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Importance of Agriculture in Post-conflict Syria

The National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS)
18 June 2019



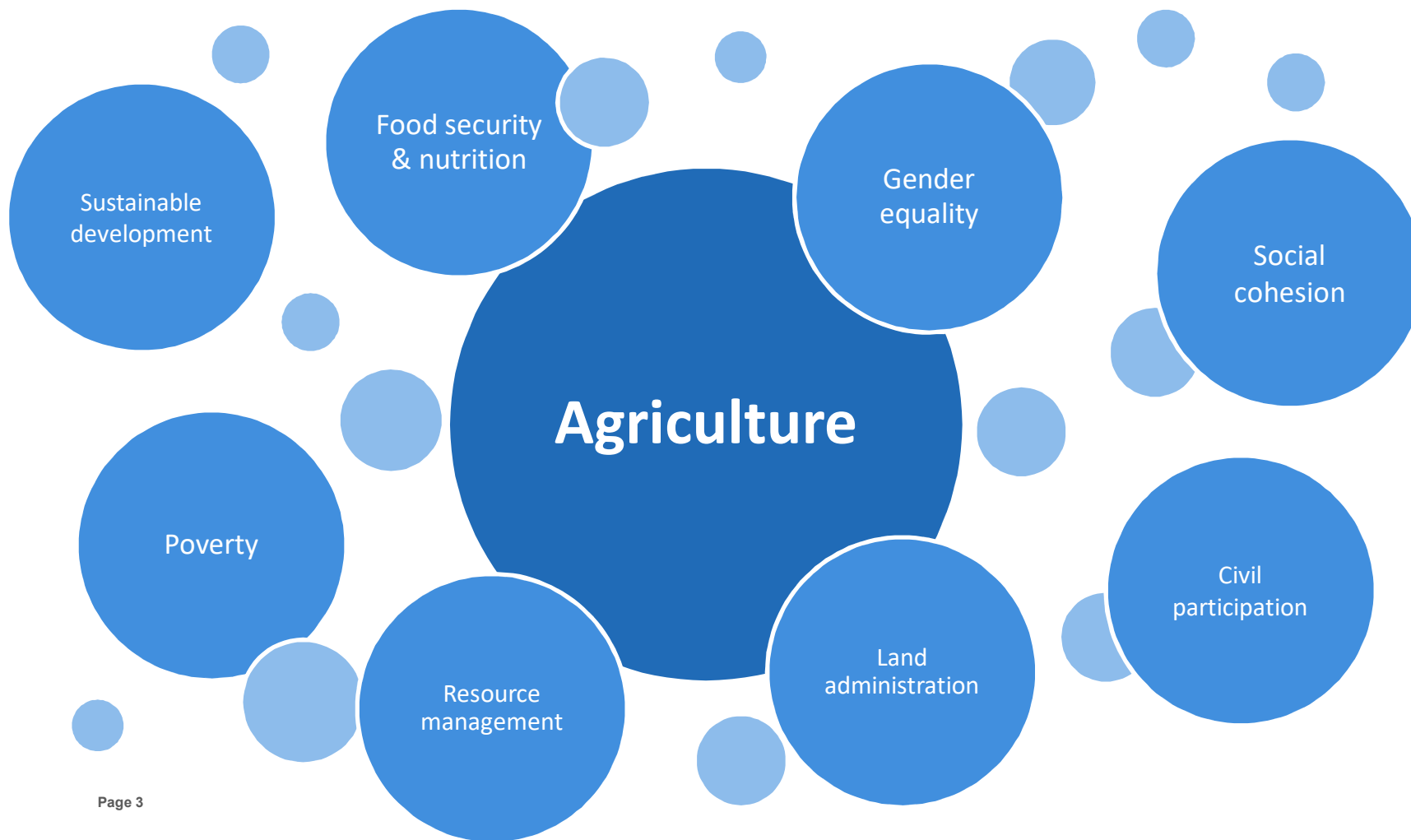
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NAFS at a Glance

The Role of Agriculture in Post-conflict Syria



Agriculture in Syria

Pre-conflict

- Major source of livelihood for rural population
- Relatively food secure
- Considered as leading exporter in the region
- Centralized management

Current situation

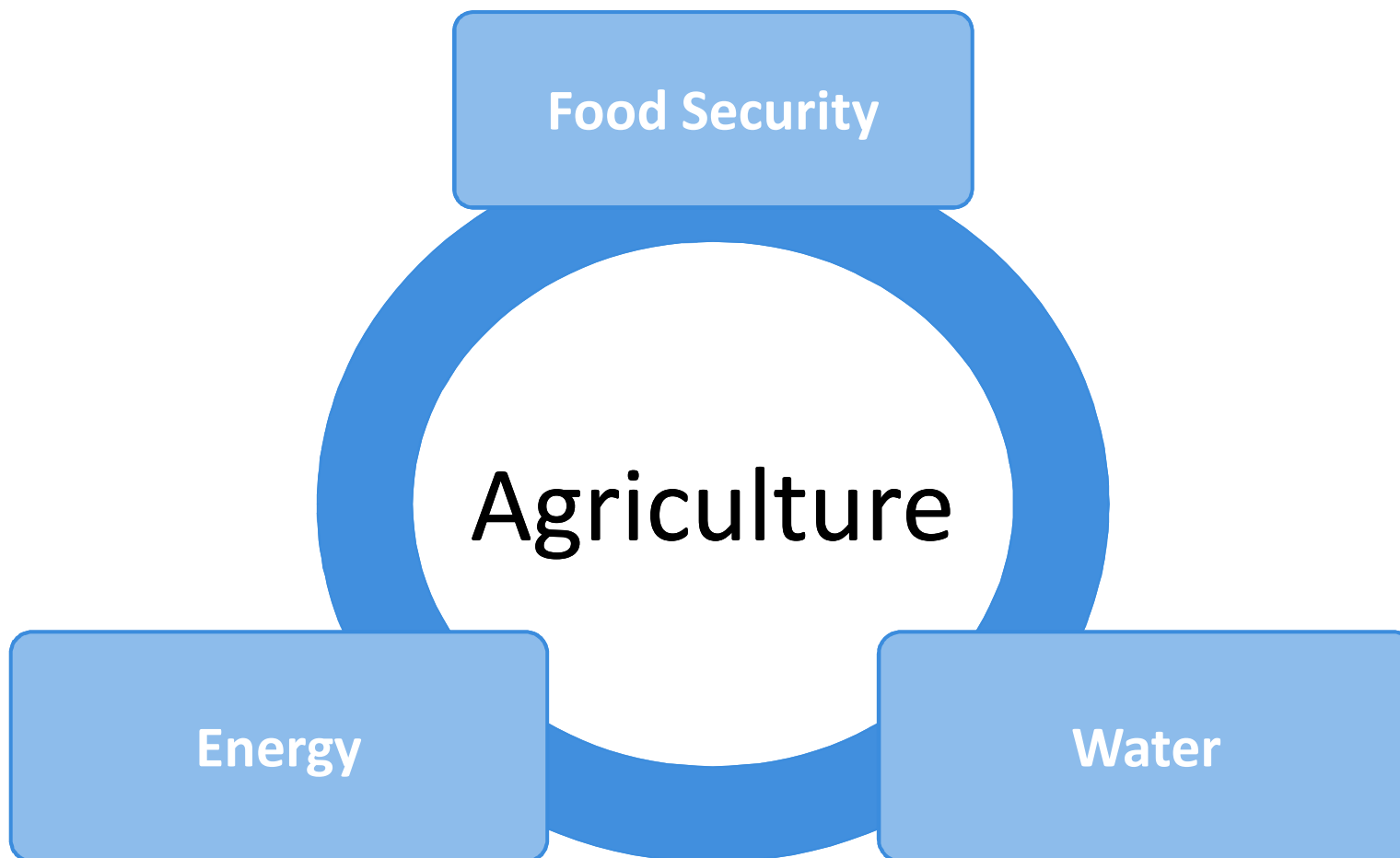
- Interruption of manufacturing and food industries
- Decreased exports due to closure of borders
- Impact of sanctions
- Rise in cost

Syrian Conflict

Root causes: Contraction of agriculture sector

- Drought
- Liberalization of fuel prices
- Water mismanagement

Water, Energy and Food Security Approach



Nexus 1: Emergency response, relief and humanitarian work

المحور الأول: سياسات مرحلة الطوارئ والإغاثة والعمل الإنساني وسياسات الاستجابة المحلية.

Nexus 2: Building a legal framework and institutional rehabilitation

المحور الثاني: سياسات بناء الشرعية وإعادة التأهيل المؤسسي.

Nexus 3: Reconciliation and social cohesion

المحور الثالث: سياسات المصالحة والتماسك الاجتماعي.

Nexus 4: Rehabilitation of physical and social infrastructure

المحور الرابع: سياسات إعادة تأهيل البنية التحتية المادية والاجتماعية.

Nexus 1-A Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Impact of the conflict

- Various factors still obstructing return
- Large proportion of migration from rural agricultural areas

Role of agriculture: Agriculture is the only sector that can be resumed immediately in areas with accessible land and water supply once the displaced population returns

- Prepare conditions of return (food security, employment, livelihood, land rights, ...)
- Create grounds for reconciliation

Nexus 1-B Local Response

Impact of the conflict

- Increased poverty and hunger

Role of agriculture

- Provide income and stability to rural population
- Ensure food security and nutrition

Nexus 2 Building Legitimacy and Political Reform

Impact of the conflict

- Deteriorated state administration and governance
- Breakdown of the social contract
- Declined rule of law and prevailing war economy

Role of agriculture

- Restore the rule of law through settling agriculture related disputes under official structures
- Restructure central government and local administrations
- Drive out war economy

Nexus 3 Reconciliation and Social Cohesion

Impact of the conflict

- Conflict over resources triggered violence in rural areas
- Breakdown of the social contract
- Increased regional disparities
- Decreased sense of national belonging

Role of agriculture

- Facilitate partnership among the population and promote social solidarity
- Strengthen the role of civil society organizations
- Settle disputes related to resources through needed legislations and policies
- Enhanced equity in agriculture creating grounds for reconciliation

Nexus 4

Rehabilitation of the Physical and Social Infrastructure

Impact of the conflict

- Damaged physical infrastructures
- Increased poverty and hunger

Role of agriculture

- Address poverty
- Eliminate hunger, improve nutrition, and achieve food security
- Contribute to sustainable and comprehensive economic growth
- Provide employment and decent work for all



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Thank you
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