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## The National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme

Towards post-conflict reconciliation and rebuilding in Syria - *by Syrians, for Syrians*

### NAFS News

September 2018

#### Key Figures

Refugees in the region	5.6 million
Children Syrian refugees	2.5 million
Internally displaced	6.6 million
People in need	13.1 million
IDP movements / month	107.6 k

OCHA, July 2018

#### Informal Market Exchange Rate (Damascus)

15 March 2011	1 USD	46.7 SYP
1 January 2018	1 USD	465
30 Sept 2018	1 USD	462

“Food security is the state in which all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active, healthy life”.

FAO

Beirut, Lebanon, 24-25 September 2018

#### Meeting to discuss the NAFS Policy Gap Analysis

Within the framework of the National Agenda for the Future of Syria Programme (NAFS), a meeting which brought together experts from academia, think tanks, and research institutions working in peacebuilding and conflict resolution as well as Syrian opinion leaders, activists, and representatives from civil society organizations was organized to discuss Syria’s Policy Gap Analysis.

The aim of the meeting was to gather input and ideas from the participants to enrich the work NAFS was undertaking on the Policy Gap Analysis.

The PGA report is a comprehensive assessment of policy gaps at the national level in priority themes/sectors that serve peacebuilding in Syria using the long-term vision for Syria 2030 as a benchmark.

The PGA report highlights challenges for the peacebuilding phase in Syria by examining the impact of the conflict on each of the four peacebuilding priorities as stipulated by NAFS: 1- Emergency Response, Relief and Humanitarian Work (Return and Local Response), 2- Building a Legal Framework and Institutional Rehabilitation, 3- Reconciliation and Social Cohesion, 4- Rehabilitation of Physical and Social Infrastructure.

The PGA is carried out within the framework of NAFS Programme’s Inclusive and Sustainable Approach to Peacebuilding and Reconstruction in Syria Post-Agreement. In addition to the PGA, the ‘Approach’ includes the Localized Needs Assessment and the Stabilization Initiatives, all together serving the purpose of updating the 2017 Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework (SPAF) report for Syria 2030.



**Beirut, Lebanon, 7-8 August 2018**

### **Meeting to Explore Policy Alternatives for Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Syria**

In the context of the tremendous devastation that has occurred over the years in Syria, the post-conflict period will undoubtedly necessitate a recovery and reconstruction process that will be dictated by the structures and challenges that have emerged as a result of the conflict and will require management and governance structures suitable to plan and oversee the country's recovery. NAFS Programme, in partnership with the University of St. Andrews, is developing the "Syria at War - Seven Years On" report which will strive to answer the question on how best to approach post-agreement reconstruction and economic recovery in Syria given current constraints posed by the high level of human, social and physical capital losses, and the wide financial gap accompanied by diminishing probabilities of reaching post-conflict reconstruction needs given the international polarization around the Syrian conflict.

The meeting gathered more than 50 Syrian and international experts and representatives of United Nations organizations to discuss the preliminary findings of the report on the socio-economic impact of the conflict in Syria and explore alternatives for a post-conflict reconstruction framework for Syria that would meet the country's needs.

**Beirut, Lebanon, 6-7 June 2018**

### **NAFS Expert Group Meeting on Justice Needs in Syria**

Based on a survey conducted by The Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law (Hiil) to identify justice needs, the NAFS Programme organized a meeting to discuss the main findings of five commissioned studies on the issue with a group of Syrian experts.



The meeting covered justice needs identified by three main groups of Syrians: Syrians living inside Syria, internally displaced Syrians, and Syrian refugees.

**Tunis-Tunisia, 24-25 May 2018**

### **Security Sector Reform in Syria**

NAFS organized a meeting in Tunis, Tunisia to discuss Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Syria. NAFS prepared several background papers on SSR in Syria with a focus on various issues such as disarmament and disengagement, as well as the rehabilitation of combatants. Both aspects are crucial when considering SSR and should be implemented in tandem. This allows for a comprehensive SSR design which will include the necessary policies for a successful reform. The meeting also presented the best practices in SSR by incorporating examples from other conflict countries through the participation of international and regional experts.

Brussels, Belgium, 24 April 2018

## Laying the basis for Sustainable peace in Syria



**Supporting the future  
of Syria and the region**  
Brussels II Conference 24-25 April 2018

ESCWA, represented by Dr. Khawla Mattar, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, participated in the information session “Assessing the Needs: Laying the basis for sustainable peace in Syria” in Brussels. The meeting was an opportunity for Dr. Mattar to speak about the work of NAFS programme and the preparation of the “Syria At War – Seven Years On” report and the “Policy Gap Analysis” report, which are expected to be finalized in 2019.

The National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) Programme was launched by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in 2012 to facilitate technical discussions between Syrian experts and to devise viable policy options and practical scenarios that can serve as a foundation for post-agreement Syria. This newsletter aims to shed the light on some of the key activities and research undertaken by the NAFS Programme over the past period. If you would like to know more about the NAFS Programme, sign up colleagues or friends for the newsletter, or unsubscribe, please contact [escwa-nafs@un.org](mailto:escwa-nafs@un.org)