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Photo: Anera Lebanon staff deliver
food parcels to displaced families at a
government shelter, March 2026.

As Needs Rise in Lebanon, Anera Expands Its Response

As you read this, families across Lebanon are facing a rapidly escalating crisis. Ongoing conflict and economic collapse has forced more than 1.1 million people from their homes, disrupting access to basic services and pushing vulnerable communities deeper into need.

Recent violence has displaced families overnight, with many now sheltering in schools, unfinished buildings, overcrowded temporary spaces or even on the street. In some areas, families have had to move multiple times in search of safety. At the same time, Lebanon's prolonged economic crisis continues to drive up the cost of food, water and healthcare, making even the most basic necessities increasingly out of reach for both displaced families and host communities.

Access to essential services is under severe strain. Healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, infrastructure in affected areas has been damaged and many communities are experiencing interruptions in water and electricity. Families are struggling to secure reliable food, clean water and hygiene supplies, while livelihoods have been disrupted or lost entirely. For many, there are few options left to cope as savings are depleted and support systems are stretched thin.

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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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Anera never rents or sells our list.

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Did you know...

Through rooftop gardening initiatives, **families in Lebanon produced 8.7 tons of food in all of 2025**, increasing household income by about 22%.

Anera Expands Its Response in Lebanon *continued from p. 1*



This is where Anera is stepping in.

Across Lebanon, Anera teams are responding quickly to meet urgent needs. In recent weeks, distributions have reached thousands of families with ready-to-eat food parcels designed to sustain a household for up to two weeks. Hot meals are also being delivered to displaced families staying in shelters, helping ensure consistent access to food during a time of instability.

Anera is also distributing hygiene, dignity, and baby kits, along with other essential relief items, to support basic health and sanitation, particularly in overcrowded settings where the risk of illness can spread quickly. Clean water access is supported through bottled water distributions and local water system repairs where possible, helping reduce reliance on unsafe sources.

Healthcare remains a critical priority. Anera is improving access to medical care through the provision of medicines, supplies and support to health facilities, while also helping connect vulnerable individuals to needed services. These efforts are especially important as the healthcare system faces increased demand and limited resources.

In parallel, Anera continues to invest in longer-term interventions to help communities regain stability. This includes training and livelihood programs for youth and women, support for local production initiatives and efforts that strengthen community-based networks that can respond during times of crisis.

Anera teams are working across multiple regions, including hard-to-reach and heavily affected areas, coordinating closely with local partners to identify urgent needs and deliver assistance where it is needed most.

These efforts are not just about immediate relief but about helping families stabilize in the face of ongoing uncertainty and preventing conditions from worsening further.

Your support makes this response possible. As needs continue to grow, Anera remains committed to reaching families across Lebanon with the assistance they urgently need.

Follow our staff's emergency response efforts on our Lebanon Response Log: anera.org/lebanon-log

BY THE NUMBERS RAMADAN 2026

\$671,185 total raised
from your donations and support

1,982 donors gave
to our Ramadan efforts from over 52 countries

2,636,209 total meals served
across Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan

Because of your support we surpassed our original 2.5 million meal goal.

Thank you Anera donors and supporters!



Our Kites: Turning Sadness and Frustration into Action

by Audrey and Akshita
(two teenage supporters of Anera and Gaza)

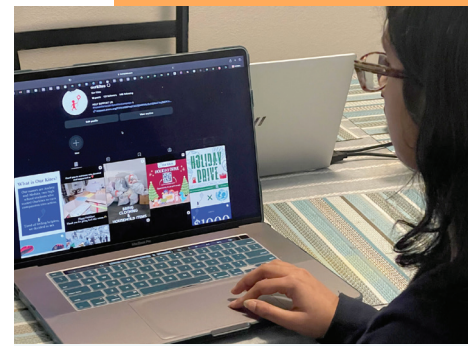
Fundraising for Anera helped us turn feelings of sadness and frustration into action. **Watching what was happening in Gaza through social media made it impossible to just scroll past.** Like many of our peers, we were seeing images and stories every day, but we didn't want to feel helpless. We wanted to find a way to respond and to encourage others our age to do the same.

We decided to start where we already were. **We launched a student-led Instagram initiative called @ourkites**, using the same platform where we first learned about the crisis to inspire action. Through posts and videos, we encouraged our peers to rethink everyday spending and consider how even small contributions could add up. Our message was simple: even \$5, the cost of a coffee or energy drink, can help support someone in need when people come together.

We also brought the effort into our school community by organizing a clothing drive. Donations were collected and sent to a local thrift store, which converted them into funds for our campaign. During the drive, we spoke with classmates and community members who were eager to contribute and learn more. Many shared our fundraiser with others, helping expand its reach even further.

The response was incredibly encouraging. Even when people couldn't donate, they supported us by spreading the word and helping raise awareness. That support gave us the confidence to keep going and to continue building on what we started. **This experience showed us that even as high school students, we are not powerless.** Small actions can build into something much larger when people come together with a shared purpose.

Read Audrey and Akshita's full story at anera.org/our-kites



Audrey and Akshita launched @ourkites, a student-led Instagram initiative that turns awareness into action and inspires peers to support families in need through small donations.

Nahno Youth Volunteers Power Anera's Emergency Response in Lebanon

Intensified Israeli bombing has driven Anera to expand its emergency response across Lebanon, compounding an already severe economic crisis and widespread displacement. Anera is delivering food, clean water and essential supplies to tens of thousands of families struggling to meet daily needs.

Young people play a key role through Anera's Nahno volunteer program.

Nahno youth help produce and prepare relief items including food parcels, hygiene kits, clothing, sleeping bags and bedding such as mattresses, with some supporting sewing initiatives to make and repair garments. They assemble, package and prepare aid for distribution, helping ensure it reaches communities affected by displacement and bombing.



What It Means to Keep Going in Gaza

by Yazdan El Amawi, Gaza branch director



In Gaza, people have learned not to rely on promises. Conditions change constantly, and what matters most is not what is said, but what actually reaches families in need. Daily life remains extremely difficult, with families searching for food, clean water, shelter and medical care while facing ongoing uncertainty and disruption.

Despite these challenges, **Anera's teams continue to show up every day.** They adapt to shifting conditions and work through obstacles to deliver aid where it is needed most. They prepare and distribute thousands of meals, along with fresh food parcels, clean water and essential supplies that help families get through each day.

Healthcare remains a critical need. Anera's clinics are treating patients across a range of services, supporting mothers and children and providing care to those who might otherwise go without. At the same time, efforts are underway to support small farmers and local food production, helping communities access fresh food and maintain a sense of stability.

Access remains one of the biggest challenges. Movement restrictions, damaged infrastructure and security concerns make it difficult to reach communities consistently. Anera's teams adjust routes, coordinate closely and find ways to continue delivering assistance despite these constraints.

Families are also facing deepening food insecurity, with fewer options available and rising costs making basic items harder to afford. Fresh produce distributions and support for local agriculture are helping to fill critical gaps and ensure families can access more nutritious food.

In Gaza, keeping going means continuing to act even when conditions are uncertain. It means finding ways to deliver support day after day and standing with communities as they navigate one of the most difficult periods in recent memory. | *Read Yazdan's full piece at anera.org/keep-going*



HOST AN EVENT. SPARK CHANGE.

Bring your community together and make a real difference for families in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan. Whether it's a dinner party, fundraiser, or casual get-together, your event can fuel Anera's vital work – delivering food, healthcare, education, and hope where it's needed most.

Small gatherings. Big impact.

Every event helps sustain lifesaving programs and shines a light on communities facing crisis.

Ready to turn compassion into action?

Start planning your event today and be part of something meaningful.

- 👉 See what others have done: anera.org/community-events
- 📞 Contact Haley Gerlofs at hgerlofs@anera.org | 202.266.9718



Leave a Legacy

Help ensure our vital work for refugees and vulnerable families in the Middle East continues for generations. **A planned gift shows your lasting commitment** and supports Anera's long-term impact.

To learn more, contact **Jainelle Blenhyne-Gaillard** at jblenhyne-gaillard@anera.org or 202-266-9721.

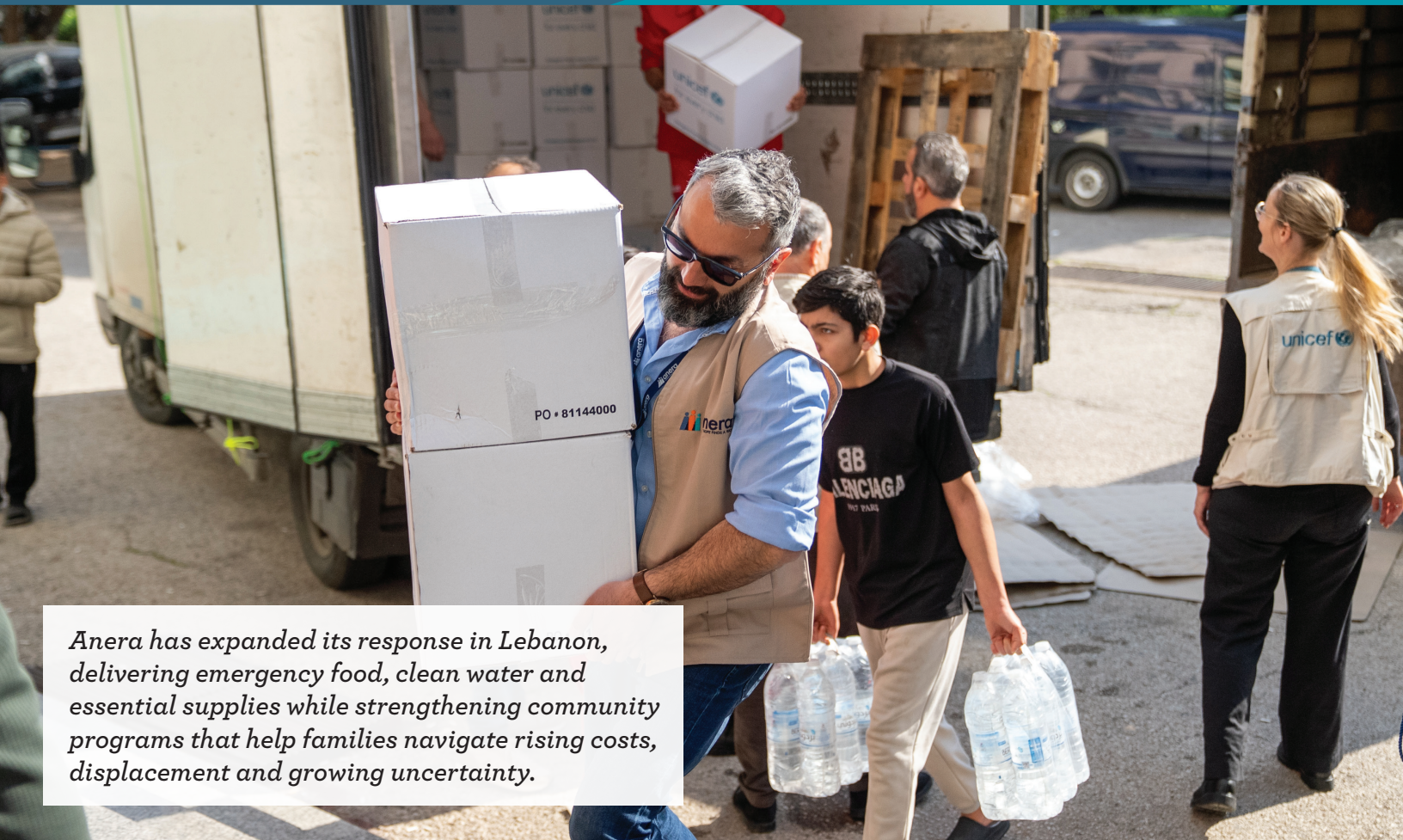
Anera's Annual Dinner

SAVE THE DATE

✓ **Friday, October 9, 2026**

AS NEEDS RISE IN LEBANON, ANERA EXPANDS ITS RESPONSE

ANERA NEWS, ISSUE 302 | **SPRING 2026**



Anera has expanded its response in Lebanon, delivering emergency food, clean water and essential supplies while strengthening community programs that help families navigate rising costs, displacement and growing uncertainty.