



**DIALOGUE ON
ISLAMIC SOCIAL
FINANCING
AND THE SDGS**



**THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC SOCIAL FINANCING
IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS DIALOGUE
SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS**

Topic	UNRWA Experiences in Zakat
Seminar Lead/Support	Mohammad Altarawneh (UNRWA)
Language	English
Summary	The use of zakat for humanitarian-development objectives is increasingly being explored in light of the implementation of the SDGs. Whilst there are different views on the use of zakat for socio-economic needs other than food, there is a widespread understanding that the collection of zakat as an instrument to support the most vulnerable should be further explored. For example, eligibility of organizations and strict adherence to the rules on expenditure within the Islamic lunar year are important considerations. This seminar aims to contribute to ongoing discussions on how zakat can best be used to address socio-economic inequality and will further explore sustainable coordination of this form of alms giving.
Participants	Organisations and individuals interested in sharing experiences of the use of zakat as a form of Islamic social financing to fund humanitarian-development goals in line with the SDGs.
Objectives	

1. Background Information

Zakat as a form of alms giving has drawn widespread attention by international humanitarian and development actors as demonstrated through a number of fora in the last few years. Whilst there is an increase in the number of coordinating bodies for zakat collection, it is important that charitable organizations exploring expansion of zakat collection for humanitarian-development needs do not forget the importance of this form of alms giving, its historical significance and its unique characteristic as a sustainable form of charitable giving.

Although considered a sustainable source of funds to support vulnerable communities, strict adherence to rules on the accounting, coordination and time frame for the use of zakat brings to the forefront, questions related to eligibility and accountability of organizations. Islamic scholars and religious figures hold differing views on eligibility and there have been a number of international organizations including the United Nations agencies whose zakat outreach have benefited from fatwas and endorsement from a number of Islamic scholars and institutions. Questions arise on how to ensure appropriate adherence to the specific principles of this form of Islamic social financing while expanding its use globally to address the needs of more vulnerable communities. In addition, as with other forms of charitable giving, digital outreach on zakat collection has seen a steady increase particularly in terms of bringing together charities who can benefit from online zakat giving campaigns during the Holy month of Ramadan. This seminar will also explore ideas and lessons learned on zakat collection and, more importantly, how reporting on the use of zakat funds can be enhanced



through digital online giving. The risks and considerations will be explored together with ways to better coordinate online zakat outreach to ensure greater accountability.

2. Agenda/Format

Moderator TBD

90min

		Speaker
5min	Welcome	<i>Moderator</i>
10min	Presentation on Zakat (possibly with case study)	<i>Dr. Mohammed Obaidullah, IsDB</i>
10min	Best Practices on Zakat and Accountability	<i>Mr. Azim Kidwai - Executive Director, National Zakat Foundation</i>
5min	UNRWA Zakat Experiences	<i>Mr. Mohammad Altarawneh, UNRWA</i>
5min	Expanding Outreach and Coordination with Other Charitable Organisations & UN Entities	<i>Mr. Mohammad Altarawneh, UNRWA</i>
50min	Discussion	<i>Lead by the Moderator</i>
5min	Closing	<i>TBD</i>

3. Additional Information

<https://nzf.org.uk/about-nzf/policies/>

<https://zakat.unhcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/UNHCR-Annual-Zakat-Report-2019-En.pdf>

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-and-islamic-development-bank-launch-first-global-muslim-philanthropy-fund>

<https://beta.hasanah.org/faqs/zakat-and-sadaqah-faqs>