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### Photo:

*Youth come together in Akkar Governorate to learn about agriculture. Anera has launched agricultural vocational education courses in Lebanon to respond to growing food insecurity and the economic crisis.*

## When We Come Together, We Get Things Done

The last year-plus brought coronavirus to the world; economic collapse in Lebanon and a massive explosion that rocked Beirut; more encroachment of settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; and another bombardment of Gaza, as well as the continued blockade.

**But the Anera community met the moment, as it always has.**

In 2020 and 2021, there were so many challenges. We had to think of new ways to do things and to invest more deeply in our ongoing programs. **This tough period brought out three of Anera's major strengths.**

**The first strength:** Our staff come from the communities they serve. They know the needs and can jump into action when crises arise. And, because we have been in the region for so long, our networks are well established.

COVID lockdowns, civil unrest, and fuel shortages often hindered our staff's ability to travel. But their good relationships with trusted community activists and leaders, meant that Anera could continue building school infrastructure, teaching young people job skills,

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credits

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Anera never rents or sells our list.

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Did you know...

Anera renovated and repaired 1,198 explosion-damaged homes and businesses in Beirut, Lebanon with help from students in our vocational construction classes.

Responding to Calamities

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delivering food to families in need, getting medicines to patients, giving computer access to students, and much more.

**The second strength:** Anera has symbiotic programs that never lose focus on long-term human development, even when the immediate need is emergency humanitarian aid. While Anera delivers relief, we also invest in job creation, infrastructure, education and longer term food security, so communities are prepared to survive and overcome the challenges each new crisis brings.

Our rooftop gardens in Gaza, for instance, continued to thrive and feed families – despite the bombings in May – because they need very little water and regular upkeep. The solar panels we’ve installed on buildings and water systems in Palestine and Lebanon have ensured they run despite electricity cuts. And we supply hundreds of healthcare centers with medicine donations while building their capacity by providing new medical equipment and upgrading their facilities.

**The third strength:** Because we have systems and people in place, Anera can quickly and creatively pivot to build up our response as new needs arise.

In Lebanon, for example, Anera has had a vocational education program in place for many years. Through our network of training centers, we teach young people skills that will improve their chances at finding work and boost their entrepreneurial instincts. Our staff responded quickly to COVID and the economic collapse by hiring our vocational students to use their new skills meeting immediate needs. Our graduates made 1.6 million face masks, rehabilitated over 1,000 apartments and businesses in Beirut, and made 50,000 meals for hungry families.

In Gaza, Anera connected our greenhouse and women’s empowerment programs to provide healthy meals for children attending preschools that are part of our early childhood development program. When schools closed down during COVID-19, the program pivoted to serve hot meals to families in quarantine. And when the bombings in Gaza happened, the program pivoted yet again to serve families who were displaced from their homes.

The situation may seem overwhelming and bleak. You may feel powerless to effect change. But if you take one thing away from our message to you today, please know that you are making a real difference in real people’s lives. In these chaotic times, solidarity takes courage.

**Don’t doubt the power we have as a community.**  
**When we come together we get things done.**

By the Numbers: Some Stats from Anera's 2021 Annual Report

implemented  
**\$103 million**  
in humanitarian relief and sustainable development projects in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.

employed  
**1,357 youth**  
from our vocational courses to use their new skills improving their communities in Lebanon.

delivered  
**151 shipments**  
of vital medicines, PPE and other healthcare supplies to Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.

provided  
**495 farmers**  
and their families in Gaza with new or improved greenhouses, crop planting, irrigation, and training.

Learn more at [anera.org/annualreport](https://anera.org/annualreport)

WHY I SUPPORT ANERA | A LEGACY OF SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR THE MARGINALIZED  
By Anne DeMuth

I have spent most of my adult life in Minnesota and Alaska teaching English as a second language (ESL). **As an ESL teacher, I was always curious about the places my students were from, and had a strong desire to explore these places on my own.** My first teaching experience abroad was at the University of Cairo, which set me off on many other teaching opportunities abroad, including in Morocco, Russia, Finland and Norway.

**These experiences, along with teaching at a recently desegregated school in the United States, spurred my lifelong commitment to education equity for students who are marginalized, including refugee students in the Middle East.** I support many organizations that provide educational opportunities for students from marginalized communities, and have long supported Anera in appreciation of its work with young people in Palestine and Lebanon.

While I have been concerned about refugee and Palestinian issues and donating to aid groups since the 70’s, I wanted to get more systematic with my support for Anera and have done this in two ways. **First, I began a monthly donation with Anera many years ago, which has allowed me to better plan my finances and feel confident that my support will not be interrupted by other things happening in my life.**

Secondly, I recently had the opportunity to seriously consider my passions and interests as they relate to my legacy when I rewrote my will. **I knew that I wanted my legacy to support groups that work for justice and equity for historically marginalized communities, and Anera was a natural choice for me.** I am proud that my legacy will offer hope for many future generations of refugees and other communities in the Middle East.

Learn more about how you can leave your own legacy with Anera at: [anera.org/legacy](https://anera.org/legacy)



Anne in Palestine.



# Solar Energy for Palestinian Families, Farms and Health Facilities in Gaza

*In Gaza, solar energy provides a sustainable, renewable and environmentally safe way for Palestinian families, farmers and communities to be energy independent.*



## Shejaiya

Anera installed a 1,320 gallon a day reverse osmosis unit, and a solar system to power it, at the Near East Council of Churches Vocational Training Center in Shejaiya. This center serves more than 5,000 visitors and trainees per month.



## Wadi As Sulqa

Anera installed a solar power system for the Wounded Child Health Clinic, located in the middle area of Gaza. The small clinic is the only health care service in the area and serves thousands of residents each year.



## Gaza City

Anera installed a 2,641 gallon a day reverse osmosis desalination unit and solar system to power it at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Ambulance and Emergency Center, which treats 3,500 patients a month.



## Beit Lahia

Thanks to the support of our donors, Anera provided and installed solar panels at the Beit Lahia health clinic. Electricity shortages had long hindered operation of medical equipment, particularly inside the lab where blood screenings and urine cultivation tests are conducted.



## North Gaza

In North Gaza, young Palestinian women are finding jobs installing solar panels with Anera – providing the power to pump and clean much needed water for local Palestinian farmers. These solar pumping stations increase access to water for agricultural use and prevent the loss of crops and produce.



## Deir El Balah

Anera installed a solar power system at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Deir Al Balah, which benefits more than 6,000 patients every month.





## Anera's 53rd Annual Gala

### Coming Together with Hope

Anera held its 2021 Global Gala on Friday, October 1. For the second year in a row, the primary event was virtual. Anera hosted a small, in-person viewing party in Washington, DC for vaccinated members of the board of directors, staff, sponsors and honorary hosts.

Taking advantage of the online format, the Gala doubled as a virtual concert to raise funds for Anera's work. **Anera's community of supporters came together to raise funds to strengthen the ties connecting people and build hope through community action.**

Despite the hardships that threaten even our own ability to work, **our community – you – stepped up. Anera last year delivered more than \$112 million dollars of assistance to Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese in need.** Nearly double what we did just two years ago. Much of this support is in donated medicines and medical supplies – critically needed as COVID strains health systems across the world, and particularly in Palestine and Lebanon.

**We are building facts on the ground.** Lasting legacies. Just this past year, in Palestine, we built three new schools, nearly 500 greenhouses and rooftop gardens, eight water filtration systems, and two water wells, most of them powered by solar energy. In addition to physical infrastructure, we're constructing lives and livelihoods, building with hopes and aspirations, fueled by real opportunities. In Lebanon, our vocational training graduates are getting jobs, even as unemployment and poverty grow. These young people also are responding to and learning from the humanitarian crisis in the country.

The Gala featured original performances from brilliant Palestinian and Lebanese musicians who use their art to touch on themes of freedom, equality, and love. Their music spans genres, from hip hop to opera to indie pop. **The stellar lineup included indie rapper-singer Anees, musician and actress Maysa Daw, the seminal Palestinian rap group DAM, Palestinian singer Bashar Murad, the opera virtuoso Mariam Tamari, and the Lebanese alternative pop artist Zef. Omar Offendum served as the Gala's master of ceremonies and performed some of his spoken word artistry.**

At the Gala this year, we honored a special partner, the National Arab American Medical Association (NAAMA). NAAMA and its members have supported Anera for nearly 20 years.

Several of Anera's honorary hosts attended in-person, including Ambassador Dina Kavar, Representative Rashida Tlaib, and Senator Chris Van Hollen.

# It's the giving season!

As you plan your end-of-year giving, here are a few more ways to support Anera. These options will leverage your gift and maximize tax benefits.

## STOCK GIFTS

Gifts of appreciated stock are crucial for Anera's work and have major tax and cash flow advantages for our donors. Donating appreciated securities directly to Anera, as opposed to selling the shares and donating the net proceeds, allows your contribution to go even further. Use our new tool to make it happen:

[anera.org/give-stock](https://anera.org/give-stock)

► Questions? Contact Rula Kort at [rkort@anera.org](mailto:rkort@anera.org) or (202) 266-9727.

## WORKPLACE GIVING

Employer matched gifts can double or even triple your donation. Talk to your personnel department to find out whether your employer will match your charitable donation. Anera also participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #12076) as well as many United Way and other workplace giving campaigns.

► Questions? Contact Ally Schultz at [aschultz@anera.org](mailto:aschultz@anera.org) or (202) 266-9726.

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The required minimum distribution is back this year! For Anera supporters 70.5 or older, this means that making a gift through your IRA is the best way to maximize your impact on our mission, while also maximizing your savings. To learn more and to make the process easier before the December 31st deadline, use our new tool at [anera.org/IRA](https://anera.org/IRA).

► Questions? Contact Christina Andeweg at [candeweg@anera.org](mailto:candeweg@anera.org) or (202) 266-9718.

[anera.org/how-to-help](https://anera.org/how-to-help)






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When We Come Together, We Get Things Done

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A close-up photograph of a beekeeper wearing a white protective suit and a mesh veil. The beekeeper is holding a wooden frame from a beehive, which is densely covered with bees. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with dry vegetation.

*Through Anera's Women Can project, Tahani launched a small business to harvest and sell honey in her West Bank town, Beitillu. She is already planning to expand from her hive. Aside from earning an income, the apiary is a source of joy for her.*