

Rehabilitation of Healthcare Centers Serving Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Project Goals:

- Goal 1: Provide vulnerable Palestinian patients with improved healthcare services,
- Goal 2: Improve the wellbeing of children and youth in South Lebanon,
- Goal 3: Increase the access of gastroenterology patients in Nahr El Bared Camp to needed healthcare services

Project Description:

Anera's Rehabilitation of Healthcare Centers Serving Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon project seeks to ensure continued access to healthcare, including mental health services, for vulnerable communities in the region. The project focuses on renovating two healthcare centers and two hospitals, making important upgrades that will ensure the facilities are able to continue providing essential services and expand their operations. Through this project, Anera is committed to supporting the Palestinian refugee population in the country.

Part A of the project targets the National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVT) Family Guidance Center in El Buss Camp and includes

- 1) Complete renovation, including roof repairs, wall repairs, window replacements and maintenance, electrical work, sanitary maintenance, humidity and moisture treatment, and painting.
- 2) Constructing a roof over the children's playground to enable its use in the winter (60 sqm)
- 3) Construct a new hall with a sensory room (60 sqm) for children with Autism on the roof of the playground. The room will serve as a corner for reading as well as a space for parents to meet and attend the awareness sessions held by the staff.

About NISCVT:

In 2007, the NISCVT founded the Family Guidance Center as a means to provide mental health services to children and adolescents aged 18 and below and their parents. The center supports residents of three Palestinian refugee camps in the Tyre area (Borj El Shamali, Rashideih, and El Buss) and nine Palestinian settlements in the surrounding area. It is the only healthcare center with comprehensive mental services. The Center runs three programs to provide psychological services and support Palestinian refugee children and their caregivers: 1) a mental health program; 2) family happiness; and 3) psychosocial support. The center reaches around 1240 people (children and adults) on an annual basis.

The team of psychiatrists, psychotherapists, speech-language therapists, psychomotor therapists, occupational therapists, and social workers serves 350 children annually and provides psychoeducation to their parents. Through the Family Happiness Project, the center sponsors 62 children living in Al Buss and its adjacent area, attending weekly psychosocial activities and daily summer activities. The Psychosocial Support Program offers activities for 75 children and their parents.

In addition, the center reaches around 750 people who take part in the awareness sessions and campaigns. The center also provides financial and in-kind aid during crises to 500 families in Al Buss and its gatherings.

Part B of the project targets Al Shifa Clinic in Naher El Bared Camp, North Lebanon and includes

- 1) Al Shifa Clinic Rehabilitation: To ensure the safe access of patients to the clinic, Anera will repair the doors and windows, rehabilitate the bathrooms, maintain electrical fixtures, and paint the clinic.
- 2) Gastroenterology Clinic Rehabilitation: Anera will complete tiling, install insulated zinc roofing panel sheets, install electrical points, install a door, and plaster the walls.
- 3) Equipping the Clinic: Anera will equip the clinic with an anesthesia machine, a gastroscopy for gastro-colonoscopies, reception chairs, wooden cupboards, a clinic bed, an office desk, chairs, and a printer.

About Al Shifa Clinic

Al Shifa Clinic, located in Naher Al Bared Camp, in north Lebanon, treats approximately 2,700 to 3,200 patients every month. Al Shifa Clinic serves as the main healthcare provider for patients in Naher El Bared Camp. The clinic receives patients with gastroenterology (GI) conditions that require direct attention on a daily basis. Volunteer gastroenterologists examine the patients, but unfortunately, the clinic lacks proper equipment to adequately care for the patients. Rehabilitating Al Shifa Clinic and equipping the room with gastroscopy will enhance Al Shifa Clinic's ability to serve the increasing number of vulnerable patients presenting with GI symptoms who would not otherwise have access to critically needed gastroenterology care. This will be a complementary approach to the solar panels that Anera recently installed at Al Shifa Clinic to leverage the quality of health services.

With Al Shifa Clinic being the only clinic in Nahr El Bared Camp that offers a wide range of healthcare services, including gastroenterology, it is highly essential to renovate the clinic and equip it with gastroscopy equipment to enhance Al Shifa Clinic's ability to serve the increasing number of vulnerable gastroenterology patients who would not otherwise have access to critically needed gastroenterology care. The main needs of Al Shifa Clinic include rehabilitation work for the whole clinic, including tiling, metal work, electricity maintenance, and door installation. The gastroenterology clinic also needs equipment and furniture.

Part C of the project targets Al Nasera Hospital, located in Bekaa-Baalbeck area

Renovating Nassera Hospital is of utmost importance due to the potential risk of building collapse and harm to people if the current conditions are left unaddressed. The existing cracks, damaged roof tiles, and compromised areas in the buildings, particularly the Main Building and the Old Administration Unit, indicate structural vulnerabilities that could worsen over time. If these

issues are not remedied, there is a real danger that the buildings may collapse, posing a severe threat to the safety and well-being of patients, healthcare professionals, and visitors.

Anera will apply a range of rehabilitation and new construction activities to the hospital's four buildings: the Main Building, the New Administration Building, the Old Administration Unit, and the Storage Building.

In the New Administration Building, minor repairs, including an extension at the entrance and repairs to cracks in the walls due to settlement, will be made.

Furthermore, in the Main Building, roof waterproofing, entrance canopy waterproofing, the repair of any brick roof tiles that are damaged or falling, treatment of the shaft covers, and the demolition and reconstruction of the extended emergency room to ensure safety will be applied.

Regarding the old administration unit, Anera will demolish the existing structure and construct a new emergency room (200 sqm) that will provide a safe and efficient solution for the hospital. This project will include the design of architectural and structural elements, as well as electro-mechanical design, electrical works, mechanical works, footings, slabs on grade, roofing, columns, reinforcing steel structures, and water proofing and insulation.

Finally, a connection between the new emergency room and the main hospital will be built to further increase the space and efficiency of the hospital.

Anera will also install an on-grid solar system, which is anticipated to enable fuel cost savings of 70% as well as a power output of 40 amps. To reach this goal, the storage building will be used to install 60 solar panels in all applicable areas.

About Nasera Hospital:

Nasera Hospital, founded in 1978, is one of the main Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) hospitals in Lebanon, located in the Bekaa-Baalbeck area near Al Jalil refugee camp. Bekaa-Baalbeck encloses around one million people, with refugees making up around 38% of the population. About 84% of households in Baalbek-Hermel and 77% in Bekaa live below the survival minimum expenditure. As such, the area witnesses an especially high level of poverty among registered Syrian refugees. Due to the increased hospitalization costs in Lebanon, PRCS hospitals witnessed a surge in hospitalized patients because of their very competitive and affordable prices. Al Naserah Hospital supports around 43,000 patients annually and provides family medicine, cardiology, pediatrics, gastro-enterology, gynecology, ear, nose, and throat (ENT), and dentistry services.