

Research interests:

# Dealing with Conflict: Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

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# Nahr el Bared

- Palestinian refugee camp situated 16 km north of Tripoli (northern Lebanon).
- Set up in 1949 to host incoming refugees from Palestine.
- Today it hosts around 30,000 Palestinian refugees, many of whom are second or third generation refugees.
- Lebanese army is not allowed to enter according to 1969 Cairo agreement.
- Overcrowded and lacks basic infrastructure. Around 1 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Served as an economic hub for the region.

# 2007 conflict

- The camp was pounded with heavy artillery and aerial bombardments during a three-month siege starting May 2007.
- The fighting occurred between the Lebanese army and Fatah el Islam, the Palestinians were caught in the middle.
- An estimated 95 per cent of all buildings and infrastructure were either destroyed or damaged beyond repair.
- 27,000 refugees are estimated to have been displaced
- The majority moved to a neighbouring camp (Beddawi), and others found refuge in neighbouring areas.



Source: AP



## And now...

- Most displaced refugees are still living in the Beddawi camp or around Nahr el Bared.
- UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees) and international agencies have funded the reconstruction of the camp which should be complete in 2012.
- Palestinian families have been receiving aid from UNRWA.
- Families are in the process of returning to their homes.

# Data

- Fafo and Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Natural Resources conducted a labour force survey amongst 526 Palestinian households in Nahr el Bared and Beddawi in 2006.
- Following the conflict, a group of refugees formed the Nahr el Bared Reconstruction Commission for Civil Action and Studies (NBRC – a form of civic participation!).
- The NBRC have created a database of displaced families, so we can trace the displaced families.
- I am interested in conducting a representative household survey.

# How to measure conflict?

- Self reports of experiences with conflict, ex number of casualties for each household, perceptions of insecurity and threat.
- Or another instrument...



# Research Topics

- How were Palestinians able to deal with the conflict?
  - At an individual/household level:
    1. Coping Strategies
    2. Role of women
  - At a group/community level:
    3. Trust and social networks

# Coping Strategies

- During and post-conflict, did households:
    - Consume less?
    - Turn to savings?
    - Rely on NGOs?
    - Rely on family and friends outside and within the camps?
    - Reduce schooling
    - Increase participation in the labour force
- } more applicable to post-conflict settings

# Role of Women

- Post-conflict, has women's economic role in society increased?
- The literature shows that this in turn leads to more domestic violence, is this the case?

# Trust and Social Networks

- Did trust amongst the Palestinians increase with measures of intensity of conflict?
  - Is this significant between Palestinians of both camps or just among the displaced refugees from Nahr el Bared?
- Is participation in social groups and activities (post-conflict) affected by the household's experience of conflict?

- Thank you!
- Any comments and feedback would be appreciated....