

Perspectives beyond War and Crisis II
Food Aid, Poverty Administration and
Development Policy in the
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Invitation to the conference

In the light of the developments in the Palestinian territories over the last two years, which have exacerbated the already catastrophic humanitarian situation, international donor agencies and institutions are faced with the fundamental challenge of defining how they can and want contribute to sustainable development in Palestine. During the conference, representatives from international organizations and Palestinian NGOs together with academics will discuss possible development policies despite the blockade of the Gaza Strip and the societal fragmentation in the West Bank.

September 29 – 30, 2009

Location: Diplomatic Academy,
Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna

Programm

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009

- 6:30 – 6:45 pm Welcome by **vide**
- 6:45 – 8:30 pm Revisiting the Palestinian Economy after 40 years of Israeli Occupation: Present Realities and Future Challenges
Leila Farsakh, University of Massachusetts Boston
Chair: Magda Seewald, vide

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009

- 9:30 - 9:45 am Registration
- 9:45 -10:00 am Welcome-Introduction: Magda Seewald, vide
- 10:00 - 1:30 pm Perspectives beyond Food Aid and Poverty Administration?
On the Role of International Institutions and Development Agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories
Gerhard Pulfer, Aid Coordination – Palestine
Leila Farsakh, University of Massachusetts Boston
Break
Rami Sublaban, Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency
Samia Botmeh, Birzeit University
Chair: Helmut Krieger, Vienna University
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm Lunch Break
- 3:00 - 5:00 pm Palestinian Civil Society beyond International Development Policy?
Afaf Aqel Hamayel, In'ash al-Usra
Ghassan Amayra, Welfare Association
Maysoon Al-Ramahi, Al-Khansa
Chair: Magda Seewald, vide
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm Coffee break
- 5:30 - 7:30 pm Final Discussion: What is to be done?
Afaf Aqel Hamayel
Maysoon Al-Ramahi
Gerhard Pulfer
Samia Botmeh
Chair: Helmut Krieger, Vienna University

Conference language: English with German simultaneous translation

Speakers

Ghassan Amayra is program manager at Welfare Association, a Palestinian private, non-profit foundation established in Geneva in 1983 to support Palestinian society in sustainable development.

Samia Botmeh is director of the Center for Development Studies at Birzeit University. Her main research topics are economy and gender. Currently she is a PhD candidate at the economics department at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where she writes her thesis on “Gender differentials in labour markets outcomes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”.

Leila Farsakh is assistant professor in political sciences at University of Massachusetts Boston. She has worked with a number of international organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris (1993-1996) and the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute in Ramallah (1998-1999). Between 2003 and 2004 she undertook a post-doctoral research at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University.

Afaf Aqel Hamayel is a board member of the Society of In‘ash al-Usra, a Palestinian women’s organization, which was founded in 1965 by a group of women with the aim of empowering Palestinian women and offering various services. From 2005 to 2007 Afaf Aqel Hamayel was director of education of Ramallah and Al-Bireh district.

Helmut Krieger, social scientist, is a lecturer in the field of International Relations at the Institute of Political Science and the Project International Development at the University of Vienna. Main research areas: Israeli-Palestinian conflict, political Islam, and postcolonial theory.

Gerhard Pulfer is Governance Strategy Group Coordinator within the Palestinian Ministry of Planning focused on rule of law and security sector reform. From 2004 to 2007 the political scientist was responsible for programs in the Middle East and Asia at the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Maysoon Al-Ramahi is chairwomen of Al-Khansa Women Association, which she established in 1997. Al-Khansa is an Islamic women’s association, which stresses women’s rights and participation from an Islamic perspective and offers various income-generating activities for women.

Magda Seewald works as a project coordinator at the vidc mainly on gender and conflict since 2005. She graduated in political science at the Vienna University.

Rami Sublaban is assistant project manager at the Palestinian office of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), the agency for international development cooperation of the Turkish government.