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The Latest From Anera's Website

Photo: Mariam, 9, from Gaza City went months without leukemia treatment before escaping through Rafah just before it closed. Pictured with her father, who lost an eye in the war, she is now responding well to treatments in Jordan. Her mother and siblings still remain in Gaza.

Healing for Gaza's Evacuated Families in Jordan

As you read this, Ramadan – a month of mercy, belonging and shared meals – will either soon be starting or is happening. For Palestinian evacuees from Gaza receiving treatment in Jordan, and the families who have accompanied them, it is also a time of displacement, worry and exhaustion. Far from home and carrying the weight of serious illness or injury, these families are spending Ramadan in hotel rooms and hospital corridors, where the comfort of familiar traditions and community is painfully absent.

Jordan has become a critical haven for Gaza civilians needing urgent medical care since war began in 2023. Among those evacuated are individuals with serious illnesses, chronic conditions and war-related injuries whose treatment was interrupted by the collapse of Gaza's health system.

The Government of Jordan has committed to temporarily receiving evacuees and their families through a WHO-coordinated medical corridor. To date, hundreds are residing in three Amman hotels while undergoing treatment for cancer, trauma-related injuries, and other serious conditions that cannot be treated in Gaza, with additional evacuees continuing to arrive.

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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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ISSN 1966-3584

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Did you know...

In December 2025, Anera's primary healthcare centers in Gaza treated nearly 1,000 patients in a single day — including wound care, general surgery, pediatrics and more — providing vital medical care amid ongoing conflict and displacement.

Healing for Gaza's Evacuated Families continued from p. 1



A range of local and international nonprofits — including St. Jude, the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society — are responding to these needs. Despite these efforts, critical gaps remain.

This is where Anera steps in. Our Jordan team is implementing a 12-month, multi-sector program to support Palestinian evacuees from Gaza while reinforcing Jordan's national response. At its core, Anera's work ensures life-saving medical treatment, continuity of care, and support for urgent medical evacuations, covering both treatment-related costs and essential accommodations for patients and their caregivers.

Complementary activities include improving living conditions, training volunteers and hotel staff in trauma-informed care and referral procedures, providing food assistance and winterization support, and delivering psychosocial and educational services. Below we showcase two of the most recent, seasonally relevant activities.

Winter Support for Evacuated Families

To reduce exposure to health and seasonal risks among evacuees, Anera provided one-time winterization support. In partnership with a local organization employing vulnerable refugees, Anera distributed 296 blankets and 515 jackets, ensuring families could stay warm during the winter months. This initiative not only protects evacuees from the cold weather but has also strengthened local livelihoods by engaging refugee artisans in the production of winter supplies.

Breaking Fast with Hope in Jordan — Ramadan 2026

As Ramadan unfolds, food security and emotional wellbeing become even more urgent for Gazan evacuees receiving medical care in Jordan. Many families are living in hotel rooms without kitchens or consistent food assistance, facing daily uncertainty about how they will prepare iftar. Through *Breaking Fast with Hope*, **Anera Jordan is responding by providing daily hot meals throughout Ramadan**, ensuring evacuee families can break their fast with dignity and reliable nourishment.

The initiative also creates moments of connection during a difficult time. **Anera is hosting a large community iftar in partnership with Tkiyet Um Ali, offering a shared meal that fosters belonging.** In hotel settings, structured recreational and psychosocial activities help ease stress and isolation, while Ramadan food parcels are distributed to vulnerable families across Jordan, extending support nationwide during the holy month.

BY THE NUMBERS - IN 2025

ANERA'S WORK IN JORDAN

9 active programs

529 evacuees from Gaza helped

130 rooftop gardens supported

16 greenhouses installed at schools and community centers

3 children's summer camps hosted in Amman and Palestinian camps for 40 children



My Five-decade Walk With Anera | by Mary Norton

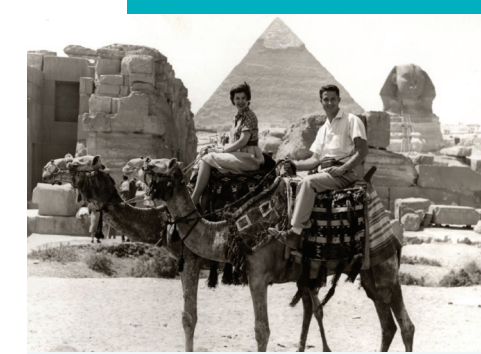
My lifelong commitment to justice and human rights — especially for Palestinians — was shaped long before I discovered Anera. Born in 1929 and coming of age at the end of World War II, I grew up in a world reckoning with loss, displacement, and the urgent need to rebuild. Those early years instilled in me a deep sense of responsibility to others.

In 1949, I moved to New York City, where I worked in early television, including on *Omnibus*, an educational program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Adventure eventually took me much farther afield. In 1958, I moved to Saudi Arabia to work in television for Aramco, a decision that would profoundly shape the arc of my life. Over three decades in the Middle East, I traveled widely, formed deep relationships, and came to admire the region's history, culture, and extraordinary hospitality. Over the next three decades in the Middle East, I married and raised three children, traveled widely, formed deep relationships and came to admire the region's history, culture and extraordinary hospitality.

A visit to Jerusalem in 1960 changed me forever. In a refugee camp outside the city walls, I met an elderly Palestinian man who had been driven from his home. The only thing he had left was a large key, which he held as he told his story. That moment made the Palestinian struggle personal and permanent for me.

In Anera, I found an organization that perfectly aligned with my values. I became a donor and have walked with Anera ever since, watching it grow into an exceptional humanitarian organization, delivering life-saving aid with integrity, efficiency and compassion. Supporting Anera has enriched my life, grounded my purpose and given me enduring hope.

Read Mary's full story at anera.org/my-walk-with-anera



Mary Norton and her future husband, Howard, in 1959 on their first travels in the Middle East, from Egypt to Jerusalem, marking the beginning of their lifelong interest in and affection for the region and its peoples.

Nourishing All That Remains...

by **Shukran Al Sayyed Al Akkawi (Um Zaki)**, recipient of Anera food aid. She shares her recipe in her own words.

As Ramadan, a season of gathering, generosity and breaking bread, is upon us. Through Anera's emergency response, families in Gaza and beyond receive food parcels and hot meals, so they can come together to break their fasts. You can make these meals possible: anera.org/ramadan-26

I had everything once — a stove, a washing machine, a fridge, all of it chrome. I list them like inventory, not as a complaint, but because maybe if I say the words out loud, they might come back.

Musakhan is a dish that carries Palestinian culture and memory. The onions always betray me first, softening slowly as my tears arrive uninvited.

It takes four to five hours to make these days. I have to build and tend a fire, feeding it wood and cardboard. Before, musakhan took one hour, when I had a kitchen.

I am 52, a mother of eight and a grandmother of six. Now seven of us share one tent. It is cold, and I hate it, but I still try to call it home. My actual home was in Sheikh Radwan. It was big and loud, full of children and the sound of plates hitting the table. It was bombed and now it's gone.

The last time we ate musakhan was before the war. After that there was no money, no time, no place to make it.

Today, we have some flour, onions and chicken, and the fire is going strong.

Under the tent roof, our plates move hand to hand, brushing elbows, and tearing the warm bread as we grab the chicken. Sumac stains our fingers.

We have experienced displacement too many times to count. Most faces blur, except one: my father. On November 16, 2023, he left to get water and never came back. Yet life goes on, and today I watch my grandchildren lean over the bread. The smell rises, warm and familiar, and for a moment, it feels like home — even here.

After more than two years, I have finally made musakhan again. We don't have a table and the walls are fabric, **but my family is here.** We eat and sit close. We cannot reclaim what was lost. But with musakhan, **we can savor what remains: each other, each moment,** here in Gaza. This is what's important



A RECIPE FROM GAZA

Musakhan

INGREDIENTS

For the chicken & onion topping:

- 5 whole chickens
- 6½ pounds (3 kilos) onions, thinly sliced
- 3 to 4 cups (½ kilo) sumac
- 8 cups (~2 liters) olive oil
- 1 cup (21 grams) bay leaves
- ¼ cup (24 grams) ground cardamom, ¼ cup pods (28 grams)
- ½ cup (58 grams) black pepper
- 5 green spicy peppers, sliced
- 1 cup (150 grams) raw almonds

For the farasheeh bread:

- 8 cups (1 kilo) wheat flour
- 5 to 5½ cups (1 kilo) coarse bulghur

INSTRUCTIONS

- Prepare the farasheeh bread:** In a large bowl, combine wheat flour and bulgur, with a pinch or two of salt. Add enough water to form a soft, pliable dough. Knead until smooth and elastic, then cover and rest for 30 minutes. Divide into balls and roll into flat rounds. The bulgur will integrate into the bread, adding texture and helping it absorb the onion oil. Set aside.
- Boil the chicken:** Place 5 chickens in a large pot with bay leaves, cardamom, black pepper and green peppers. Add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil, then simmer 20 to 30 minutes until partially cooked.
- Cook the onions:** Heat 1-2 liters olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add onions and cook slowly, stirring occasionally, until softened and lightly golden. Add sumac and sliced green peppers and simmer 5 to 10 minutes to blend flavors.
- Roast the chicken:** Preheat oven to 390°F (200°C). Or, if you're in Gaza, start the fire. Gather wood and cardboard, coax the flames and feed them patiently until the fire burns steady and hot. Remove chicken from the pot and place on a roasting pan. Brush with olive oil and some of the onion mixture, sprinkle generously with sumac and roast 20-30 minutes until golden brown.
- Roast the almonds:** In a dry pan over medium heat, roast 1 cup raw almonds for 3 to 5 minutes until lightly browned and fragrant. Set aside.
- Assemble and serve:** Place the flatbread on a serving tray. Top with roasted chickens, spoon the onion mixture over them and finish with roasted almonds. Serve hot!

In Case You Missed It

THE LATEST FROM ANERA.ORG



Sounds Like Eid

When everything else has been stripped away, the sound of a water truck can still mean hope. Ahmed, a father of six in Gaza, shares what life looks like after losing his home, his livelihood, and any sense of stability. Displaced eight times and now living in a tent by the sea, his family has endured hunger, winter storms, and the daily struggle to find clean water – at times surviving on animal feed.

Today, access to safe water remains uncertain, but when a Anera-supported water truck arrives, it brings relief, dignity and a chance to get through another day. Supported by WF-Aid, this lifeline helps families like Ahmed's survive.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/sounds-like-eid



When Fear Walks to School

Tasneem, a kindergarten teacher in the West Bank village of Ni'lin, offers a rare window into childhood lived under constant threat. Her five-year-old students navigate military incursions, blocked roads and tear gas before they ever reach the classroom. They arrive shaken by experiences no child should face. Yet day after day, these children still come to school searching for a place where they can feel safe. With training and support from Anera, Tasneem helps her students name their fears, share their experiences and begin to heal. Her story shows how early childhood education can be a lifeline creating small but vital spaces of stability, trust and hope.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/walk-to-school



Transforming the Lives of Cystic Fibrosis Patients in Lebanon

What happens when a life-saving medicine finally becomes accessible? Rita, a 29-year-old from the Bekaa Valley, shares how years of constant hospital visits and labored breathing gave way to something she never expected: relief. Through medical donations from Direct Relief, Anera secured long-term access to essential cystic fibrosis medication at the national level in Lebanon. For Rita and others like her, the impact was immediate and profound: fewer hospitalizations, restored strength and the chance to plan for the future. The program has also united patients nationwide and helped establish Lebanon's first cystic fibrosis registry showing how sustained uninterrupted care can change lives.

FULL ARTICLE
anera.org/cf-lebanon

THIS RAMADAN, TURN COMPASSION INTO ACTION



For families across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, Ramadan arrives amid hunger and displacement.

Here's what your support can do: deliver food to 145,000+ people in Gaza and the West Bank, provide monthly food parcels to 5,300 families in Lebanon, and create eid moments for children in need. In Jordan, it will support a communal iftar for Palestinian medical evacuees from Gaza and supply 2,000 vulnerable households with Ramadan food.

**This is more than a meal.
It's relief for parents.
Joy for children.
Dignity for families.**

**Give where it
matters most.**



anera.org/ramadan-26

HEALING FOR GAZA EVACUEES FAMILIES IN JORDAN

ANERA NEWS, ISSUE 301 | WINTER 2026



Anera staff and volunteers in Gaza work side by side during the winter, carefully packing fresh produce into vegetable baskets for delivery and providing critical food support to families as cold weather and hardship deepen across Gaza.