

VOL
2 5

ISS

8

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1982

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<https://doi.org/10.1017/S008425590004465X>

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CRIA seeks to apply the insights of ethics and religion to international affairs, particularly the formulation of U.S. foreign policy.

WORLDVIEW is published monthly by the Council on Religion and International Affairs. Subscription—\$17.50 a year, \$33 for 2 years, \$47 for 3 years. Student rate \$8.75 per year. Add \$5.00 per year for overseas postage. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional entry offices. (ISSN 0064-2559)

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Subscription Office: WORLDVIEW Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1024, Denville, New Jersey 07834. Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in *Index to Religious Periodical Literature*, and *Guide to Social Science and Religion in Periodical Literature*.

BORN AS REFUGEES IN THEIR OWN LAND



Thirty-three years ago, thousands of Palestinians lost their homes, their farms, their livelihood. Babies born in desolate refugee camps, dependent on international help for survival, are now young parents themselves, bringing up a new generation in shacks with four or five people to a 10-foot-square room. Children play in streets with open sewers. The women walk long distances every day for water and wait in line for food rations. They, as their mothers before them, worry about the future of their children in the camps. Men whose fathers once farmed their own land are now unskilled seasonal workers, driven in trucks every morning to work in distant cities. The old people sit outside their shacks, the rusty keys of former homes in their pockets, remembering the days when they lived with pride and dignity.

After years of exile and the hardships of a military occupation, the Palestinians feel isolated, abandoned, forgotten.

BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS FORGOTTEN THEM. FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID HAS PROVIDED A WAY FOR CONCERNED AMERICANS TO HELP.

ANERA supports grass-roots Palestinian organizations and institutions which have developed over the years to cope with the crises and problems that are normally the responsibility of a government. Through them, ANERA'S humanitarian aid is channeled to three vital parts of Palestinian society:

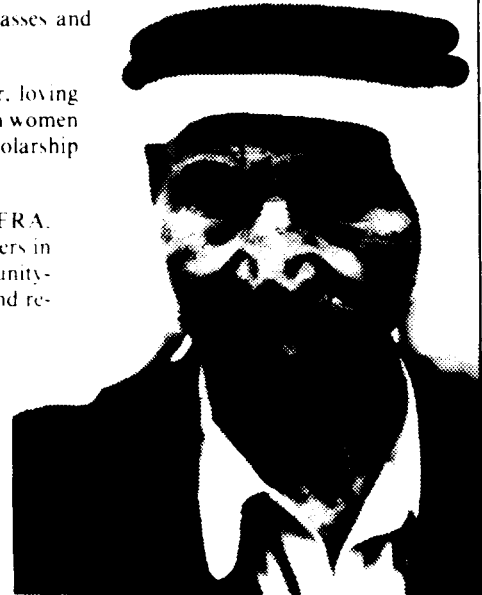
WOMEN receive mother child health care, supplementary food, literacy classes and vocational training at well-established Women's Unions, aided by ANERA

CHILDREN, orphaned or poverty-stricken, are provided with food, shelter, loving care and a basic education at two schools in Jerusalem, founded by Palestinian women in the aftermath of the 1948 tragedy. \$75 to ANERA provides a year-long scholarship for one child, including books and a midday meal.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, strongly supported by ANERA, bring sewers to towns and villages, and electricity to rural areas. Poor farmers in the rocky hill country and the sand dunes of the coast benefit from community-based cooperatives which provide technical advice, rural credit as well as land reclamation and marketing services.

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