Anera opened its doors in 1968 with a mission to provide relief in the form of food and medical aid for Palestinians displaced by the 1967 war. In the 55 years since, the organization has grown to be a leading, trusted partner to meet the challenges of water scarcity, inadequate infrastructure, and an economy hindered by barriers to movements of people and goods.

Thirty-five staff work out of Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Gaza City offices, delivering impactful programs in the areas of water and sanitation, livelihoods, health, early childhood development, career acceleration, agriculture and community development infrastructure. Anera’s staff are professionals in agriculture, education, engineering, public health, pharmaceuticals, project and financial management. They all come from the communities they serve. Anera’s country director and nearly half of the Palestine staff are women.

As a result of its continuous presence in Palestine for 55 years, Anera has established working relationships with local authorities at all levels as well as non-profits and private sector organizations. Anera’s Palestine team designs and implements programs in close collaboration with local communities. They regularly participate in UN cluster meetings and the Association of International Development Agencies meetings.

The US government and several UN agencies have put their trust in Anera, awarding the organization multiple – often multi-year and renewed – grants and cooperative agreements. For 44 consecutive years, USAID funded Anera’s work in Palestine. Multilateral donors (UNICEF, OFID), bilateral donors (Canada, Kuwait and Qatar), and a range of foundations and corporations support Anera, as do thousands of individual donors from 77 countries and all 50 US states.

In the past five years, Anera has delivered $300+ million in programs across Palestine touching the lives of millions of Palestinians.
Core Competencies

Remaining local always.
All of Anera’s staff in Palestine come from the communities they serve. And because they’re local, they’re experts, not only in the narrow definition of their professional roles, but in the local conditions, customs and challenges. They have built deep relationships with area authorities and partners, and know how to navigate difficult political circumstances to get things done.

Integrating programs.
Working with farmers and a women’s cooperative catering initiative, Anera implements a holistic, community-based approach to school feeding and community meal distribution. The program improves the health, development, and wellbeing of Gaza’s most vulnerable children and families. By incorporating local agriculture and women’s economic empowerment initiatives, the project ensures value chain sustainability.

Working in the nexus of water, energy and food.
Anera’s programs in Palestine make environmentally friendly use of natural resources to help families put food on the table and to help whole communities and organizations better serve their constituents over the long term. By harvesting the sun’s energy for solar power, employing water-smart crop-growing systems, and wisely channeling scarce supplies of water, Anera works to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Empowering women.
In a country where there are notoriously high unemployment rates among women, Anera places special emphasis on improving education and business-building opportunities for women — providing capacity building and equipment to entrepreneurs, training preschool teachers in new skills, supporting women’s cooperatives, and employing women in programs. Anera also prioritizes women-headed households in our relief work.

Three of Anera’s Key Differentiators

- Focuses program delivery in only 4 countries: Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.
- Moves staff and aid materials relatively easily in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- Keeps administrative expenses very low, with 96% of funds going to programs.
Past Performance (Some Highlights from 2019-23)

Connected 154,931 Palestinian homes in Gaza to reliable sources of water, upgrading wells and water networks in 32 communities. Anera revitalizes wells with new solar-powered pumping stations, wider pipes, and home water hookups.

Completed urgent repairs of 14 wastewater networks, affecting 47,586 Palestinians in 18 Gaza communities. Anera replaces undersized, aging pipelines that cause chronic floods of sewage in homes and on streets.

Helped 441 women to develop small businesses. The initiative provides training, material support, and mentorship to women in the West Bank and Gaza to allow them to start or grow businesses suitable to their circumstances in areas where employment opportunities are scarce.

Installed greenhouses on 90 small family plots and 102 home rooftops, using water-smart growing systems and training farming families in best practices for maintaining and improving their gardens. Anera also rehabilitated 99 acres of greenhouses and built or renovated 100 livestock barns for small-scale farmers.

Distributed breakfasts to 4,098 children at 19 preschools in Gaza every school day. Supported 20 local farmers by purchasing their fresh produce. Employed 131 women at four cooperatives to make the meals.

Built 13 bright, spacious new preschools across Palestine, serving 900 children a year. Installed solar-powered reverse osmosis purification systems at 10 preschools in Gaza, saving schools from having to buy water.

Delivered 434 shipments of donated medicines and healthcare supplies worth $432.5 million. Anera is the only organization that consistently and regularly restocks depleted supplies at pharmacies in healthcare facilities across Palestine.