

Aid in Crisis? Rights-Based Approaches and Humanitarian Outcomes - Cooperation with the Peace Research Institute Oslo

In 2016, PASSIA was involved in the Palestine chapter of a larger project entitled “Aid in Crisis? Rights-Based Approaches and Humanitarian Outcomes.” The project - funded by the Research Council of Norway – is being carried out by PRIO, the Peace Research Institute Oslo and focuses on the meaning of “rights-based approaches” in humanitarian aid given by Norway to Palestine and how this aid is perceived by both the organizations and people at the receiving end (for details see <https://www.prio.org/Projects/Project/?x=1131>). With regard to the Palestinian case study, the emphasis was on projects run during the last decade in the field of education in East Jerusalem and/or the West Bank.

PASSIA assisted PRIO’s senior researcher Jacob Høigilt in conducting part of the research along the following questions central to Norwegian aid to the OPT:

- 1) What role does rights-based approach play in Norwegian aid discourse in this messy situation relative to other conceptualizations of aid?
- 2) On the receiving end, how do Palestinian officials and civil society activists perceive Norwegian aid – as well-targeted and useful or as irrelevant to their needs? What is the perceived relation between foreign policy and aid among giver and receivers?

Answers were sought in field work interviews with Palestinian officials, program managers and civil society activists. PASSIA facilitated interviews and discussions on the effects of aid in Palestine.

During late October/early November 2016, an interview schedule with relevant actors was set up and included representatives of the following organizations: AMAN Coalition for Accountability and Integrity, Ramallah; Save the Children, Ramallah; Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Jerusalem; Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem; Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Jerusalem; Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, Jerusalem; Norwegian Representative Office, Dahiet Al-Barid; and The Lutheran World Federation Vocational Training Program, Jerusalem.