

## Economic and post - disaster in Gaza

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**Abstract:** The Gaza Strip suffers from the economic destruction caused by the wars and siege, which constitutes a disaster for the Palestinian people. In this research, We discuss the role of the economy in the aftermath of the disaster and compare the State of Iraq in the face of its disaster and how it managed to get out of that crisis. There was an interview with Professor Naser Awad in the Ministry of Economy, On how to get out of the economic crisis in Gaza.

**Keywords:** Disaster- stages of disaster management - Ministry of economic – Reconstruction.

## الاقتصاد وما بعد الكارثة في غزة

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**الملخص:** يعاني قطاع غزة من الدمار الاقتصادي الذي خلفته الحروب والحصار مما شكل كارثة على الشعب الفلسطيني وفي هذا البحث نقدم عن دور الاقتصاد في ما بعد الكارثة ومقارنة دولة العراق في مواجهة كارثتها وكيف استطاعت الخروج من تلك الأزمة وكان هناك مقابلة مع الأستاذ نصر عواد في وزارة الاقتصاد وسؤاله عن كيفية الخروج من أزمة الاقتصاد في غزة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الكوارث - مراحل إدارة الكوارث - وزارة الاقتصاد - إعادة الإعمار.

### Introduction :

In the war of 2014, thousands of lives were lost and a great deal of infrastructure was destroyed. Projects were halted.

The economy deteriorated markedly by the brutal aggression, which led to the displacement of many families and the recession of the economy to its lowest levels.

In this paper, we will present the challenges faced by the Ministry of Economy in the period of reconstruction and what methods of assessment identified the damage and whether donors covered damage.

### The theoretical framework of the study :

Disaster is defined as a state of extreme (usually irremediable) ruin and misfortune that leads to the breakdown of the social fabric and the affected community is unable to cope up with the event and often external assistance is required (Rautela, 2006) and defining A serious disruption of the functioning of society,

causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of affected society to cope using only its own resources (Shaluf, 2007).

At Recently years it has been found that disasters can be classified into three types:

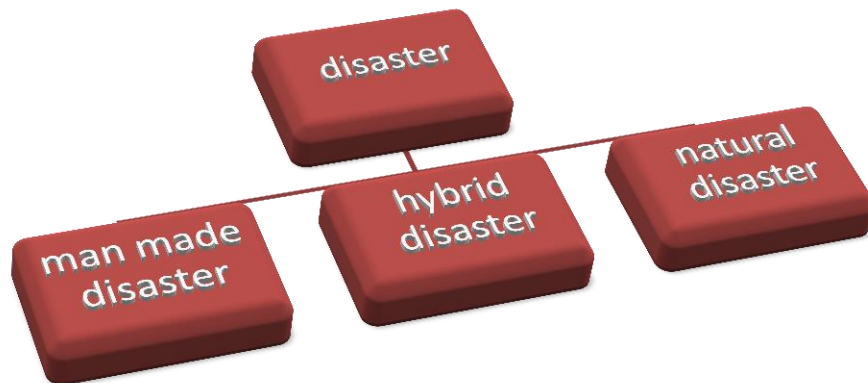
- 1- natural .
- 2- man-made .
- 3- hybrid .

Natural disasters are catastrophic events resulting from natural causes such as volcanic eruptions, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc., over which man has no control. Natural disasters are often termed “Acts of God.”

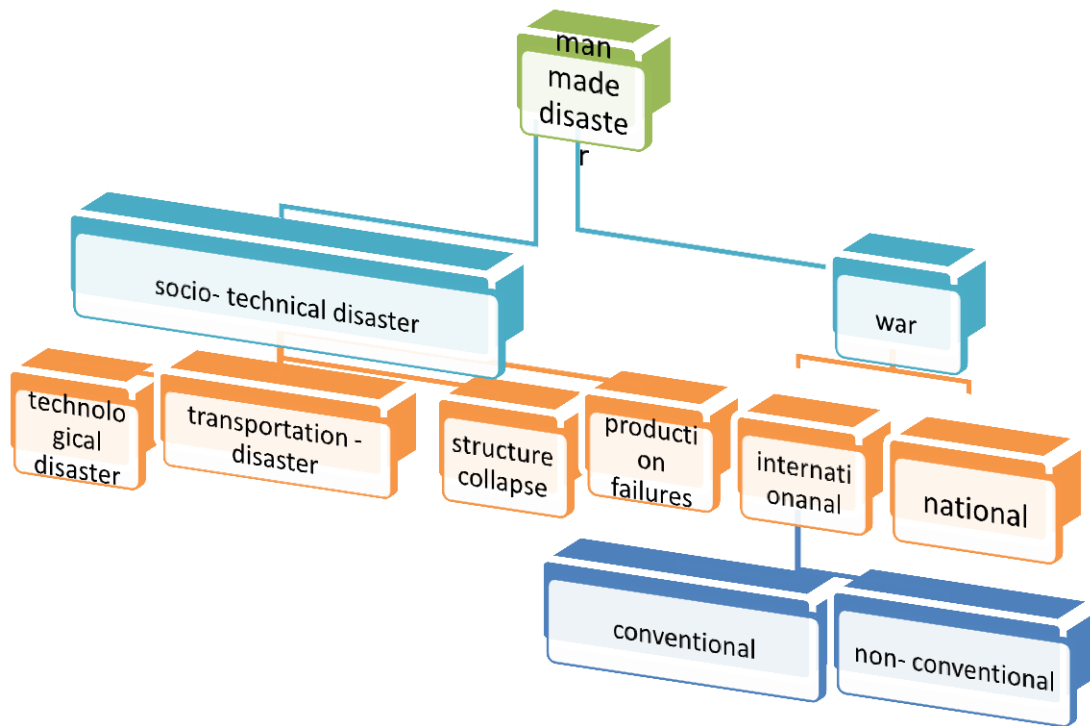
Man-made disasters, on the other hand, are those catastrophic events that result from human decisions. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2003) highlighted that a man-made disaster refers to non-natural disastrous occurrences that can be sudden or more long-term. Sudden man-made disasters include structural, building and mine collapses when this occurs independently without any outside force. In addition air, land, and sea disasters are all man-made disasters.(Shaluf, 2007)

Long-term man-made disasters tend to refer to national and international conflicts. There are disasters that result from both human error and natural forces. These are hybrid disasters. An example of a hybrid disaster is the extensive clearing of jungles causing soil erosion . and subsequently heavy rain causing landslides. (Shaluf, 2007)

**Type of disaster (figure 1)**



(figure 2)



(Shaluf, 2007)

There are many research centers and agencies all over the world that are concerned with disaster management (prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and relief).

Research centers and agencies sometimes describe disasters in different terms, although disasters have been classified as natural, unnatural man-made, purely social, technological, and hybrid. However, it has been found that disasters can be classified into three types: natural; man-made; and hybrid (see Figure 1) Long-term man-made disasters tend to refer to national and international conflicts. There are disasters that result from both human error and natural forces. These are hybrid disasters. An example of a hybrid disaster is the extensive clearing of jungles causing soil erosion

## 1. Stages of disaster management :

### 1.1 Mitigation :

- Zoning and land use controls to prevent occupation of high hazard areas
- Barrier construction to deflect disaster forces
- Building codes to improve disaster resistance of structures

- Tax incentives or disincentives
- Controls on rebuilding after events
- Risk analysis to measure the potential for extreme hazards
- Insurance to reduce the financial impact of disasters

#### **1.2 Preparedness :**

- Recruiting personnel for the emergency services and for community volunteer groups.
- Emergency planning .
- Development of mutual aid agreements and memorandums of understanding.
- Training for both response personnel and concerned citizens .
- Threat based public education .
- Budgeting for and acquiring vehicles and equipment.
- Maintaining emergency supplies.
- Construction of an emergency operations center.
- Development of communications systems.
- Conducting disaster exercises to train personnel and test capabilities.

#### **1.3 Response :**

- Activating the emergency operations plan
- Activating the emergency operations center
- Evacuation of threatened populations
- Opening of shelters and provision of mass care
- Emergency rescue and medical care
- Fire fighting
- Urban search and rescue
- Emergency infrastructure protection and recovery of lifeline services
- Fatality management

#### **1.4 Recovery :**

- Disaster debris cleanup
- Financial assistance to individuals and governments

- Rebuilding of roads and bridges and key facilities
- Sustained mass care for displaced human and animal populations
- Reburial of displaced human remains
- Full restoration of lifeline services
- Mental health and pastoral care(Green, 2006)

Recent research shows that rich countries are more resilient to disaster than poor countries(Jaharudin Padli, 2010)

Economic development (measured by GDP per capita) is an important factor in determining the extent to which society is affected by the risks in which higher-income countries experience a lower number of disaster deaths. On the other hand, institutional factors such as government stability and investment climate reduce negative impacts on both, loss of life and macroeconomic losses resulting from disasters(Jaharudin Padli, 2010)

That natural and man-made disasters produce direct and indirect economic damage and represent the first financial costs of direct physical damage, indirect costs have longer-term impacts on a wide range of spatial space and economic sectors. And can be estimated as losses resulting from the interruption of the productive income of goods and services(Luca Galbusera, 2018)

There are four dimensions that are consistent with the economic resilience of disaster areas: resistance, recovery, redirection and regeneration (Stefania Oliva\*, 2018)

And other research Data on disasters indicate that economic losses from disasters worldwide are on the rise (Rautela, 2006)

In situation for Palestine Aid to Palestine cannot achieve much improvement as long as the Palestinian economy is fundamentally affected by Israeli occupation, settlements and blockade. Unless restructured and targeted more precisely, aid can only function as a temporary relief mechanism.

He called on disaster management officials to make science post-disaster (non-discriminatory) :

- Start a forum to call disaster change to cover accidents:
- Making policy changes to compensate accident victims on an equal footing with disaster victims .
- Incident coverage in disaster risk management and other welfare programs aimed at disaster management .
- Pressure planners to provide adequate funds to manage these incidents
- Introduce appropriate changes in the technical-legal system to minimize the impact of these events .(Rautela, 2006)

certainly that reconstruction requires security. It is less widely acknowledged that security requires reconstruction. A government that cannot achieve economic progress will be unable to overcome the forces of desperation and chaos that operate in every post conflict environment. Reconstructing the economy and restoring security are so inextricably interconnected that strategies to achieve these two goals must be fully integrated to be successful. Every economic policy choice must be evaluated in light of integrated to be successful. Every economic policy choice must be evaluated in light of integrated to be successful. Every economic policy choice must be evaluated in light of its security implications. Additionally, every security decision must be weighed in terms of its impact on economic reconstruction (Henderson, 2005)

Among the challenges facing the coalition were :

- restoring government economic functions after looting and state collapse .
- preventing currency collapse, hyperinflation, and economic chaos .
- rebuilding infrastructure ravaged by war, sanctions, looting, and neglect .
- rehabilitating a health care system cut off from medical advances for two decades .
- dismantling corrupt, dysfunctional state economic controls .
- stimulating the growth of a private sector that had been stunted by government interference .

Although all of these were huge challenges, the greatest challenge facing the coalition involved not how to provide what Iraq lacked, but how to manage what it possessed. Iraq's oil gave it the potential to rebuild its infrastructure, restore its public services, and revive its economy. The CPA's task was to put Iraq on the path to realizing this potential. (Henderson, 2005)

Reconstruction success in Iraq:

- re-established nationwide food ration distribution
- introduced a new currency and stabilized the exchange rate
- liberalized most prices without igniting inflation
- rebuilt the government's economic ministries
- promulgated market-oriented banking, taxation, foreign trade, investment, and business regulations
- rehabilitated several thousand schools, health clinics, and hospitals
- provided public services to populations that had been deprived under Saddam
- increased electrical generation and oil output
- funded small projects across Iraq to meet critical community needs.(Henderson, 2005)

We note that Iraq, when faced with its challenges, sought its strength, the oil resources that increased its strength and success .

## **Practical framework of the study:**

### **Interview With MR. Nasser Awwad In The Palestinian Ministry Of Economy**

#### **What is the aim of the Palestinian Ministry of Economy :**

The project aims mainly at documenting the economic damage to the industrial, commercial and service establishments, including tourism and construction companies, and issuing a report that reflects a true picture of the damages that are based on technical and legal standards. Funding needs for the immediate and medium-term recovery of the Palestinian economy .

#### **What are the requirements of this project :**

This project will require the formation of several specialized committees that will work in parallel, sometimes and in a sequential manner. Other committees will include all the operations that will be carried out by the members of the task forces since receiving the notification of damage by the citizens, passing through the field inventory, studying the files presented financially and legally, Geographically, to the completion of reports to obtain the required information .

#### **General framework for the work of the committees :**

Under the mandate of the Prime Minister of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to assess the damage caused by the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the memorandum of understanding signed with the UNDP on cooperation in the approval of this project, the Ministry of National Economy began to limit the economic damage as head of the inventory committees and using the Ministry's facilities to implement the project stages and in cooperation with representatives of the sector Economic facilities .

According to the understanding between the Ministry of National Economy and the Ministry of Tourism and in cooperation with the representatives of the private sector tourism will be limited to tourism facilities within the limits of the inventory damage economic developments..

Under the initial proposal for the moment of work presented with the Chairman of the committees for the inventory of damage and approved by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of National Economy was adopted the legal form of the committees to limit damage .

#### **Partners in the inventory of damage and reconstruction :**

- 1- United Nations Development Program
- 2- Ministry of the Palestinian Authority
- 3- Gaza Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- 4- Khan Yunis Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 5- Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the northern Gaza Strip
- 6- Rafah Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 7- Elwosta Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 8- Federation of Palestinian Industries
- 9- Hotel and Restaurant Authority

**Mission of damage inventory committees :**

The Committee for the Economic Damage Assessment believes that is formed under the supervision of the Ministry of National Economy is that what is possible for the Palestinian economic sectors is to protect these facilities and help them withstand the serious challenges they face, specifically because of the aggressive violations of the Zionist entity at all times. To assess the damage of the economy by taking the highest degree of accuracy and professionalism and in the shortest time by the efforts of the sincere in this project to show the world the extent of injustice on the Palestinian economy. Combining efforts towards this goal will ensure access to a free Palestinian economy .

**Vision of damage inventory committees :**

This committee believes that within two months we will be able to reach a real and realistic picture that touches on the extent of the destruction on the Palestinian economic establishments as a result of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip .

**What information will be collected from this committee ?**

- 1- Number of economic establishments affected in all sectors and distributed to the governorates of the Gaza Strip
- 2- The value of the direct damage to these installations of buildings and constructions of machinery and equipment, raw materials and products
- 3- Information on the value of indirect damage to these facilities and lost investment opportunities
- 4- Information on the size of Palestinian labor that will join the unemployed
- 5- Information on the size of the quick operation of the affected buildings
- 6- Statistical information related to the reality of economic establishments from the financial and legal aspects before being exposed to damage

Damages :Stages of work in the Committee for the inventory of

- Initial registration of damages



- Formation of committees and distribution of tasks and peddlers by specialization and participation of all partners
- Prepare inventory models to access models that give a sufficient image to decision makers
- Training field inventory committees to fill inventory models
- field inventory of damages
- paper supervision
- Electronic archiving
- Assessment of damages
- Preparation of a geographic information system

Is it done a limited the damage achievement is a completely ?

the economic damage on the ground has been achieved by more than 97% to date

approximately 15% of the files were completed in full with the final evaluation by the joint final evaluation committee

the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

#### **Challenges facing the Ministry of Economy in reconstruction :**

- a. Lack of organization in the minutes of the meeting in the ministry, making it impossible to agree on a unified decision
- b. Non-fulfillment of contracts by donor States
- c. There are still affected families who have not received any compensation
- d. Only 5% of the compensation has reached nearly 15 million of \$ 205 million
- e. Budgets worth \$ 120, 000 have not been paid

#### **Results :**

- a. The biggest challenge facing countries after a disaster is the lack of adequate budget To get out of the disaster .
- b. In the war of 2014, thousands of lives were lost and a great deal of infrastructure was destroyed. Projects were halted ..
- c. The economy deteriorated markedly by the brutal aggression, which led to the displacement of many families and the recession of the economy .to its lowest levels .
- d. Compared to another country that lived the same stage we find it was able to find the strengths and start again

**Recommendation :**

- ✓ Work on organizing minutes of the meeting in the ministry more
- ✓ Provide priority in the payment of compensation
- ✓ Organizing the labor sector so that everyone can help reconstruction in Gaza
- ✓ Reconstruction in the Gaza Strip requires debt repayment by donor countries
- ✓ Reconstruction in Palestine requires community participation, given the strengths we have to lift the economy

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