



Emergency management setbacks in Gaza – 2014

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Outlines

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Introduction

- EM gained significant interest during the past 10 years globally & specifically in the Middle East region as well as in Gaza Strip.
- The region experienced sequence of large scale emergency events including floods, heavy storms, massive wars & conflicts of which occurring onset & perhaps for the first time in 30 or 40 years.
- ***Being new to such harsh events***, governments, UN Agencies, NGOs, managers & planners, & community found themselves fighting to survive with too many to learn from.

Introduction

- Many setbacks occurred related to lack of experience & management (mostly preparedness & planning), weak capacity linked to economy & politics instability, & some other factors.
- In Gaza, all of these issues are experienced in addition to other major problems & challenges posed by blockade & internal dividing.
- These setbacks are therefore worth investigating & studying, giving the fact that they may pose serious threats & put the 2 million people of Gaza & their properties at risk whenever a disaster hits or an emergency event occurs.

Why they occurred?

- In Gaza, the major challenges to population's daily life & future are the blockade & the internal dividing.
- In addition, the sequence of conflicts & heavy storms associated with heavy rain & floods are large scale catastrophic events associated with significant losses of lives, damages, & displacement are considerably beyond local authorities & supporting international agencies as well as community to h&le & take.

Why they occurred?

- Principally, the massive scale of the conflict occurred in 2014 associated with large scale displacement of about 400,000 IDP of which never experienced before & far beyond any preparedness (Gap) or emergency drills made by the government or agencies were of the major cause of situation complexity & response hinderer.
- In addition, the multi-contradicted Palestinian line of authority represented by the internal dividing associated with confusion & crippled response as well as weakened infrastructure & lack of capabilities had negatively contributed to the overall response sufficiency & showed the huge gap between what was planned & what actually happened.



Setbacks (major – not all)

- Slow, confused, & insufficient response by all major players especially during the first days of the conflict
- Scattered efforts & response by local NGOs with the absence of effective coordination among them crippled aiding accessibility by beneficiaries as well partially miss-led overall response
- Massive drop in the overall public services had also led to further deepens the already-ongoing crisis.
- Dramatic & unexpected events linked to the developing conflict by then was continuously hindering the adaptation & the sustaining of the response somehow.



Moving forward

The first step towards overcoming such setbacks & fully eliminating their potential occurrence in the future is through:

- Considering sufficient participatory approach throughout all preparedness stages & activities involving all stakeholders
- Strengthening coordination & networking between international & local NGOs
- Support medical sector, civil defence, & municipalities in terms of both soft & hard components of the emergency preparedness & planning phase
- Advocate for mitigating blockade effects that are related to emergency response hindering.



Conclusions

- Addressing the emergency setbacks experienced during 2014 conflict as well as studying their causes & have them reviewed as lessons learned practice is crucial towards being prepared for any upcoming God-forbid emergency events.
- This can be seen as an ongoing learning process where critique approach is followed & practiced rather than just indicating or investigating failure points & insufficient response or even justify why such issues happened.

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of a multiple-choice test paper. The paper has several rows of questions, each with four options labeled A, B, C, and D. A black pencil is positioned diagonally across the top right corner of the paper. A solid blue horizontal bar is located at the top of the slide, partially overlapping the test paper image.

Thank you