The Dilemma of Aid in Syria

Over the past decade, international assistance to Syria has been politicised, manipulated, and diverted, setting a dangerous pattern for the future recovery.

To date, major donors have conditioned the financing of Syria’s reconstruction on a political transition. However, this approach fails to prevent the exploitation of international assistance, allowing illegitimate authorities to maintain the upper hand.

A New Framework for Principled Assistance

More just parameters for current and future international assistance in Syria are needed, especially as the country heads towards recovery. The international community should adopt a human rights-based conditionality for all interventions, so it can provide efficient assistance that helps Syrians today while also creating conditions for sustainable peace.

From Theory to Practice: Operationalising the Framework

To provide much-needed assistance for Syrians without doing harm, the international community should avoid a one-size-fits-all approach and instead tailor aid to reflect Syria’s multifaceted sub-national realities, always depending on their compliance with the human rights-based conditionality.

Reactive the Role of the Private Sector

Monitor Thoroughly

Go Local, Small and Incremental

Use Trusted Local Intermediaries

Avoid Compromised Channels of Assistance Delivery

A Human Rights-Based Conditionality to International Support

International Assistance for all in Syria

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