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Photo: A Palestinian child smiles as she peers through the entrance of her family's tent in a Gaza displacement camp. Anera supports families in this camp by providing food, clean water, healthcare and essential supplies.

Connecting Care Across Gaza Anera's Integrated Support for Displaced Families

Across Gaza, families are working to rebuild their lives amid displacement, loss and uncertainty. Many are living in overcrowded schools, damaged buildings and makeshift tents, with limited access to clean water, healthcare and other basic services. As the crisis persists, the need for safe shelter, nutritious food, education, healthcare and protection remains urgent.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and partners, Anera is helping families meet these needs through an integrated shelter program. We are bringing together emergency relief and essential services under one coordinated response, ensuring families can access multiple forms of support in the same place. This holistic approach allows us to respond quickly as conditions change while strengthening the safety and well-being of entire communities.

In five community shelters across Gaza City and Khan Younis, Anera has reached 1,832 households, more than 8,400 people. Working alongside humanitarian partners, we have also distributed 1,262 emergency shelter tents to families who lost their homes, while preparing additional support packages for the next phase of assistance.

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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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Did you know...

Since March, Anera has served 304,645 hot meals in Lebanon, with youth in livelihood programs helping prepare meals, assemble aid kits and support families affected by war and displacement.

Connecting Care Across Gaza

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Food remains one of the greatest concerns for displaced families. To help ease that burden, Anera provides ready-to-eat hot meals twice each week for 8,500 people. These meals offer more than nourishment. They spare families the challenge of finding fuel, cooking equipment or safe places to prepare food. Every week, we also distribute 1,826 parcels of fresh produce, helping families maintain access to healthy foods despite soaring prices and limited availability.

Access to clean water and safe living conditions is equally critical. Anera now delivers an average of 42,000 liters of safe drinking water each day, helping families meet one of their most fundamental needs. Across nine displacement sites, cash-for-work teams are helping improve daily living conditions by collecting and safely disposing of waste, maintaining sanitation systems and improving access within the shelters. These teams have removed hundreds of tons of solid waste. Health awareness sessions also provided families with practical information to help protect their well-being in challenging conditions.

Looking ahead, Anera is preparing temporary learning spaces for more than 1,200 children whose education has been disrupted by conflict and displacement. Plans are also underway to expand access to primary healthcare services through newly established health points equipped with essential medical supplies. Women are playing a central role in shaping these efforts through participation in community committees, the creation of safe spaces and future livelihood opportunities designed to help families regain stability.

Despite border closures, security challenges and repeated displacement, Anera's Gaza teams continue to adapt and respond. Working closely with local partners and community leaders, they are helping families access the essentials they need not only to survive, but to preserve their dignity and hope for the future.

anera.org/response-log

BY THE NUMBERS

GAZA RESPONSE

April-June 2026

Provided healthcare services to **57,408 patients** across six Anera clinic locations.

Distributed **12,396,000 liters of potable water** to communities in Khan Younis and Deir Al Balah.

Supported **39,838 families** through distributions of ready-to-eat meals, bags of flour and high-energy biscuits.

Delivered fresh produce parcels to **24,249 families** across Gaza City, Deir Al Balah and Khan Younis.

Collected and safely disposed of **787,203 pounds of solid waste** in five shelters.

Distributed **1,836 bedding kits** including two mattresses and a blanket in Gaza City and Khan Younis shelters.



Distributing fresh produce parcels to 400 families in the camps in Deir Al Balah governorate. June 9, 2026

50 Years of Giving Back | by Carole Issel

I was born in San Francisco in 1943 and now live two miles from the house where I grew up. I studied journalism and music, built a career and, after time away, found my way home. But my family story begins across generations and oceans.

My father's family came to San Francisco in 1910 from Btourram, a farming village in Lebanon. My grandparents immigrated seeking opportunity and a life rooted in education and hard work. My mother's family came from Palestine 28 years later. On May 17, 1939, they left Haifa to board the S.S. Palestina, sensing difficult times ahead. Growing up, I carried an awareness of what had been lost. My maternal grandfather believed in educating all his children, including his daughters. An English-Arab scholar, he served as secretary of the Haifa Chamber of Commerce.

My connection to Anera is tied to my parents. In 1966, they visited Palestine and Lebanon and returned with stories of displacement, tent communities and life for refugees. I began giving in the 1970s, buying handmade goods made by refugees in the camps. I met my husband around that time. Together, we supported Anera for almost 50 years. He passed away in 2023 and I continue that support with him in mind.

What has kept me invested is Anera's work with local communities in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan, especially programs that help women support their families and build skills. Anera listens, trains local people and trusts communities to understand their needs. Supporting Anera helps me stay connected to my history and to people who deserve safety, stability, dignity, clean water and a safe walk to school.

Read Carole's full story at anera.org/50-years-of-giving



Carole and her husband Karl, 1986

Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Living in Permanent Survival Mode

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are facing a crisis that did not begin with the latest war, but has been sharply intensified by it. For years, families have lived with limited legal rights, shrinking access to work, healthcare and education and fewer support systems to help them manage daily life.

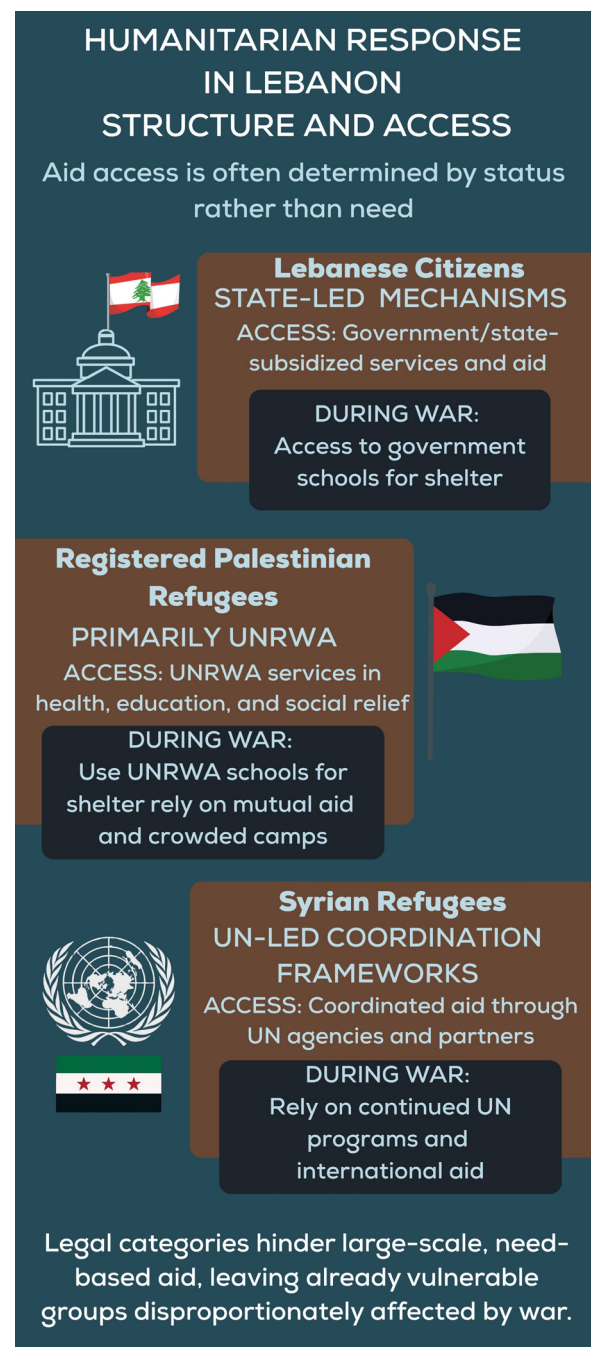
Anera's latest on-the-ground report, *Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon | In Their Own Voices: Living in Permanent Survival Mode*, captures this moment through research, data collection and conversations with the organizations serving Palestinian communities. The findings show how long-standing structural challenges, economic collapse and declining international funding have pushed many families into a constant state of survival.

Before the latest escalation, humanitarian organizations were already being forced to scale back services as needs continued to grow. Anera convened 15 community-based and international organizations to examine how funding cuts were affecting daily life. Participants described a landscape where essential services had been reduced to the minimum, prevention and development programs had largely collapsed, and women and children were carrying much of the burden.

The war has added new emergency needs and exposed how little margin families have left. For Palestinian refugees, who are largely excluded from national safety nets, the loss of humanitarian support leaves few alternatives.

By bringing together direct testimony and organizational perspectives, the report offers a clearer picture of what communities are facing and why renewed coordination and investment are urgently needed. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are not only confronting the pressures of war, but the cumulative effects of decades of exclusion, underfunding and uncertainty.

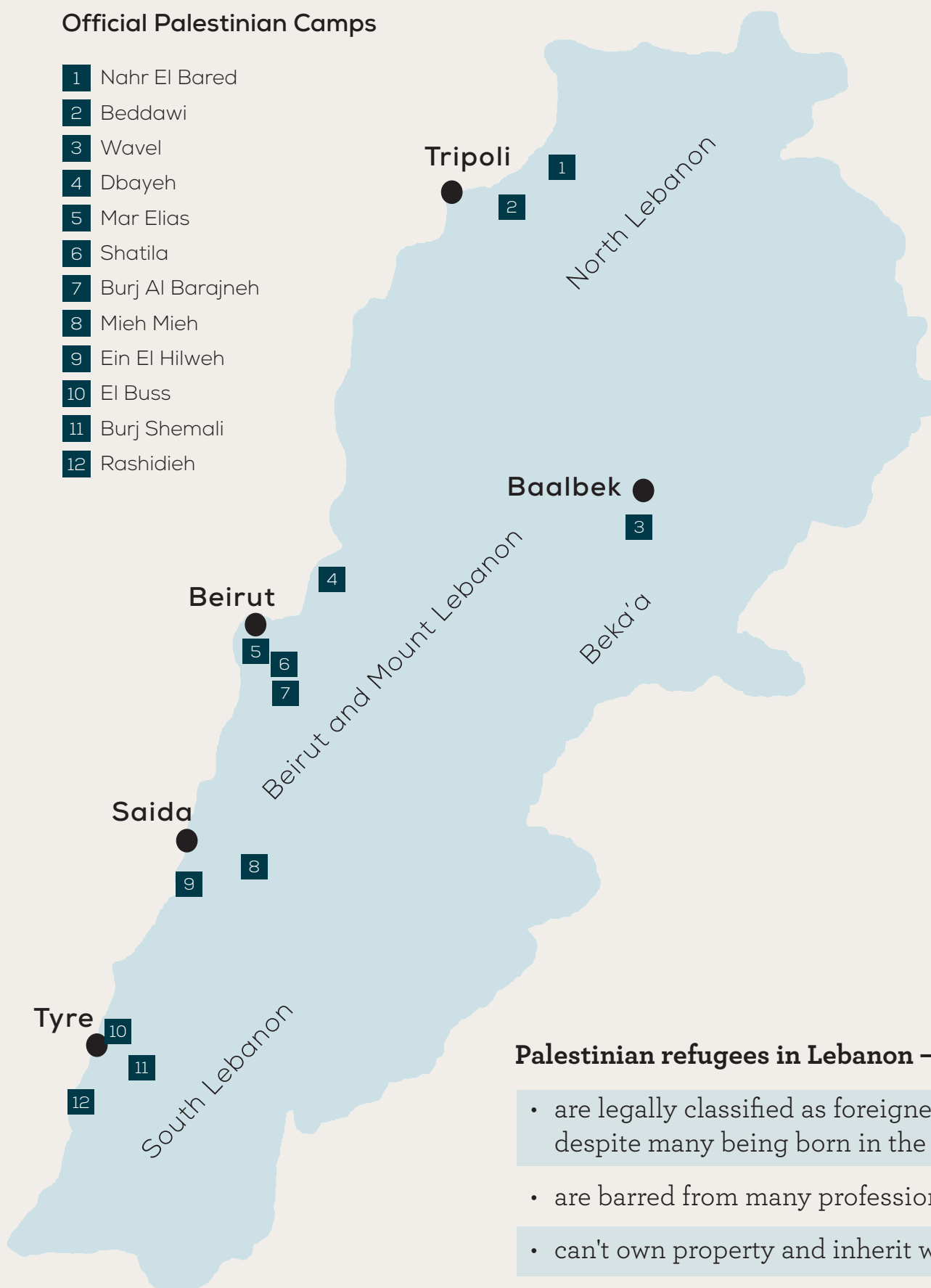
Read the full on-the-ground report:
anera.org/palestinian-refugees-lebanon



OFFICIAL CAMPS	VS	GATHERINGS
12 recognized camps		154 Palestinian areas
House 45% of the Palestinian refugee population		House 55% of the Palestinian refugee population
Established and formally recognized		Generally located near the camps
		Informal

Official Palestinian Camps

- 1 Nahr El Bared
- 2 Beddawi
- 3 Wavel
- 4 Dbayeh
- 5 Mar Elias
- 6 Shatila
- 7 Burj Al Barajneh
- 8 Mieh Mieh
- 9 Ein El Hilweh
- 10 El Buss
- 11 Burj Shemali
- 12 Rashidieh



Palestinian refugees in Lebanon —

- are legally classified as foreigners despite many being born in the country
- are barred from many professions
- can't own property and inherit wealth
- have restricted access to public healthcare, education and civil services

From Policy to Practice

Turning regional policy into practical opportunities for communities across the Levant.



On June 8, leaders from government, civil society, development organizations and the private sector gathered in Amman for a regional workshop on how the European Union's Pact for the Mediterranean can move from policy to practical action across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.

Co-hosted by Anera and the Swedish Dialogue Institute for the Middle East and North Africa, the event focused on one central question: **how can regional policy create real opportunities for the communities it is meant to serve?**

Across the Levant, high unemployment, shrinking economic opportunities and the long-term impacts of displacement continue to make decent work harder to access, especially for young people and women. Skills training and livelihood programs can only succeed when they are connected to local needs and real labor market opportunities.

Participants in the workshop discussed how investments in employability, vocational training and entrepreneurship can be shaped by local knowledge. Speakers and working groups explored the role of community-based organizations, local institutions, businesses and regional partners in building stronger pathways to work.

A recurring theme was that policy must be grounded in lived realities. The Pact offers an important framework for regional cooperation, but its success will depend on how closely implementation reflects the experience of organizations already working with communities on the ground.

The workshop ended with practical recommendations for strengthening coordination, supporting locally driven solutions and building on programs that have already shown impact across the region. As the Pact moves toward implementation, conversations like this can help ensure future investments translate into tangible opportunities for communities across the Levant.

Read more at anera.org/policy-to-practice

JOIN US!

Anera Annual Dinner

Friday, October 9, 2026

The Ritz-Carlton

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CONNECTING CARE ACROSS GAZA

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A teacher works with students in an Anera learning space in Gaza, part of Anera's integrated services for families living through displacement and war.