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**Photo:** Fadela is a 52-year-old cancer patient in Lebanon and has been undergoing treatment for the past four months. Thanks to the Anera community, she is able to obtain the vital cancer medicines she needs for ongoing treatment.

## Strengthening Healthcare at the Community Level

Breast cancer is common, affecting hundreds of millions of people around the world. One in every eight women will get breast cancer in their lifetime. For women living in conflict zones like the West Bank and Gaza, breast cancer can be particularly scary.

In Palestine, the mortality rate for breast cancer patients is unusually high, at around 40%. Many of these deaths are preventable with access to the right treatment. Improving early detection by ensuring that women are aware of what to look for and have access to proper routine screenings would save many lives. Eliminating the barriers patients confront in obtaining proper treatment would save many more.

Sandra Rasheed, Anera's country director for Palestine, recently wrote an article for Anera's blog about her own very personal experience with the challenges facing breast cancer patients living under occupation. She says that her close acquaintance with breast cancer has made her "even more passionate about helping to improve access to healthcare and to support those who are working to make a difference in the lives of women in Palestine."

Anera is determined to address the barriers to access to early detection

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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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ISSN 1966-3584

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## Did you know...

that in 1948, a small group of concerned individuals founded AMER (American Middle East Rehabilitation) to respond with humanitarian relief for Palestinians following the first Arab-Israeli conflict. In 1971, AMER merged with Anera and became Anera's medical donations and humanitarian relief program.

# Strengthening Healthcare

*continued from p. 1*

and treatment of breast cancer and other diseases. To this end, last year we started a program to address this issue and to support the only oncology treatment center for adults in Gaza, at the Turkish Palestinian Friendship Hospital.

Patients face many obstacles in accessing healthcare in the West Bank and Gaza. Medical equipment is scarce or outdated, and there are very few specialized oncology units in the area. Palestinian hospitals are often over capacity, overwhelmed with patients facing long wait times that tax the limits of staff and resources. And as Sandra recounts, simply getting to a hospital can mean navigating the unpredictable, such as sudden road closures and violence.

The circumstances differ, but in Lebanon and Jordan too, refugees and other vulnerable populations face their own serious challenges to accessing adequate healthcare. Across the region, Anera is looking to build upon our existing programs to broaden our impact in public health.

## Medical Donations Plus (MD+)

Anera's largest program is medical donations – providing over \$207 million in assistance to Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan in the past two years alone. We have deep networks and extensive contacts throughout the countries where we work. In Anera's 2022-2025 strategic plan, one of our five priorities is to take advantage of these connections, and our many years of experience with health programming, to expand our work in health and nutrition. This is an initiative we're calling MD+.

Through MD+, we are exploring how best to bolster healthcare systems in the countries where we work. Anera is building the capacity of community health workers and ensuring that isolated villages – often among the most vulnerable communities – have access to services that they may not have due to their remote locations. Simple measures like facilitating transportation for patients and sending mobile health clinics on regular visits to remote areas can have a big impact on health and wellbeing. We'll work to deliver equipment to allow for more services at local clinics, so that medical personnel can provide reliable, long-term support for common conditions, such as breast cancer, diabetes and mental health.

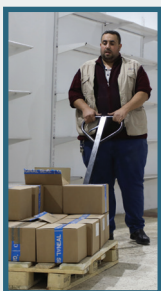
Anera's MD+ programs aim to adopt a more holistic approach to community health. Our activities will integrate with other programs like water and sanitation, food security and education to support interventions that contribute to a robust and sustainable healthcare system. Our goal is to fortify healthcare in local communities. Families should feel connected, not isolated, with ready access to the kinds of routine medical procedures, treatments and advice that can save many lives.

"My experience has taught me that cancer knows no borders or boundaries," writes Sandra. "It can affect anyone, anywhere, and we have to join arms to do what we can to fight it."

# By the Numbers: Medical Donations in Fiscal Year 2023

The value for this fiscal year has so far exceeded any year in the history of Anera.

*(From June 1 to March 31, 2023)*



**GAZA** | distributed  
**34 shipments**  
of medicines and healthcare  
supplies **worth more than**  
**\$32 million**



**WEST BANK** | delivered  
**23 shipments**  
of medicines and healthcare  
supplies **worth more than**  
**\$34 million**



**LEBANON** | provided  
**46 shipments**  
of medicines and healthcare  
supplies **worth more than**  
**\$22 million**



**JORDAN** | sent  
**4 shipments**  
of medicines and healthcare  
supplies **worth more than**  
**\$1.3 million**

## PQMD AND ANERA

### A PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE

In 2019, Anera was proud to become a member of PQMD (Partnership for Quality Medical Donations) in order to better monitor and evaluate medical donations shipments with partner organizations.

PQMD guidelines have helped organizations manage donated medical products, devices and services while enhancing access to healthcare in under-served communities worldwide. Many of Anera's largest medical donation partners, such as Americares, CMMB, Direct Relief, HPIC, International Health Partners, MAP International and UNICEF are members of PQMD. Anera is the only member working in Palestine.

The organization is made up of an alliance and worldwide network of non-profit and corporate organizations leading in humanitarian aid and development. PQMD began in 1996, when an informal alliance of several non-governmental organizations, pharmaceutical companies and medical device firms joined together to develop guidance regarding medical donations.

From April 24 to 27, Anera CEO and President Sean Carroll along with members of the medical donations team will be attending PQMD's Annual Global Health Policy Forum in Paris, France. Sean is a featured speaker at the forum as part of a panel on diversifying sources of development finance for investments in large-scale projects.



# Your Impact from Anera's Medical Donations Program

Thanks to supporters from all over the world, Anera is able to distribute millions of dollars' worth of vital medicines, equipment, wheelchairs, over-the-counter drugs and health care supplies that would not otherwise be available in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan.

Here are just some of the people and places benefitting from your generous support.



Healthcare services for mothers and children have drastically declined in Lebanon. Anera recently delivered medicines and supplies to the NICU departments at Beirut Karantina Hospital and Tripoli Governmental Hospital.



Abd, 65, is a loving father of ten and a diabetes patient in Idhna, Palestine. He has always had to stretch his budget to buy medications. Thanks to Anera donors he can get his diabetes medicine free-of-charge.



Rania Sultan, who heads the pharmacy department at Tripoli Hospital in Tripoli, Lebanon, says recently donated and delivered antibiotic medicines are "covering a vital need."



Nadia, 42, lives in Nuseirat, Gaza. She suffers from a painful spinal cord compression and struggles financially. Now she can get anti-inflammatory medicine free-of-charge thanks to medical donations from Anera.



Sabah, a 63-year-old Syrian woman, and her husband are currently benefiting from chronic disease medicines delivered by Anera in Lebanon. She is managing multiple chronic medical conditions including heart disease.



Abu Amer, 63, from Hebron, was able to get the antibiotics he needed to treat an upper respiratory infection at the Palestine Red Crescent Society health center in the Hebron Governorate town of Bani Naim.



Anera recently distributed a shipment of prostheses in Gaza to our local partner, the Society of the Physically Handicapped. The shipment contained 41 high-quality prosthetics and prosthetic supplies.



In Jordan, Anera delivered a shipment of antibiotics, antifungals, diuretics, antiplatelet and allergy medicines to The Jordanian Society for Medical Aid to Palestinians in Jerash Refugee Camp.



Hemophiliacs in Lebanon confront many challenges to living an ordinary life. Anera delivered a shipment containing 2,100 vials of antihemophilic medicine to Karantina Hospital in Beirut.



Anera has partnered with the Physically Handicapped Society in Gaza for more than ten years. Anera recently delivered urine bags for catheters as part of our ongoing support for the Society.

# In Case You Missed It

THE LATEST FROM ANERA.ORG



## Addressing Food Insecurity During Ramadan

This Ramadan, Anera provided food security assistance to more than 52,000 individuals in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan by distributing grocery vouchers, dry food parcels, and iftar meals. The holy month is a special occasion for Muslims around the world. Nutritious iftar meals are essential to sustain families breaking their daily fasts, but many experience food insecurity due to economic hardships.

In addition to these Ramadan responses, Anera hosted iftar events throughout Ramadan in Washington, DC, Virginia, and California. These events brought donors together to aid in the fundraising efforts that make all of our Ramadan response efforts possible.

PRESS RELEASE  
[anera.org/ramadan-23](https://anera.org/ramadan-23)



## Installing Solar Panels in Lebanon

The energy crisis has been a long-standing issue in Lebanon, dating back to the civil war. Exacerbated by the 2019 economic collapse, electricity shortages have gravely impacted the country's economy and essential services. Anera has taken action to address this issue by installing 219 solar energy panels, 14 power inverters, and 24 lithium batteries at 14 community and health centers across the country that support vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian communities.

The solar panels have allowed these centers to save money on electricity, which can now be redirected towards providing better services to the Lebanese citizens and refugees who rely on them.

FULL ARTICLE  
[anera.org/solar-lebanon](https://anera.org/solar-lebanon)



## The Palestinian Woman Shepherd of Deir Ghassana

In desperate need of additional income, Alayeh cast about for an appropriate family business. Her first thought was to open a small supermarket, but she quickly changed her mind after considering her aunt's grocery store at the end of the block. She was back to square one. The ideas weren't coming but the bills were — and fast piling up.

After a brainstorming session with her husband, the two hit upon an idea for a sheep farming venture. Fortunately, her husband had been around sheep when he was young and knew a good deal about the animals. But the funding was missing. Thanks to Anera's Women Can program, they were able to get seed funding and training to start their business.

FULL ARTICLE  
[anera.org/shepherd](https://anera.org/shepherd)



Scan with smart phone camera to donate



# Access to adequate healthcare is a HUMAN RIGHT

**DONATE TODAY TO SUPPORT ANERA'S MEDICAL DONATIONS PROGRAM >>>**

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

**\$50** can provide one family with a month's worth supply of hygiene materials.

**\$150** can cover the cost of one wheelchair for child with disabilities.

**\$100** can send 50 blood bags to a hospital or healthcare clinic in need.

**\$350** can deliver \$40,250 worth of medical aid to families, communities and health centers.

Save The Date!

Friday, October 13, 2023

Anera's Annual Gala

*more details to come...*

## STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

ANERA NEWS, ISSUE 220 | **SPRING 2023**



*Thanks to the Anera community, we were able to provide The Jordanian Society for Medical Aid to Palestinians in Jerash Refugee Camp with an elevator to help patients with limited mobility access rehabilitation rooms, recently established on the upper levels of the clinic.*