs skills program into the response, employing young people seeking to learn a trade to help us make food and deliver other forms of humanitarian assistance. They give back to their neighbors, earn a wage, and build skills.

As Samar El-Yassir observed last month,

“ Change will come, but in the meantime it’s our responsibility to keep people going and offer a glimpse of hope for the future. ”

Learn more at [anera.org/gaza](https://anera.org/gaza) and [anera.org/lebanon](https://anera.org/lebanon).

By the Numbers: Anera's Gaza Response

108,400

hot meals made & distributed

In partnership with World Central Kitchen, Anera ensured 3,000 displaced families got healthy meals.

[ Turn the page to see the pictures! ]

7

shipments of meds delivered

The medicines restock shelves at healthcare facilities running close to zero stock. 12 more are in process.

[ [anera.org/palestine-update](https://anera.org/palestine-update) ]

1-year

of blood testing kits supplied

Anera provided the Gaza Central Blood Bank with blood collection and testing kits to last a year.

[ [anera.org/sitrep-july-1](https://anera.org/sitrep-july-1) ]

35,660

gallons of water/day provided

Anera installed water cleaning systems at six health centers. In the next month we're installing 3 more.

[ [anera.org/reverse-osmosis](https://anera.org/reverse-osmosis) ]

WELCOME TO ANERA'S NEW DONORS

At a year and a half into the pandemic, it’s hard to imagine how things could get worse in Gaza. Then, in May, a bombardment of unseen scale blanketed Gaza for 11 days.

While these bombardments are the increasing norm in Gaza, this time was different. Because of the voices of Palestinian youth in the West Bank and Gaza, social media was flooded with the story Palestinians have tried to share for generations. When the world heard the call, they showed overwhelming support and donated in unprecedented numbers to nonprofits like Anera. For that, we’re grateful beyond words.

In May, Anera welcomed 4,481 new donors, who contributed \$556,806 to Anera’s programs in Palestine. The most exciting part is that 354 of these new donors have joined the Anera Visionaries by starting a monthly gift. Because of their ongoing support, they’ll provide an additional \$5,000 to our efforts in Palestine every month.

A quote from Suzan, one of our monthly donors, perfectly sums up what a sustained commitment to the Palestinian people means:

“The young people and communities served by Anera have had a difficult past and still struggle paying an economic price over politically motivated governments. All deserve opportunity and education to realize their creativity and service to a better world.”

With the commitment of our amazing donors, old and new, monthly or annually, we’ll keep working to rebuild Gaza once again, an endeavor that will take a sustained effort from all of us. Our Gaza friends deserve nothing less.

If you aren’t a monthly donor yet, please visit [anera.org/visionaries](https://anera.org/visionaries) to start your monthly gift today.



Image from our Palestine emergency response social media appeal.



# Delivering Emergency Food Assistance in Gaza

The bombings in Gaza stopped after the ceasefire on May 21, leaving thousands of Palestinians to start rebuilding their lives once again. Over 1,100 homes were destroyed or suffered severe or major damage.

Thanks to donors like you and our new partnership with World Central Kitchen, Anera worked with local restaurants and the Cooperative Society for Savings and Lending to deliver hot meals to families across Gaza who were suddenly left without functioning homes or access to kitchen to prepare food.

Learn more >>> [anera.org/wck-gaza-food](https://anera.org/wck-gaza-food)



Nine-year-old Islam picks up food for his family, who saw their house destroyed in early May. Islam lives with his parents and younger siblings in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza.



#ChefsForGaza





# Medical Aid Needed Across Palestine During a Time of Crisis and Turmoil

By **Muhammad Atieh**, *Regional Project Officer for Medical Donations*

Palestine has been in crisis. Because Gaza has been at the top of the headlines, people think the needs are only there. That's a major focus for sure, but there's much more.

Throughout the spring, though, there were lots of protests and turmoil in the West Bank. There are no accurate and comprehensive statistics on the injuries sustained in the West Bank during the turmoil this spring brought. Just to give you some idea, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, health facilities have received some 400 critical cases of injuries, 41 healthcare workers were injured, 21 medical vehicles were damaged or confiscated, and there have been reports of physical attacks and restrictions on the movement of healthcare workers.

It's become calmer, but no one knows what will happen next. Will things escalate again? We need to be ready for anything.

One of the big issues here in the West Bank is the dearth of medicines and health care supplies at clinics and hospitals. COVID-19 has been a nightmare in the West Bank, especially after the second wave started in March 2021. It was really grim. The system of Palestinian laborers traveling regularly between the West Bank and Israel led to a huge spread of the virus in the West Bank. Managing the COVID crisis has placed a major burden on the Palestinian healthcare system as a whole.

Patients with chronic diseases are in particular need. Maintaining the continuity of chronic medications is always a major challenge. For instance, we received some really good donations about six months ago that included a new generation of antidiabetic drugs (Type 2). But now that supply has run out, so patients may need to switch back to older classes of drugs unless we can secure another donation. This can be a real problem when patients have to change medicines that they've come to trust. And these medications are so expensive at pharmacies that most people can't afford to buy them.

Chronic medicines are in such demand right now that our clinic partners call me daily asking if there's anything in the pipeline.

Anera is working to respond to the urgent call for support from the Palestinian Ministry of Health. This spring, we received and distributed four shipments of medical aid to 13 West Bank health facilities. They included large quantities of medical supplies like personal protective equipment and antibiotics. And we've just received a 40-foot container of IV solutions, in gravely low supply across the West Bank.

But our healthcare partners and the vulnerable West Bank communities they serve really need more support. We're immensely grateful to our medical donations partners and to all of Anera's donors who support our work to help make quality healthcare available to everyone.

Read Muhammad's full piece on our website at [anera.org/palestine-md](https://anera.org/palestine-md)



Al Ahli Hospital technician hooks up a saline drip. Anera delivered the saline to the hospital.



Save the date  
October 1, 2021



**Anera plans to hold our Annual Gala on October 1 in Washington, DC.**

Our theme – **Coming Together With Hope** – encapsulates the spirit of Anera's past, present and future work.

We are moving back together on a personal, human level, uniting the Anera community again. And, on a policy and program level, we have a renewed sense of togetherness with Palestinians, Syrian refugees, and vulnerable host communities in Lebanon and Jordan.

Please mark your calendar. You don't want to miss this special event!

[anera.org/gala](https://anera.org/gala)

## In Memorium

We are sad to report that, in May, Anera lost two valued members of our community:

**Joseph Asfour**



**Michael Hudson**



Read our full tribute to both on our website at [anera.org/remember](https://anera.org/remember)



[freewill.com/anera](https://freewill.com/anera)

Over the past year, we've all learned that life can change quickly — and through it all, your support has enabled us to continue our work in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. This **National Make-a-Will Month**, by including Anera in your estate plan, you can empower Palestinian and Syrian refugees and other vulnerable communities for generations to come. Write a legal will and craft your legacy with Anera.





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## Responding to Calamities

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*Every year during Ramadan, Anera assembles food parcels with an array of pantry essentials for hungry families in Gaza. This year we did things a little differently by providing food assistance vouchers to vulnerable families.*