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Photo: Young performers at the December 2022 inauguration of their new preschool in Deir Qaddis, West Bank. Anera finished building the beautiful kindergarten last summer.

The Sustainable Development Goals

We are approaching the midpoint of the 15-year period during which UN member nations vowed to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To identify and determine the SDGs, the UN along with civil society, governments, the private sector and academia looked at remaining development gaps following the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs - 2000-2015). They looked also at the largest global threats and at so-called 'last-mile' challenges to development.

The SDGs act as a reference for governments and civil society to track their progress towards eradicating poverty, providing quality education and healthcare, and reducing global inequalities. Simply establishing the goals, however, has not removed the barriers that political and economic institutions can throw in the way of progress. Closely related to the issue of political will is the gap in financing the SDGs. Developing countries need between \$3.3 trillion and \$4.5 trillion annually to finance the goals, but they often lack the capacity to provide what their communities need.

In places like Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, where sectors like health, education and agriculture are fragile, people already

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credits

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Anera's Board Officers

Joe Saba, Chair
Grace Tompkins, Vice Chair
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Dr. Alfred Khoury, Secretary
Sean Carroll, President & CEO

Editors: Liz Demarest and Dan Riley

Contributing Writers:

Liz Demarest, Steve Fake, Michael Feltovic

Contributing Photographers:

Suliehan Mleahat, Hisham Moustapha,
Osama Silwadi, Ibrahim Zaanoun

Anera never rents or sells our list.

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Anera
1111 14th Street NW, #400
Washington, DC 20005
202.266.9700

anera@anera.org
anera.org

Did you know...

The Anera Board has set up Anera Ventures for impact investing? Through the LLC, Anera will scale projects in ways that may not be possible through a reliance on traditional donor funding models alone. Around \$6 trillion are needed to fund the SDGs globally and much of that funding will come from impact investment.

The Sustainable Development Goals *continued from p. 1*

suffering from hunger and poverty are at a further disadvantage compared to wealthier nations more able to provide essential resources to their citizens.

Lebanon's progress towards the SDGs has been minimal. While more people have gained access to electricity, internet, and clean water, significant challenges remain to ending hunger, improving education, implementing long-term sustainable practices and bringing equality to all residents of Lebanon. Some 36% of the Lebanese population are impoverished, a four-fold increase in the poverty rate of 8% in 2019.

In Palestine, the government has adopted commitments to 75 out of the total 169 SDG targets, but there are major challenges to reaching them. The primary threat is the occupation that results in land confiscation and fragmentation, and imposes restrictions on Palestinian movement and ability to take advantage of financial and natural resources. The blockade and closures on Gaza further deny Palestinians the human right to development.

Jordan's SDG progress includes increasing resident access to electricity, property rights, and bank accounts, along with decreased mortality rates and homicides. Yet, the country also faces increasing unemployment rates, low primary and secondary school attendance, gender divisions and ongoing child labor issues. And Jordan is the second most water-scarce country in the world, making water preservation a critical task.

Anera is supporting the SDGs

At the induction of the SDGs, every UN member state signed onto the goals. Thousands of partner organizations from the private sector and civil society also joined the effort and contributed to progress towards the SDGs. Anera is one of those organizations.

Between 2015 and 2022, Anera completed more than 450 projects advancing 12 of the 17 SDGs and culminating in nearly half a billion dollars dedicated to supporting the region [see pages 4-5]. Anera is the seventh highest-funded contributor to the SDGs in Palestine, 20th in Jordan, and 21st in Lebanon.

With decades of experience in the region, Anera is well prepared to boost global progress of the SDGs in our program countries. By incorporating the SDGs into our model, we ensure that our programs advance the global humanitarian agenda and help Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan to meet their SDG targets.

[Read more at anera.org/sdg](http://anera.org/sdg)

By the Numbers: *Some* **Anera** **SDG** **Achievements** | 2019-22



distributed
337 shipments
of medicines and healthcare
supplies to Palestine,
Lebanon and Jordan
worth \$277.2 million



reached
14,207 youths
in Lebanon with courses
in job skills, Arabic, math,
English, computer literacy
and more



connected
236,564 Palestinians
to safe water through well
renovations and installation
of new pipe networks in
Gaza and the West Bank



installed
57 solar systems
on health facilities, schools,
wells, irrigation networks,
desalination units and
community centers in
Palestine and Lebanon

DAVID ROCK WATER FUND

David Rock researched and advocated for better water and sanitation services in the Middle East, with a major focus on Gaza. Anera has been fortunate to work with David for several years, benefiting from his expertise and contacts to inform and support Anera's water and sanitation work. He helped Anera secure much-needed resources for highly effective and innovative projects in Gaza and Lebanon. Most recently, he teamed up with Anera staff to write the comprehensive on-the-ground report, "Before the Taps Run Dry: Responding to Gaza's Existential Water Crisis."

David died in November 2022 at the age of 32. To honor his memory in the wake of this devastating and heartbreaking loss, Anera is joining with other supporters to establish The David Rock Water Fund to finance projects that provide innovative and responsive solutions for safe water access in vulnerable communities. In recognition of David's work, the Fund will focus on water and sanitation needs in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.

Anera's water and sanitation work in the region is extensive, from repairing deteriorated water networks and replacing water pumping stations at wells to installing solar-powered irrigation systems on farms and repairing rainwater collection basins that replenish the aquifer systems. The Fund will allow Anera to expand on and explore new innovations that help alleviate chronic water shortages and sanitation problems, and build the foundation for healthy, safe, productive lives and livelihoods.

If you are interested in contributing, **contact Skylar Lawrence** at slawrence@anera.org or 202-266-9729.



10 Examples of How Anera Supports Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Anera's work advances just about all of the SDGs – not limited to just these 10 examples – in overlapping and complimentary ways. The infrastructure we construct, for instance, provides dignified and fairly compensated work, strengthens communities and institutions, offers paid, hands-on experience to vocational education graduates and expands access to clean water.



Anera's medical donations program gets medical supplies to where they are needed most. Our health awareness sessions convey best practices for maintaining good health. Our sports activities promote active lifestyles.



Anera leads the way in early childhood development in Palestine. We also support psychosocial programs for young children in Gaza and open doors for youths in Lebanon by providing informal education programs.



Anera increases access to affordable and sustainable energy and water by installing solar panels on irrigation pumps, recycling centers, schools, community/health centers, and water filtration systems.



Our programs provide tools for building better futures. We prioritize self-reliance and building livelihoods so that individuals and communities can pursue dreams and withstand any challenges that may come.



1 NO POVERTY

Anera builds livelihoods by equipping and training entrepreneurs, providing vocational education and paying cash-for-work to deliver humanitarian aid. We also distribute cash vouchers for food and clothes.



2 ZERO HUNGER

Anera combats hunger by distributing food vouchers and food parcels during emergencies and in the month of Ramadan, and through longer-term, sustainable efforts like building family-owned greenhouses.



5 GENDER EQUALITY

When women and girls have access to educational and economic opportunities, they invest in their communities. Anera's programs across all sectors actively engage and prioritize women and girls.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Building better access to water and sanitation is at the heart of Anera's work in Palestine. We rehab wells, improve water and wastewater networks, erect reservoirs and build stormwater collection systems.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Anera's programs create bridges among communities – refugees from Palestine and Syria and other vulnerable groups – to foster civic pride, build better relationships and ultimately to reduce inequalities.



15 LIFE ON LAND

Anera incorporates green practices into projects, from building with recycled materials to irrigating with treated wastewater. We ensure that each project is energy efficient and sustainable.

In Case You Missed It

THE LATEST FROM ANERA.ORG



Chronic Disease Shouldn't Mean Chronic Despair

The prevalence of chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes, pneumonia, and asthma in Lebanon and Palestine is worrying. Refugees and other vulnerable populations live in challenging conditions – air pollution, food and water insecurity, and nonexistent or inadequate access to facilities for exercise – that increase their risk of developing health problems. Many residents of Palestine and Lebanon are also particularly vulnerable because they lack the resources they need to get proper treatment.

By delivering chronic disease medications, Anera ensures that healthcare providers can treat chronic conditions without gaps in care. This brings dignity and improvements in the quality of life for individuals who cannot afford costly medicines that need to be taken over time.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/chronic



Carving a Better Future in Lebanon

Tripoli, Lebanon is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. It is most famous for its historic citadel, delightful sweets, and bustling souks (markets) that are brimming with locally produced goods. The city's prominent woodworking industry is also a point of pride.

Men have traditionally dominated the woodworking field. But now some social change-makers are confronting gender stereotypes by providing high-quality vocational education classes geared just for women.

The Anera education team is thrilled to have formed a partnership with the Warch(ée) organization, which is providing a hands-on training program that will turn out a group of skilled young (women!) carpenters ready to work!

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/woodworking



In Gaza, Greenhouses Create Jobs

For nearly three decades, 55-year-old Abdulrahman has worked in a greenhouse factory in Deir Al Balah, Gaza. It has been his only source of income to provide for his family of eight.

But in the recent past, he has faced some challenges. "It's because of the fluctuating economic and political conditions here in Gaza. Our work relies on farmers who often do not have money to pay for a greenhouse."

With generous funding from Zakat Foundation of America, Anera placed an order with the factory for a number of new greenhouses. Abdulrahman says Anera's greenhouse project has "been a life-saver. Gaza factories like ours mostly rely on funded projects and aid."

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/greenhousejobs

Are YOU a Visionary?



If not, make it part of your plan for 2023!

5 great reasons to join the Anera Visionaries, our monthly giving program:

1. Set it and don't sweat it!
2. Make a little go a long way.
3. Get fewer asks and more newsy updates.
4. Spread the impact of giving across the year.
5. Plant the seeds for Anera's continued growth.



1111 14th Street NW, #400
Washington, DC 20005

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ANERA NEWS, ISSUE 219 | **WINTER 2023**



A student in Anera's sewing classes in Lebanon makes winter clothes for vulnerable families.