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Photo: After two years of war and destruction in Gaza, thousands are making their way back to homes — or what is left of them — in northern Gaza. Millions have been forcibly displaced multiple times during the war, especially in the north.

Planting Seeds for the Future

After two years of war on Gaza, Anera is preparing for what comes next.

Anera has served displaced and vulnerable communities for 57 years, whatever the political winds. The situation is uncertain, the needs immense, yet the steadfastness, the *sumud*, of those we serve remains unshaken. Over the past two years, Gaza has faced one of the gravest humanitarian crises in memory. The West Bank and Lebanon too have endured immense hardship. In all these places, and in Jordan and soon Syria, **Anera continues its dual mission: immediate relief and long-term development.**

Since October 2023, Gaza's catastrophe has unfolded on a scale few imagined. Our teams have delivered aid under fire, through displacement, tragedy and trauma. But Anera's work has always gone beyond emergencies — building livelihoods, water systems, schools, clinics and hope. True recovery requires dignity, stability and the rebuilding of institutions.

Yazdan, one of our Gaza staff, wrote recently: *"The familiar contours of home are now piles of concrete. The hunger I see is deeper than empty stomachs, it's a hunger for identity and dignity. When the war ends, we must rebuild more than concrete. We must repair our collective identity."*

credits

The Anera newsletter is published quarterly by Anera (formerly American Near East Refugee Aid), 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...

In late August 2025, Anera delivered 84,535 gallons of clean water in Gaza in a single day, reaching an estimated 106,700 displaced people.

Planting Seeds for the Future

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Areej, another colleague, shared: “*We face death in every form, from hunger, missiles, bullets, or simply searching for food. My mother suffers from malnutrition, yet we keep working to bring relief because it is our duty. We are exhausted, but we carry on. Every effort, no matter how small, brings hope and dignity.*”



Even in the darkest moments, Anera's staff keep showing up. The organization has lost two beloved team members to Israeli fire, and nearly all of our Gaza colleagues have lost family. **Their perseverance demands that we rise to meet the moment.**

We welcome the ceasefire and a hope for a viable peace. The plan before us may not be perfect, but it offers a door: an end to the war, expanded aid and a possible path to recovery and self-determination. It all depends on political will, security and funding. If the door stays open, we must walk through it. If it does not, Anera will remain, as it always has, wherever the need is greatest.

Anera is ready because of decades of investment in trust, relationships and infrastructure. Our teams are not outsiders parachuting in, but members of the communities they serve, carrying legitimacy, memory and deep commitment. Our systems meet global standards for transparency and risk management. And our focus on long-term development allows us to pivot from relief to reconstruction when the time comes.

The war has left shattered infrastructure, weakened institutions and deep trauma. Yet, amid this devastation, we witness signs of endurance, communities clinging to dignity and life. We honor that steadfastness through action: by matching courage with resources and compassion with results.

If this moment holds even a small opening, we must seize it together. Donors, partners, staff and supporters all have a role to play, to hold faith and help build a better future in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

If peace is to be more than rhetoric, we must be ready with humility, discipline and boldness. Let this be a recommitment: that Anera will not merely survive this era of crisis, but help lead the journey from suffering to dignity, from destruction to opportunity, from despair to hope. **Together, we can rise to this moment.**



BY THE NUMBERS

TWO YEARS OF DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA

As of October 22, 2025

133,659,348

Meals

delivered in the form of parcels, hot meals and fresh produce baskets.

367,415

Patients

Treated at our clinics in Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah and Gaza City.

10,628,698

Gallons of Water

brought to families in bottles and trucks set up in communal areas.

1,752

Trucks

of humanitarian aid brought into Gaza



Aid in the pipeline waiting in Ashdod port (43 trucks)
Ben Gurion Airport (1 truck)
Jordan warehouses (1 truck)
West Bank warehouses (2 trucks)



Why I Fundraised for Anera: Education as Empowerment | by Raya Zinicola

I've always believed education is more than learning; it's empowerment and a chance to rewrite stories. **Refugees who access education can support their families, build businesses and break cycles of poverty.**

As a high school student in Dubai, I've seen how transformative learning can be. On visits to Jordan, where part of my family lives, I've met Palestinian and Syrian refugees forced to leave school to work. That loss limits their futures. Jordan hosts more than two million registered Palestinian refugees and about 655,000 Syrians, a reality hard to grasp until you see it.

Many people I know had no idea how many refugees live in Jordan or how hard it is to access education. That's why my fundraiser was about more than money; it was about awareness. Those conversations became as meaningful as the donations.



I chose Anera because of their hands-on work improving education. They provide access to laptops with learning materials, train teachers and students in digital skills, and link education to opportunities for women through early childhood programs that allow mothers to work. Anera's vocational training helps youth gain confidence and jobs.

To make my fundraiser personal, I linked it to something I love: sports. I ran and cycled 276 kilometers in four weeks, representing the 276 schools in Dubai. People from around the world joined in. My biggest takeaway? **Fundraising isn't scary when it's rooted in purpose**, and education gives everyone hope.

Learn more about starting your own fundraiser at anera.org/help-fundraise

Voices of Anera Staff from Gaza

Through Two Years of War



"In my role at Anera, I've witnessed support arriving from around the world – a tangible relief that eases some burdens. Yet, it's crucial to recognize that the true strength in Gaza comes from within the community itself... mutual love and support... transform chaos into relief."

– Ahmad Najjar, June 2025

"Life in Gaza is now the hardest since October 7, 2023, because of man-made mass starvation."

– Suad Lubbad, July 2025



"We have nothing left to lose but our hope. And even that is hanging by a thread."

– Anonymous staff, October 2025



"Yesterday my wife returned to Gaza City to pick up some important papers. She came back with heavy heart. 'There is nothing left to remember,' she said, 'just the smell of death, the stab on the chest being suffocated and the huge destruction.'"

– Eshak Daour, September 2025



This collection highlights the words of our Gaza staff as they lived the war – setting up clinics, delivering water and finding small moments of relief, while trying to survive and care for their own families.



"After months of displacement, I finally returned to my home in Gaza. I didn't expect to find it like this: half of it completely destroyed, and the other half unlivable... Despite the pain, being there reminded me that this destruction is not the end. It's the beginning of something new... Reconstruction isn't just about rebuilding walls. It's about restoring dignity... The road is long and difficult, but every step toward rebuilding is one more step toward life."

– Ibrahim Zanoun, October 2025

"I moved from the north to the south for the first time in two years and I hardly recognize this place... I keep repeating the same words even though it feels hopeless, there must be a ceasefire, there must be an end to this genocide. Please do not look away from us."

– Areej Al Masri, September 2025



"As I drove, I saw people walking with their belongings slung over their shoulders, their lives condensed into little knapsacks."

– Sami Matar May 2024

"Every day here is worse than the one before. Displacement camps are overcrowded and filthy. Heat makes the conditions unbearable. Kids are sick with rashes, diarrhea and other illnesses. People fight for water. Trucks can't get through and families walk long distances just to fill a jerrycan."

– Yazdan El Amawi, September 2025





A Night of Solidarity at Anera's 2025 Annual Dinner

Anera held its Annual Dinner on October 3, 2025, drawing more than 430 guests to downtown Washington, DC, united in concern for Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, especially Gaza.

Omar Offendum opened with verses by Khalil Gibran and Mahmoud Darwish, reminding the audience of exile, empathy and the call to care for those without food, shelter or peace. “Evenings like these,” he said, “offset guilt by honoring those we are here to serve.”

The theme, “From the Shell, a Thousand Seeds,” celebrated life’s endurance in the harshest conditions. Each seed carries a story, a dream, a future.

Anera President and CEO Sean Carroll reflected on Gaza’s humanitarian catastrophe and the courage of Anera’s staff who continue their work under fire. He reminded guests that Anera’s mission has never been limited to emergency relief. For nearly six decades, the organization has built schools, clinics and livelihoods across the region, restoring dignity and hope.

He shared words from Gaza staff. Yazdan described a homeland where hunger is “for identity and dignity.” Areej spoke of repeated displacement and her mother’s illness, yet said, “Every effort, no matter how small, brings hope.” Their perseverance, Sean said, embodies Anera’s mission.

Following his remarks, Sandra Rasheed and Samar El Yassir, Anera’s country directors for Palestine and for Lebanon and Jordan, described families and staff displaced by violence yet still finding ways to serve, transforming classrooms into workshops, rebuilding homes, moving water trucks through bombed roads and keeping aid flowing despite immense barriers.

A short film followed, featuring Anera pharmacist Ahmad Najjar walking viewers through a Gaza clinic he helped build, a symbol of teamwork and resolve.

The evening’s atmosphere was one of both grief and determination. Conversations around the room echoed the same belief: that even amid destruction, communities can still plant seeds of renewal. Guests spoke about wanting to do more, to give, to advocate, to ensure that Anera’s reach continues where hope is needed most.

The evening raised just over \$1 million to support Anera’s work across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, a powerful reminder that, even in dark times, generosity can rekindle hope.

Palestinian singer **Lina Makoul** closed the night with a moving performance that celebrated strength, culture and the enduring spirit of the communities Anera serves.



MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Planned Giving

By including Anera in your estate plan, you can empower vulnerable communities in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan for generations to come. Visit anera.org/legacy to learn more.

Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Giving

IRA giving is a powerful way to help hope find its way in the Middle East, and it may be to your financial benefit. Visit anera.org/IRA to learn more and get started on an IRA gift.

Workplace Giving

Anera meets most company eligibility requirements as it is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Contact your personnel department at work to find out whether your employer matches charitable donations of employees.

Anera's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 12076.

Beginning in 2026, new federal tax rules will change how charitable donations are deducted. Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, even taxpayers who don't itemize will be able to deduct up to \$1,000 in cash gifts (\$2,000 for couples). Those who itemize will only be able to deduct contributions above 0.5% of their income, and the tax benefit for top earners will be capped at 35%.

Because of these upcoming changes, **2025 may be the best time to maximize your giving** by making larger gifts this year, combining multiple years of donations, or contributing through a donor-advised fund to secure the full current tax benefit.

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PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

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Anera staff unload hygiene kits in southern Lebanon, supporting Lebanese and Palestinian families as rising food insecurity continues to affect communities recovering from the recent war.