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Photo:

*A young girl stands in front of her
family's tented shelter in the Akkar area
of northern Lebanon, 2022.*

Winter is on the Way

Winterization Efforts in the Middle East are Essential

Cold winds, heavy rains, flooding, snow — the onset of winter weather is something many of us dread. But facing the elements is far worse if you have little to no electricity, unsafe heating systems, inadequate clothing for your children, or sufficient food to nourish your family. This is the case for many families in Lebanon. Today, well over half of the population is living under the poverty line, and those who were already struggling are now faced with the life-threatening temperature drops in winter.

In Gaza, winter brings heavy rains that cause flooding due to poor stormwater infrastructure as well as climate change. Most households in flood-prone areas suffer from poverty and unemployment. Families often live in metal houses - with water leaking in from rooftops and old windows.

Most of these families do not have the financial means to repair their houses. During the winter season, their houses flood and damage their belongings. Flooding in houses also increases the presence of mold, which presents a major health and safety risk.

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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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Did you know...

More than 8,500 households in Gaza have been affected by heavy rainfall in the last three years. This includes flooding, home damage and water-borne diseases.

Winterization Efforts are Essential continued from p. 1



Clothes young sewing students in Shatila camp made in 2021 for winter relief.

The Anera community is responding to winter challenges in Lebanon by employing youth in cash-for-work activities designed to produce warm clothing and other items for families in need. Anera will distribute the clothes along with home winterization kits to vulnerable families in the Bekaa and North Lebanon areas. This will replicate the successful program Anera executed last year when youth produced and distributed 376,000 winter relief items.

For Palestinian families in Gaza, the Anera community is supporting a two-fold winterization effort.

First, Anera will implement infrastructural activities including the expansion of a stormwater network in the Al Fukhari neighborhood and the construction of a new stormwater pipeline in Shejaiya - separating the stormwater and wastewater networks. These projects will mitigate flooding and protect more than 55,000 individuals in the area. The new infrastructure also minimizes the possibility of water contamination and waterborne diseases.

And second, Anera is rehabilitating vulnerable households with flooding mitigation efforts such as new roofs, windows and waterproofing items. Part of this effort will also be to connect homes to the new sewage network and improve water drainage.

Staying warm, dry and healthy is essential for survival during the winter months for vulnerable families in Lebanon and Gaza. That is why the Anera community's winterization efforts are important.

Your support makes all these efforts possible. Please give to today and help families this winter.

Give at anera.org/year-end

By the Numbers: Winter Challenges & Anera's Response

280,000 residents of Gaza

live in 360 flood-prone areas during the rainy fall and winter seasons.

55,100 people in Shejaiya and Al Fukhari, Gaza

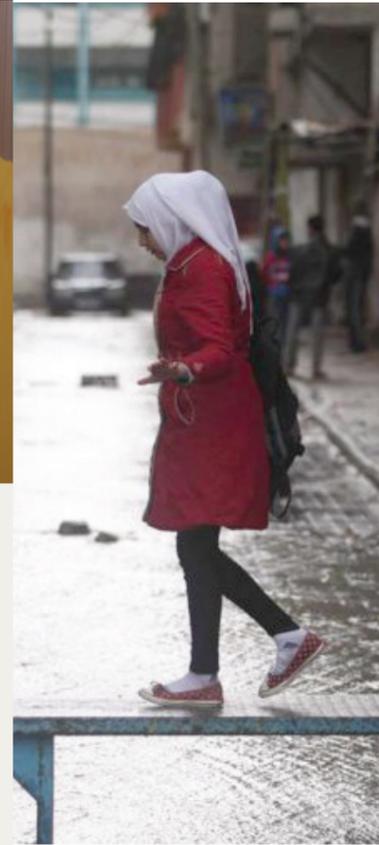
are protected, thanks to the Anera community, from winter flooding through the expansion of stormwater networks and the construction of a stormwater pipeline.

82% of people in Lebanon

live in multidimensional poverty as of 2021, compared to 42% in 2019.

7,400 winterization kits

will be made by youth as part of Anera's cash-for-work program in Lebanon and distributed to vulnerable families.



HONORING DR. VICKEN KALBIAN AND THE KALBIAN FAMILY



Anera was delighted to honor Dr. Vicken Kalbian and the Kalbian family at our 2022 Annual Gala. The Kalbians have supported the organization since its earliest years. Vicken Kalbian and Ada Haddad were both born in Jerusalem and forced to flee to Lebanon in 1948. Their families knew each other in their home city, but it was a chance meeting in 1952 in Beirut that led to Vicken and Ada falling in love and getting married.

The young couple soon thereafter made the decision to return to their beloved Jerusalem to be back among their people. They lived at the heart of the city until 1967, when Israel invaded East

Jerusalem. Vicken was a doctor at Augusta Victoria Hospital and he stayed with his patients during the fighting. Six months later, Ada and Vicken once again moved away from their city, which was now occupied. This time they ended up in Northern Virginia. The family embraced America while maintaining deep pride in their heritage as Palestinians and Armenians, Vicken and Ada wanted to give back to the people and the place they left, but kept always in their hearts.

Then they found Anera, a perfect vehicle for helping when Vicken arrived with his medical wisdom as a doctor and his experience with health care in the region. Anera hugely benefited. He helped establish a distribution center in the West Bank and set up an inventory system. He made introductions at health care centers in Palestine and Lebanon and reached out to medical aid partners for 31 years. From 1980 to 2011, he served as the chair of a Anera's Medical Committee.

The Kalbian family - Vicken, Ada, Haig, Maral and Aline - has generously given their time, knowledge and finances in support of Anera's work for many decades and we thank them.

TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

Anera's Annual Gala on September 30, 2022 (see page 5 for more info) raised funds to provide tools for transforming lives.

These pages feature a report on the tools **Anera's community has provided since 2019**, the last time we were together for an in-person gala.

Tools for Building Livelihoods

Graduated 7,178 youths from vocational training courses in Lebanon, launching them into careers in construction, IT, farming, cooking, graphic design, sewing, and more.

Trained 107 preschool teachers in active learning and early childhood development to improve their skills and create happy classrooms.

Provided 4,510 young people with on-the-job, cash-for-work experience delivering humanitarian aid in their communities across Lebanon.

Equipped 797 vocational ed graduates in Lebanon with kits full of practical tools of their trades to help them launch or grow small businesses.

Empowered 222 West Bank women with training and equipment for starting businesses.



Tools for Improving Healthcare

Delivered 318 shipments of donated medicines and healthcare supplies across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, including regular deliveries of vital medicines for people suffering from chronic conditions and cancer.

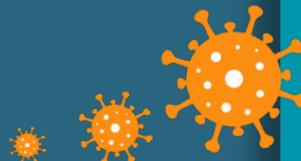
Conducted hundreds of health awareness sessions in Gaza and Lebanon on subjects like preventing waterborne diseases, hygiene, and menstrual health.

Distributed 70,963 hygiene kits in Gaza and Lebanon.

COVID-19

Provided 9+ million PPE items in Palestine and Lebanon. **Facilitated 140,000 vaccinations** in Lebanon's Palestinian camps. **Delivered 39,920 COVID treatments** into Gaza.

Installed solar panels in 20 health facilities in Lebanon, **and water desalination systems** in 10 health centers in Gaza.



Tools for Fighting Food Insecurity

Built or repaired greenhouses for 1,093 farming families in Gaza and Lebanon, improving food production for themselves and their communities.

Provided 200,000+ homemade, healthy meals for struggling families in Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan living in vulnerable circumstances.



Distributed food vouchers to 28,058 disadvantaged families in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, so they could choose exactly what they wanted at local grocery stores.

Delivered 33,976 generously packed food parcels across Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan.

Tools for Strengthening Communities

Rehabilitated 1,545 family homes and small businesses after the August 2020 explosions in Beirut.

Installed 25 water desalination systems in schools, healthcare facilities, and community centers throughout Gaza.

Taught basic math and literacy skills to 3,766 young people in Lebanon so they can participate more fully in their communities.

Built six bright, spacious new preschools in Palestine serving 475 children a year.

Gave 200,000+ residents in Gaza access to reliable water through network repair and installation as well as well rehabilitation.

Mobilized 294,165 residents of Lebanon to sort their recycling waste at home, sending it to sorting facilities Anera built.

DELIVERED

\$248 Million

worth of donated medicines and healthcare supplies in Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.



Thank You for Making Our Gala a Success!



To everyone who joined us at the Mayflower Hotel, September 30th in Washington DC for our first in-person gala in three years and to everyone else who donated online, thank you! Thanks for helping us exceed our fundraising goals, and for being part of the Anera family.

The room was packed with 365 friends — some long-time members of the Anera community and some getting their first introduction to our work. Of course, the night wouldn't have been the same without our 55 sponsors. **In total, this year's Annual Gala raised over \$400,000, with over \$80,000 donated the night of the event.**

This year's Gala theme, *Tools for Tomorrow: Equipping and Transforming Lives*, focused on highlighting Anera programs that provide "tools" of all kinds — from wrenches and sewing machines to new schools and training — so that the communities we serve can create their own change. Master of Ceremonies Serene Dardari led guests through an engaging and visual program focusing on individuals and communities that are benefiting from these tools and building better lives.

President and CEO Sean Carroll gave an update on Anera's work and inspired guests by highlighting many successes over the last year. Sandra Rasheed introduced herself to the audience as Anera's new Palestine country director and gave an update on the situation there. Lebanon Country Director Samar El Yassir provided remarks on the situation in country and honored UNICEF for their years of partnership and generous funding for our youth work in Lebanon. Anera also honored Vicken Kalbian and the Kalbian family for their decades of steadfast support of our work. Guests were also treated to a musical performance by award-winning violinist Layth Sidiq, vocalist Mona Miari, percussionist Alber Baseel and pianist Fadi Saba of well-known songs from the Arab world and beyond.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's gala! Until then, you can relive some of the night through photos captured by photographer Khalid Namez at anera.org/gala-photos.

As year-end approaches, please consider giving to provide youth, families and vulnerable communities the tools they need to overcome challenges and **build better lives. WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER!**



Scan this QR code and follow the link to give in support of families and vulnerable communities in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.



anera.org/year-end

Winter is on the Way: Anera's Winterization Efforts

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<<< *These kindergartners are able to enjoy a brand new school this fall in Deir Qaddis, West Bank, Palestine thanks to the Anera community.*