

Analysing refugee camp management from a network perspective

UN Refugee Agency

C Australia for UNHCR

N Refugee Age

Irbid camp. © 2008 UNRWA Photo by Mazen Sadieh

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Presentation

- Problem Analysis Urgency
- Theory Network Perspective
- Methodology
- Case-Study Za'atari Camp
- Case-in-Case Think Tank Project
- Conclusions
- Discussion
- Recommendations

Refugee Camps

Average stay in a refugee camp tends to grow





UNHCR, 2017a

Refugee Camps – *Regulative Character*

- Camps have been understood as spaces of deprivation and of protection, as psychologically damaging and nurturing (Feldman, 2014).
- the UNHCR acknowledges that the defining characteristic of a camp is demonstrated in the degree of limitation on the rights of freedom of the refugees (UNHCR, 2014).



Refugee Camps - Urbanization

'As soon as a form of normality sets in, sometimes only weeks or months after arrival, refugees turn in to camp dwellers, adapting themselves to life in a new environment'.*

The 'temporary intended' camps show similarities to forms of urban life; camps develop into urban settings that are only distinguishable from the host country due to the presence of flags and stickers of aid organizations**

* Misselwitz, 2009

** Jansen, 2016

P5 presentation



Refugee Camps – Sustainable policies

'The UNHCR will pursue the progressive removal of restrictions on the ability of refugees to exercise their rights and seek to build linkages between the camp and host communities and anchor the camp within the local economy, infrastructure, and national social protection and service delivery systems, in order to transform them into sustainable settlements'



*UNHCR, 2014



Humanitarian vs. Developmental aid



- Short-term
- Responds to incident of events
- Focused on saving lives

- Long-term
- *Responds to systematic problems*
- Focused on economic, social and political development

Transition defined

The transition of a refugee camp encompasses the shift from humanitarian assistance that is focused on day-to-day operations and short-term projects towards projects that are developmental, long-term focused and connected to national structures.



Theoretical framework

Photo: Richard Davies

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Wicked problems



relentless

*Weber& Khademian, 2014





'A wicked problem can only be solved my means of interaction in which actors that are involved have to manage and coordinate their perception, activities and institutional characteristics'.*

*Koppenjan & Klijn, 2004

Network Management

'Network management is about the process of interaction, and how this can be influenced between the interdependent players'*

(1) supporting interaction,(2) supporting cooperation and(3) supporting learning processes

*Koppenjan & Klijn, 2004



Methodology

- Literature review , document research
- Case-study Za'atari Refugee Camp Jordan
- Case-in-case Think Tank project Za'atari Refugee Camp



Case study Za'atari Refugee Camp

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Case-study Za'atari Camp

- The Syria Crisis
- Country of refugees
- Refugee convention
- Residing in host communities
- Pressure on services







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Zaatari Refugee Camp

Case-study Za'atari Camp

- 80000 refugees
- Tensions with host community
- Resistance to top-down guidance
- Formal and informal structure
- Informal economy





Case-study Za'atari Camp

Actor groups

- Jordan Government
- UN Agencies
- International NGOs
- International Donors
- Other actors



Network Analysis

"Critical actors are actors who own resources which are important to the problem owner, or own resources that can hinder the activities of the problem owner"



J= Jordan society

JO M= Jordan municipalities R= Syrian Refugees

Interaction in Network

- Sensitivity: "long-term" or "permanency" are taboo words
- **Desired situation:** Developmental approach needed, but perceptions differ



Network Analysis



CAUSES

Rejection of Integration

Network Analysis



Case-in-Case | Think Tank Project



Think Tank

Platform for interaction

A Think Tank on Displacement and Development: The Future of Camps

A new paradigm for sustainable, integrated local development for host communities and refugee camps: Za'atari camp in Mafraq - Jordan as a case study





Launch Event


Think Tank – *identified network management*

- Establishment of think tank as setting up new arena
- Introducing new actors to promote cognitive reflection
- Heavily staffed
- Substantive insights for facilitation
- Involvement of experts
- Development framework as frame reflection device

Think Tank – *missing network management*

- Preventing cognitive fixation
- Making agreements about how solutions will be chosen
- Making agreements on process rules (quality, entry and exit rules)
- Making agreements about sharing information
- Making agreements on decision-making in the process (what kind of criteria apply?)
- Protecting core-values of critical actors

Think Tank - result





Conclusions



Conclusions - research question

What are the obstacles to the transition of a refugee camp and how can network management be a way to deal with this?

Conclusions - *obstacles*



CAUSES

JO Rejection of Integration Complex decision-making Responsibility of International community

Mandate **UN** Funding system Non-transparancy

Conclusions — *network management*



Conclusion – *applicability network management*

Network management can enhance the transition of a refugee camp Za'atari as interaction can be initiated and supported. But this is limited to an extent wherein the core-values of the involved actors remain protected.

Conclusions – Za'atari

"The main concern of the Jordan Government which is the rejection of integration, does not outweigh the benefits of having an agreement on other values".*

* Al-Hiyari, Personal Communication, 10-09-2018

Discussion

- **Changing systems:** Network management is more about coping with the existing situation than fundamentally changing systems
- Ambidexterity
- Humanitarian business model

Recommendations

- Consciously and continuously applying network management
- Consensus on one ore more core-values can be used as a starting point for network management
- Protecting these and making agreement on process rules should be incorporated whilst taken into account the steering ability (mandate)
- Process of exit strategies | handing over

Recommendations

- Reframing could be an option
- Symbiosis
- Temporarily Permanent

Recommendations

- Reframing could be an option
- Symbiosis
- Temporarily Permanent
- Rejection of durable solution integration

Non-cooperative strategies: "Strategies are not necessarily cooperative. It may be attractive for actors to slow down or block the progress when it appears to be moving towards a policy measure that could harm the actor's interest".*

*Koppenjan & Klijn, 2004









Institutional Theory

- (1) **Regulative** institutions Policies, work rules Regulative institutions determine the rules of the game. This consists of policies and rules.
- (2) Normative institutions Work norms, habits A reflection of what we think is important in a certain organization, industry or society.
- (3) Cognitive institutions Beliefs, Values Shared frame that developed by means of interaction processes.

Palthe, 2014