

## Solar energy palestine

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza must largely rely on purchasing electricity from Israel. The power supply is unreliable, and a financial burden for families. In Gaza, hours-long blackouts are an everyday occurrence. Because the electrical supply is unpredictable, people often have to drop everything when the lights turn on to do chores and other tasks. Unreliable electricity makes it difficult to plan even the most mundane aspects of daily life.

The Jalqamous boys" school and the Hatta co-ed school have just swung open their doors with full-scale renovations. Anera added libraries, science labs, playgrounds, and more - all the features a school should have to foster learning. The new schools are also solar-powered and fully accessible.

Thanks to the support of our donors, Anera provided and installed solar panels at the Beit Lahia health clinic. Electricity shortages had long hindered operation of medical equipment, particularly inside the lab where blood screenings and urine cultivation tests are conducted.

Anera installed a 2,641 gallon a day reverse osmosis desalination unit and solar system to power it at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Ambulance and Emergency Center, which treats 3,500 patients a month.

In North Gaza, young Palestinian women are finding jobs installing solar panels with Anera -- providing the power to pump and clean much needed water for local Palestinian farmers. These solar pumping stations increase access to water for agricultural use and prevent the loss of crops and produce.

In Lebanon, mismanagement has left the national electrical grid unable to supply reliable power, making families dependent on private generators that require expensive and scarce fuel. Many families fall into deep debt trying to pay for the cost of energy from "generator mafias." Today in Lebanon, mafia like gangs have a monopoly on private generators, the fuel to run them and the power lines to connect to them -- making Lebanese and refugee families dependent on these gangs for any reliable electricity supply.

On top of this the current economic collapse in Lebanon as made energy matters worse for families. In response to these energy challenges, Anera has expanded and integrated solar energy more into its projects and programs.

Omar is a student in Anera's plumbing, solar and heating course. The 20-year-old Syrian fled his hometown with his family and now resides in Tripoli. Explaining why he chose to take the course, Omar says,

"I have always loved things related to solar energy and heating mechanisms. Ever since I came to Lebanon five years ago, I have been struggling to find something to study and excel at. Now, I feel proud to be achieving my dream."

He one day wants to open his own business in Syria. "In a few years, I will be even more skilled than I am now. I will gain lots of experience to take with me back to my country."

"Who knows, maybe what I learned here will impact the people in my country one day. After all, both Lebanon and Syria are in dire need of sustainable ways of generating power."

Darkness. This is reality for many families in Lebanon who live in impoverished areas, and especially in refugee camps and settlements where there is no formal connection to the electricity grid. To help make the lives of families in this situation a little easier, Anera has imported a shipment of Solight's SolarPuff lights.

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