

1. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
2. American Near East Refugees Aid (ANERA)
3. Community Development Foundation (CDF)
4. Catholic Relief Service (CRS)
5. International Churches Committee (ICC)
6. CARE

Each of these agencies has its own objectives, sources of finance, and terms of operation. All of them were surveyed individually through an in depth study conducted by the researcher during the course of this work. This section, however, includes only some general remarks regarding their current activities on the West Bank and guidelines for the role they might play in developing West Bank agriculture.

a. Size of aid funds

Although they tend to earmark fairly "large" sums of aid in their opening budgets, a striking observation in this regard is that the actual amount of aid extended by voluntary agencies is small. Several years after they commenced their operations, the combined volume of aid the VA's advance has not yet exceeded 3 million dollars a year,<sup>1</sup> covering both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This is a negligible sum when compared to the thousands of millions of dollars going into countries which have been much less hurt by the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict, notably, Israel and Jordan.

1. This estimate was assessed through interviews with the staff of all major agencies.

As far as their activities in the agricultural sector are concerned, ANERA is the largest donor, followed respectively by CDF, MCC, CARE, CRS and ICC.

All aid advanced by voluntary agencies is in the form of grants which are usually balanced by funds from recipients themselves. Grants advanced by VA's have often been critically important for initiating projects and carrying them to completion.

b. Source of funds

ANERA and CDF derive more than 70 percent of their funds (CDF all of it) from US AID, which is an integral organ of the US State Department. The rest of the voluntary agencies receive their funds from a variety of religious and philanthropic organizations, not excluding the possibility of link-up with US AID or other political entities.

c. Objectives

ANERA restricts its services mainly to agriculture and it deals with cooperative societies and public institutions (eg. municipalities and universities). CDF is more concerned with health and drinking water projects and it also tries to keep its contacts with individual farmers to a minimum. The rest of the VA's have a wider range of activities, though on a smaller scale, and they do not have over-riding restrictions against contacts with individual farmers.

The undue emphasis on cooperative societies has not only channelled aid to institutions with a chronically low efficiency, but it has also left out an extensive spectrum of individuals and groups who may be as needy yet more efficient users of aid.