

About Anera's WASH Programs

The Middle East suffers from a chronic lack of water caused by climate change, drought, growing cities, over-consumption and waste. In a 2015 report, the World Resources Institute ranked the “water stress” of 167 countries, and projected that 33 of them would experience extremely high water stress by 2040. Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria are among these 33 countries. For many families and communities in the region, water has become scarce and is a precious commodity.

For Palestinians, pollution caused by raw sewage, rising seawater and war-destroyed infrastructure makes 90 percent of Gaza's water unfit to drink. In the West Bank, nearly 10 percent of Palestinian communities have no access to piped potable water systems. In Lebanon, 3.7 million people lack the basic amount of water required by World Health Organization standards for daily washing and drinking due to depleted water sources and a rapidly growing population.

For four decades, the WASH sector has been at the heart of Anera's work in the region. Anera's team conducts regular on-the-ground assessments and engages with the affected population in identifying their needs and priorities. Anera's programs are designed and implemented in close collaboration and with the support of the local community. Anera's team is attentive to conflict and gender sensitivity and pay special attention to the protection of children. With funding from diverse sources – including USAID, UN agencies, and other institutional and individual donors – Anera erects reservoirs, repairs and expands water networks, renovates sewage systems, installs irrigation systems on farms, builds toilet facilities, improves solid waste management practices, distributes hygiene kits, and provides behavior change education on issues related to water and sanitation hygiene. We do it by:

Working with trusted partners. Anera has rigorous vetting and selection systems in place to identify and work with trusted community-based organizations (CBOs). Anera's systems for tendering, procurement and resource management are compliant with the US government regulations and other donor requirements. CBO partners play a significant role in program implementation, helping Anera better understand local contexts, facilitate cooperation with local municipalities, select the best participants for programs, build trust with families to encourage girls to get involved, and otherwise assist in delivering activities.

Heeding and protecting communities. Anera engages and interacts with a variety of community stakeholders to understand the many different factors that may impact their behavior, then designs suitable interventions to ensure lasting WASH behavior change. In all of its program work, Anera adheres to principles laid out in our Policy for Accountability to Affected Populations, including local involvement, sensitivity to issues arising out of conflict, and child protection. Anera's accountability policies ensure local community buy-in, sustainability of projects for host communities long after the life of the grant/project, and develops communities with a bottom-up approach to empower individuals to build up their own locales.

Coordinating with others. Anera coordinates project activities with other WASH stakeholders, sharing plans, information and lessons to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of effort. As an example, in Palestine, Anera's team communicates with the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility and the Palestinian Water Authority and regularly participates in UN cluster meetings in Palestine and Lebanon and AIDA (Association of International Development Agencies) meetings.

Being environmentally friendly. Anera uses locally sourced materials in construction when possible, designs projects that make wise use of scarce resources, and incorporates solar panels and other modern, innovative features into our infrastructure builds. Anera's team recently installed solar panels on two Gaza clinics that were dependent on gas-powered generators, thereby reducing or eliminating fuel costs and allowing vital equipment to run without interruption. Two Anera wastewater reuse projects in the West Bank repurpose gray water for irrigation and municipal projects, saving this precious resource from being discarded.

Recent WASH Programs in Palestine

Islamic Relief USA | 2015-present, \$3 M

The Gaza Urgent WASH Projects I, II & III increase access to safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities in Gaza and spread knowledge of hygiene practices to reduce waterborne diseases. Since 2015, Anera has improved water and sanitation systems in 28 communities, directly benefiting 68,361 residents. We also rehabilitated four water wells, connected 2,375 homes to water systems and another 1,481 homes to sanitation systems, provided 250 public health education sessions to local residents, and distributed hygiene kits to 8,921 families.

USAID | 2013-19, \$72 M

The Palestinian Community Infrastructure Development (PCID) addressed basic infrastructure needs in rural, vulnerable or underserved communities in Palestine that faced serious shortages in basic services. Anera targeted 34 marginalized communities to build 10 water reservoirs and install 14 water networks, six drainage systems, and a sewage system. Anera gave 187,770 people improved access to domestic water, and connected some 39,700 Palestinians in 16 communities to water for the first time. Anera also built infrastructure projects across other sectors, from schools to roads. Over the life of PCID, Anera completed 53 medium-sized projects and delivered emergency assistance in Gaza, directly benefiting nearly 1 million Palestinians.

The Pattison & Vitol Foundations | 2018-20, \$1.7 M

The Ramallah Wastewater Reuse Project recycles wastewater and protects the water supply by facilitating the reuse of 63 million gallons of wastewater annually. The treated wastewater is suitable for a variety of non-household uses, including in construction and firefighting, and in the irrigation of fruit trees, gardens and parks. The project includes a collection reservoir and a distribution network to make the reclaimed water accessible to the three Ramallah neighborhoods.

OFID & a private foundation | 2013-16, \$2.3 M

The Jenin Wastewater Reuse Project was the first large-scale project of its kind in Palestine for the reuse of reclaimed wastewater in irrigating fodder crops and fruit trees. Anera installed a water distribution network including 20 kilometers of pipes and covering an area of 3,000 dunums. Anera built a 1.4 million gallon reservoir to collect and treat reclaimed water. Pumping and filtration systems further improved the water quality and efficiently transported the water to fields, thereby saving 158 gallons of water from being thrown away annually and benefiting 28,619 West Bank livestock breeders.

USAID | 2008-13, \$64.8 M

The Emergency Water and Sanitation and Other Infrastructure II (EWAS II) provided rapid response and emergency relief primarily in the water and sanitation sectors to address the basic infrastructure needs of the Palestinian people. Anera rehabilitated, expanded and upgraded small and medium scale water and sewage systems and delivered potable water to needy communities. The program also allowed for quick intervention during crises. Under EWAS II, Anera completed 135 projects in 85 communities across the West Bank and Gaza, directly and indirectly reaching 1,400,000 Palestinians.

USAID | 2005-08, \$16.8 M

The Emergency Water and Sanitation (EWAS) responded to emergency water and sanitation situations and addressed humanitarian needs in the West Bank and Gaza. The program created short-term employment opportunities for poor and outlying Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza. Anera's EWAS program completed 138 projects that directly and indirectly impacted the lives of 2,258,000 Palestinians.



Anera built this water reservoir with USAID funds in Deir Abu Mash'al, West Bank. It provides water for 40,000 Palestinians.



A Palestinian farmer adjusts the water flow pipe that is part of the wastewater reuse irrigation system Anera built in Jenin, West Bank.



An Anera health program officer goes over a brochure about WASH safety, as part of our IRUSA-funded programs.

Ray of Light Foundation | 2014-15, \$50,000

The Gaza Dignity and Hygiene Kits Program

distributed 1,500 kits to displaced and vulnerable women in Gaza in the wake of the 2014 bombings. The kits contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, towels, sanitary pads, shampoo, two prayer dresses, underwear and soap.

USAID | 2014, \$2.58 million from PCID (above) funding

With the WASH Rapid Response Action Program in

Gaza, Anera was one of the first organizations to deliver relief during and after the 51-day Gaza war in the summer of 2014. Our distribution networks in Gaza meant that we could act immediately. With USAID funding, Anera's 16 staff distributed 42,413 hygiene kits to displaced families and 429,732 liters of bottled water. Anera purchased and set up 132 community water storage tanks, each with a capacity of 2,400 liters, and dispatched five water tankers for daily water tank refills in 30 neighborhoods, delivering 10,954,500 liters of water. Anera also provided 432,000 liters of fuel to dozens of plants that desalinate water, treat sewage and pump stations.

The Zakat Foundation of America | 2013-14, \$82,011

The Gaza Parasite Program treated 6,500 children in 52 preschools across Gaza for parasites, which are the primary cause of anemia among Gaza's children. Anera also used its network of preschools to provide awareness sessions for parents to learn about detection, methods of parasite eradication and good hygiene practices.



An Anera staffer sets up a community water tank after the 2014 bombings of Gaza.

Recent WASH Programs in Lebanon

UNHCR & Ajram Family Foundation | 2018, \$1 M

The Community-based Solid Waste Management

Project aimed to improve the sanitary conditions and hygiene status of the three villages in the Bekaa region of Lebanon, namely Majdal Anjar, Temnine el Faouqa and Mansoura. The project benefited 48,533 people (20,533 refugees and 28,000 host community members) by improving the solid waste management systems employed by the three municipalities, constructing two sorting facilities in the villages of Majdal Anjar and Temnine El Faouqa, and mobilizing community members in all three villages to sort their waste at source. Additionally, the project contributed to relieving social tensions between Syrian refugees and host communities by streamlining each village's solid waste management model and alleviating the demand on each municipality's limited resources.

LDS Charities, LWR, UMCOR, etc. | 2013-today, \$2.7 M

Hygiene Kit Distributions to refugee and other vulnerable families are an integral part of Anera's humanitarian response work in Lebanon. We distribute the kits through our existing programs with youths and disadvantaged refugee families. Often kits compliment training sessions on WASH.

UNICEF | 2018, \$259,520

The Community-based Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Program

built on the UNICEF WASH program implemented in 2017 in Nahr El Bared and Rashidieh camps. The project expanded the work to three Palestinian camps: Burj El Shemali in Tyr, and Burj El Barajneh and Shatila in Beirut. In all three locations, Anera worked to improve community members' knowledge of safe personal hygiene practices, with a focus on general hygiene management, menstrual hygiene management, and lice and scabies prevention and treatment. In Burj El Shemali, Anera also introduced recycling practices. Anera recruited 25 youth volunteers and provided them with capacity-building sessions on topics such as survey-taking, public speaking skills and project management. In Burj El Shemali, Anera volunteers distributed 2,294 household waste bins and provided awareness sessions on waste management and 75% of households in the camp adopted the practice. Anera built the capacity of three local non-profits, one from each camp, and worked with them to spread personal hygiene messages to 1,400+ women and girls. At each session, Anera distributed hygiene kits from MAP International.

UNICEF | 2017, \$610,504

The Community-based Solid Waste Management Program mobilized community members of Nahr El Bared and Rashidieh Palestinian camps to sort their waste at the household level. The project recruited and trained 40 youth volunteers who distributed two household bins, one for dry waste and one for wet waste, to 7,000+ households. Volunteers worked with local non-profits to carry out a creative community mobilization campaign in each camp. Anera also established nine neighborhood women's committees to work on changing attitudes towards recycling and influencing positive waste-sorting practices in their neighborhoods. Monitoring surveys carried out by youth volunteers revealed that 79% and 76% of households in Rashidieh and Nahr el Bared respectively were sorting their waste at source.

Ajram Family Foundation | 2017, \$173,356

The Solid Waste Management (SWM) in North Lebanon Program was Anera's pilot project in response to the urgent problem of the mismanagement of solid waste in Lebanon. The project targeted 13,000 community members from various backgrounds – Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese – in Nahr El Bared Palestinian camp and the village of Mashha. In Mashha, over the course of the two-year project, Anera constructed sorting and composting facilities to support the municipality in properly processing sorted household waste. The project equipped the two facilities with the necessary tools for recycling and composting, as well as trained municipality members and facility employees on safety measures and operating the equipment to produce sellable compacted recyclables, as well as compost from organic waste. In Nahr El Bared, Anera's one-year pilot project created a "model neighborhood," composed of 350 households. Community members were mobilized, with the help of Anera-trained volunteers from the camp, to sort their waste at home and donate the sorted materials to local recyclers. Five informal waste pickers collected and sold the sorted waste on a weekly basis.



Educational materials Anera distributes to participants in our solid waste management program in Lebanon.

UNICEF | 2015-17, \$1.3 M (*Quick Skills Impact program budget*)

Anera's **Windows to Health**, part of Quick Impact Skills Development for Adolescents Affected by the Syrian Refugee Crisis, implemented health awareness sessions for youth, aged 14-24, and focused on WASH topics like personal hygiene, water safety and conservation as well as hygiene promotion in sports. The "Windows to Health" toolkit, a trainer's guide that Anera developed, served as the basis of instruction and addressed health topics most relevant to today's youth from refugee and host communities in Lebanon. Anera trained 227 health tutors, who then taught the "Windows to Health" curriculum and respective health messages in 34 community centers across Lebanon, reaching 12,167 young women and men.

UMCOR | 2015-16, \$85,000

The Community-based Lice Control Program provided assistance to 5,000 refugee families at 62 sites in the Bekaa area of Lebanon, including 56 informal settlements and two Palestinian refugee camps. Anera health workers trained 70 community volunteers to become peer educators on lice infestations. They conducted 120 parent awareness sessions, reaching 3,133 individuals. Anera also screened 13,532 individuals for lice infestation and distributed lice treatment kits to 6,262 families.

Johnson & Johnson | 2013-14, \$60,000

The Lice and Scabies Project established protocols on screening for lice and scabies at 57 UNRWA schools in Lebanon's refugee camps. Anera's 80 health workers screened 18,000+ children and distributed 10,100 combs and bottles of lice shampoo, as well as 500 bottles of scabies lotion.

A resident of Burj El Shamali camp picks up a bin for sorting trash and recyclables at his family's home.

