FROM RELIEF AND WORKS TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: UNRWA AND PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AFTER 60 YEARS

International Conference Organized by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB)

October 8-9, 2010

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00–8:30 REGISTRATION

8:30–9:15 OPENING SESSION

Karim Makdisi, Associate Director, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, AUB
Sari Hanafi, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, AUB
Maya Majzoub, President, Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee
Abdullah Abdullah, Ambassador of Palestine to Lebanon

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General, UNRWA

9:15–11.30 MEETING CHALLENGES IN PROGRAMMES AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Discussant: Jihad Makhoul, Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Community Health, AUB
Chair: Roger Davies, Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs, Lebanon

• UNRWA Education Programme – Challenges and Lessons Learned
  Mohan Menon, Deputy Director, Department of Education, UNRWA and Roger Hearn, Director of UNRWA Affairs, Syria

• The UNRWA Health Programme: Delivering Health Services Against All Odds
  Ali Khader, Acting Director, Department of Health, UNRWA

• Realizing Self-Reliance: UNRWA’s Microfinance Department
  Alex Pollock, Director, Microfinance Programme, UNRWA

• Reflections on UNRWA’s Operations in Syria
  Raja Deeb, Aidun Syria

• The Evolution of UNRWA’s Budget: From 1994-2010
  Mahmoud Hanafi, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (Shahed), Beirut

Discussion
11:30–12:00  COFFEE BREAK

12:00–14:00  PROTECTION: FROM CONCEPT TO PRACTICE

Discussant: Susan Akram, Clinical Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law
Chair: Lance Bartholomeusz, Chief, International Law Division, Department of Legal Affairs, UNRWA

• Operationalizing Protection in UNRWA
  Mark Brailsford, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNRWA

• Incorporating Protection into Humanitarian Action: Approaches and Limits
  Elizabeth Ferris, Senior Fellow and Charleen Stark, Senior Research Assistant, The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

• Operationalizing Child Protection in MENA: Challenges and Opportunities
  Laurent Chapuis, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa

Discussion

14:00–15:00  LUNCH BREAK

15:00–17:00  GOVERNANCE: THE CAMPS AND UNRWA

Discussant: Jalal Al Husseini, Institut Francais du Proche Orient (IFPO), Amman
Chair: Anies Al Hroub, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, AUB

• The Politics of UNRWA Camp Construction
  Kjersti Gravelsaeter Berg, PhD candidate, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen

• UNRWA and Governance Practices in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinian Territory
  Sari Hanafi, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, AUB

• Governance in Jordan Camps
  Ahmad Rawashdeh, Chief of studies section, Department of Palestinian Affairs, Amman

Discussion

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:00–8:30  REGISTRATION

8:30–10:30  CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Discussant: Dawn Chatty, University Reader in Anthropology and Forced Migration and Deputy Director, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford
Chair: Nasser Yassin, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, AUB

• UNRWA, Palestinian Refugees and Community Participation
  Terry Rempel, PhD Candidate in Politics, University of Exeter
• Community Participation and Human Rights Advocacy: Questions Arising from the Campaign about the Right to Work of Lebanon’s Palestinian Refugees
  Sergio Bianchi, PhD candidate, Graduate Institute of Geneva

• Implementing the Neirab Rehabilitation Project: The Political Implications of ‘Sustainable Development’
  Nell Gabiam, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago

Discussion

10:30–10:45  COFFEE BREAK

10:45–12:45  CAMP IMPROVEMENT / RECONSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Discussant: Phillip Misselwitz, University of Stuttgart, Germany
Chair: Mona Fawaz, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture and Design, AUB

• Overview of UNRWA’s Camp Improvement Programme and Examples in Jordan and West Bank
  Mona Budeiri, Head, Sandi Hilal, Project Manager, Fatima Al-Nammari, Project Manager, Housing and Camp Improvement Unit, UNRWA

• The Destruction and Reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared Refugee Camp and its Extensions: Lessons Learned
  Rana Hassan, MUPP Candidate, Department of Architecture and Design, AUB

• Strategies and Practices of Improvement in Al-Hussein Camp
  Lucas Oesch, PhD candidate, Graduate Institute of Geneva

Discussion

12:45–13:45  LUNCH

13:45–15:30  PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS: A ROLE FOR UNRWA

Discussant: Michael Dumper, Professor, University of Exeter
Chair: Lex Takkenberg, Chief, Ethics Office, Department of Internal Oversight Services, UNRWA

• Robert Dann, Chief, Regional Affairs Unit, Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

• UNRWA as Avatar: Current Debates on the Agency and their Implications
  Rex Brynen, Professor, McGill University, Canada

• UNRWA and Preparations for a Just Solution
  Leila Hilal, Adviser, UNRWA

• Property Ownership in UNRWA Family Archives: Relevance for Reparations
  Jaber Suleiman, Independent Researcher/Consultant in Refugee Studies

Discussion
15:30-16:15  REFLECTIONS ON THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE REGIME

Chair: Karen AbuZayd, Former Commissioner General, UNRWA

- Jeff Crisp, Head, Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, UNHCR

16:15–16:45  CONCLUDING REMARKS

Sari Hanafi, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, AUB
Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General, UNRWA