Seminar on humanitarian aid effectiveness: new humanitarian actors in the Middle East
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Humanitarian Aid effectiveness: Palestinian Case
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The Palestinian tragedy started since 1948 where 78% of Palestine land was given to Israel and 22% only was left for the Palestinians. First refugee flood and mass movement to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and internal immigration was registered, and thus, UNRWA was established to take care of the refugees’ humanitarian needs.

In 1967 the remaining 22% of Palestine land was also occupied by the Israelis and the second wave of refugee took place and UNRWA had to expand its services to include this wave which resulted in:

- 2/3 of Palestinian population (8 out of 12 Million) are displaced and living worldwide.
- Humane needs and dignity in most hosting countries are not respected (the exception was Syria).


Iraqi Invasion: in 1990 Iraqi army’s Kuwait takeover resulted in the evacuation of 0.5 Million Palestinian to Arab countries (mainly Jordan) and North and South America.

Three wars over six years 2009, 2012 and 2014: 3 wars waged against Palestinians, where Gaza was seized and isolated which resulted in:

- More than 81% depends on Food and Humanitarian Aid programs funded by national and international organizations.
Buffer zone expanded which isolate more than 25% of farming land “not safe”.
Territorial water decreased and 3600 fishermen lost their main source of income.
Destruction of 11,000 houses either partially or completely.
More than 200 private workshops, small factories were destroyed.
Strict procedures and full control over the boarders were imposed.
Flooding the tunnels by the Egyptian government.
Movement restriction with very limited exceptions for extreme cases (health).

Area C: according to Oslo Agreement, Palestinian territories in West Bank were classified into areas; A, B and C, where Area C “country side”, which is under Israeli administrative full control, including land, water, market and is considered the Palestinian Food Basket.

By 2020 Israeli Settlers will be 1,000,000. This figure shows that a two state solution will never be a possible option.

The ongoing settlers’ violence against Palestinians’ land, water, cattle, premises destruction and the limited access and control of the Palestinian Authority resulted in leaving Palestinian communities vulnerable with poor services and infrastructure.

The Palestinian case is a clear evidence of:

- Ineffectiveness of Humanitarian Aid when talking about efficiency versus effectiveness.
- The Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) rarely applied in the case of mankind disaster and could be questionable in case of natural disaster.
- Rights protection and prevention should be the priorities for the Istanbul Summit.