



Nahla's family in Akkar, Lebanon is able to grow their own food year-round thanks to a greenhouse and agricultural training from Anera.

Anera is a registered non-governmental, non-profit international organization established in 1968 to advance the well-being of Palestinian refugee communities. **Today, Anera responds to the economic, health and educational needs of the most marginalized people in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, and delivers humanitarian aid during emergencies.** With multiple offices across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan – Anera has a significant presence in the Middle East.

A regional staff of more than 100 employees includes specialists in health, education, agriculture, civil engineering, procurement and commodity management, information technology, and community development. In the communities that we serve, we also partner with a wide range of local and international organizations and institutions to develop and implement projects. Anera pays particular attention to the growth of strong and sustainable grassroots organizations to ensure that development efforts will continue long after project completion.

> Overview of Anera in Lebanon

Lebanon has suffered through poverty, wars, social and political instability, and a deteriorating security situation. It is one of the largest per capita recipients of refugees in the world. Recent years have brought political turmoil, a devastating explosion in the capital city, and a catastrophic economic collapse. **Despite the challenges, Anera continues to serve Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese families across Lebanon.**

Anera began delivering humanitarian aid and medicines in 1976 in response to the civil war. Large-scale relief work continues to this day, as poverty and conflicts plague the country. The cornerstone of Anera's work is delivering long term and sustainable economic, health and educational programming that helps build a brighter future for those who feel marginalized and isolated.

Anera opened its Beirut office in 2005 and was quick to respond to the 2006 Lebanon war, which displaced nearly 1 million civilians. Since then, the organization has directly implemented a wide range of development assistance programs throughout Lebanon with funding from a variety of U.S. government agencies, multilateral donors (UNOCHA, UNICEF), bilateral donors (EU and Qatar), and a growing range of foundations, corporations, and private contributors.

Since the Syrian war started in 2011, Lebanon has hosted a large number of refugees from that conflict. Anera has been a critical player responding to the needs of refugees, especially the vulnerable Palestinian refugees from Syria.



Anera construction vocational students renovate a home damaged in the 2020 Beirut explosion. Students gain job skills training while earning an income for their work.

Today, with an in-country staff of more than 70 – who all come from the communities they serve – Anera is rehabilitating homes and hospitals, providing health education materials to families and community members, engaging at-risk youth in sports activities, and delivering critical relief kits and medicines in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic devastation.

> Education

Non-formal Education | Schools in Lebanon do not have the capacity to adequately accommodate the large numbers of refugee youth from Syria that the last decade has brought. And the surge of new Lebanese students in public schools as the economic crisis has forced many families to drop private schooling has placed further strain on the education system. Surveys have found that more than half of refugee children between ages 3 to 18 are out of school, most significantly among Syrian refugees, with a mere 4% of them enrolled in secondary education. A majority therefore remain out-of-school and unlikely to reenter the formal school system.



A student raises her hand in one of Anera's English language classes in Ein El Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp, south Lebanon.

Anera has responded to this education crisis by hosting classes that help youth improve their basic reading, writing, math, and computer knowledge. All of the skills students gain help prepare them for either going back to school or working. Despite the lockdowns and the challenges to outreach and enrollment posed by COVID-19, Anera has successfully conducted in-person basic education courses by implementing social distancing procedures and limiting courses to 10 students per class. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education and UNICEF have both selected Anera as the lead organization to coordinate implementation of their basic educational skills courses with local implementing partners. In 2021, Anera reached 2,316 out-of-school youth in Lebanon with classes in language, math, life skills and more, enhancing their future employability.

Job Skills Training | Anera supports job skills training that responds to market needs while providing opportunities for youth to learn and reinforce their skills. Gaining marketable skills is essential in a fragile economy where Palestinian and Syrian refugees, and now even Lebanese, face high rates of unemployment. In recent years the need for this kind of training has greatly increased as the economic situation in Lebanon has continued to deteriorate. Anera programs continued to provide youth with vocational courses offering employable skill sets and practical know-how so that they are able to assist communities in need – for example by cooking hot meals, restoring plumbing, and sewing washable face masks. For many, this is one of the only gateways to education or employment. Anera's vocational training courses encompass a range of areas adapted to the current labor market, including accounting, mobile phone repair, electronics, cosmetology, and much more. In 2021, Anera employed 1,357 vocational students in Lebanon to use their new job skills to improve their communities.



A Lebanese student in one of Anera's welding and construction vocational courses in Akkar, north Lebanon.

> Health & Relief

Emergency Response | Since the beginning of the war in Syria in 2011, many refugees from the conflict have been forced to live in informal settlements with minimal infrastructure or protection from the elements. Anera supports vulnerable families with basic relief items such as hygiene kits, clothes and shoes. Anera also delivers winterization items, most recently in winter 2022, and responds to emergencies, as in 2019, when severe winter storms blanketed the remote mountain areas and Anera mobilized to distribute relief items like blankets, lights, food and fuel to 500 families in the Alkaram refugee settlement in Aarsal.



A Syrian father and son at an Anera distribution of winterization and hygiene supplies in Aarsal, Lebanon.

In response to the pandemic, Anera has provided public hospitals and health facilities with medical supplies and personal protective equipment. Anera has also provided over 40,000 vulnerable people with hygiene and sanitary products to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection. In response to the Beirut blast and recent medical shortages, in 2021 Anera provided hospitals with medical supplies, equipment, and \$662,000 in cash grants.

Food Security | Working with partners like UN OCHA's Lebanon Humanitarian Fund, Anera implements a variety of initiatives to improve food security for vulnerable households in Lebanon in the wake of the economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Beirut blast. These programs include distributing food parcels, cooked meals in blast-affected regions to households that could not cook for themselves. For instance, we delivered three meals a day to 4,745 pandemic isolation center patients. And during Ramadan in 2021, Anera distributed nutritionally-balanced food parcels to 7,565 vulnerable people in Bekaa and North Lebanon.

Medical Aid | In 2021, Anera delivered 85 shipments valued at more than \$53 million. To meet the emergency needs created by the pandemic and the Beirut port explosion, as well as the surge in donor support, Anera's medical donations program in Lebanon expanded its capacity, including enlarging our network of distribution centers. Just three weeks after the Beirut port explosion, Anera received the largest shipment in the history of the organization's medical donations program, valued at around \$12M, courtesy of Direct Relief. And to help confront COVID, last year alone we distributed 435,418 articles of personal protective equipment in Lebanon.

Health Education | Anera has a health component integrated into UNICEF-funded youth projects and is promoting the message of good health through interactive, hands-on training sessions in Palestinian refugee camps and communities in Lebanon. Anera teaches healthy eating and washing habits to children while administering programs that help parents identify symptoms and treatment options for various diseases in children. Generous donations of health care and hygiene items are distributed during community health education sessions. In 2021 alone, we taught 2,387 Palestinian school children in Lebanon about safe and effective hygiene practices.

Last year, we also facilitated the COVID-19 vaccination process of refugees in 5 of Lebanon's Palestinian camps by signing people up to get registered and sharing accurate information about the vaccines and debunking misinformation.

Also last year, Anera mobilized community members in seven Palestinian refugee camps to adopt proper COVID-19 and menstrual hygiene practices. Through the project we recruited, trained and mobilized 812 Palestinian youths, and 99 women leaders from the targeted communities to support in mobilizing community members to achieve the project's goals. Anera also distributed 1,000 sanitary pads (50 reusable and 950 disposable), and 1,213 hygiene kits to Syrian refugees and host community members in shelters last year.

> Community & Economic Development

Shelters & Disaster Response | To address the dire need for rehabilitation and repairs in the wake of the Beirut blast of August 2020, Anera established a shelter program. We identified homes in vulnerable communities, households with large families, female headed households, seniors or refugees in order to provide necessary rehabilitation for those who likely could not afford to rebuild otherwise. In 2021, we



Distributing hot meals to vulnerable Lebanese and refugee families in the Bekaa.



A delivery of \$12M worth of medicine and medical supplies three weeks after the Beirut explosion.



A health education trainer discusses menstrual hygiene with a group of women in Baalbek, Lebanon.

repaired 1,198 homes and small businesses that were damaged in the Beirut explosion, providing families with safe refuge and living conditions and allowing shops to reopen and re-employ over 600 persons. Anera's shelter rehabilitation program strengthened the livelihoods of 150 vulnerable youths involved in the assessment and repair of units through Anera's cash-for-work program.

Waste Management & Recycling | Since 2015, the country has been confronting a garbage crisis caused by overflowing landfills and minimal infrastructure for recycling or waste management. Unsorted trash is often burned, creating more environmental health risks. Launched in 2016, Anera's solid waste management and recycling program involves four important components for success: environmental and recycling education, ownership of the project by the community, providing free waste and recycling bins for residents and the construction of sorting, recycling and composting facilities.

The project now provides assistance to over 14 municipalities in the Bekaa area, with the aim of enhancing integrated solid waste management systems and mobilizing communities to sort their waste at source. In the last year, Anera distributed 13,526 communal 240-liter bins and 27,648 household 50-liter bins to the community, in coordination with the municipalities. In 2021, the project recruited and trained 300 youths, offering them income during the period of their volunteer work. In 2021, Anera mobilized 294,165 residents to sort out recycling waste at their homes. The project diverted an estimated 340 tons from being dumped directly into the environment, and sustained the operation of the Majdal Anjar and Temnin El Foka facilities.



Packaged up recyclables, ready to be broken down and reused at the Anera-built waste and recycling facility in Mashha, Lebanon.

Sports for Peace & Development | With partners like Street Football World, UNICEF, Inter Campus, the Marshall Legacy Institute and the American Embassy of Beirut, Anera offers sports and life skills activities to youth in Lebanon. The programs emphasize social interaction, mentorship and tolerance. Anera also rehabilitates sports fields through the program, providing badly needed safe spaces for physical activity for young people in vulnerable and densely populated communities.



Dima is a participant from Tyre, Lebanon in an Anera sports-for-peace program that connects American and Lebanese youth.

> Management & Accountability

Anera brings together a unique combination of bilateral and multilateral aid, as well as private donations of both cash and in-kind support for local health institutions.

Anera is audited annually and meets USAID A-133 audit requirements. It routinely screens funders, partners and program recipients, using continually-updated software to comply with the U.S. Office of Foreign Asset Controls (OFAC - U.S. Treasury Department). Anera is a signatory to U.S. antiterrorism certification procedures and vets project partners regarding their ability to be nonpartisan and free of hidden political agendas. Field staff assesses all project partners to judge the quality of their professional skill sets.

Finally, it is important to highlight Anera's considerable experience operating in conflict zones. With an unrivaled depth of field experience, Anera's staff is able to safely and efficiently carry out projects while meeting donor and project requirements.

Anera

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