Chapter 3

Data issued by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has been used wherever possible as it maintains better field access through a network of local offices, and has access to public sector data. CBS uses internationally recognized standards for collection and dissemination by which data quality be judged, verified and updated. Data from other agencies has been helpful where official data was missing, or produced through almost discrete and remote attempts to estimate the economic impact of the conflict, or used different methodologies that produced variant outcomes. As such, it lacked continuity and standardization for verification and update.

98 1998 Nobel prize winner in economics Amartya K. Sen's capability approach is defined by its choice of focus on the moral significance of individuals' capability of achieving the kind of lives they have reason to value. See https://www.iep.utm.edu/sen-cap.

99 ESCWA and others, 2017.

100 For Syria, there is data for 2009 from the Pan-Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM) survey but it is missing a number of indicators to calculate the MPI. Those that are available in MICS 2006 and in PAPFAM 2009 show no significant difference; therefore, the MICS 2006 is considered to offer a reliable picture of the situation pre-conflict.


103 ESCWA and others, 2017.

104 Projecting poverty for Syria is complex as recent household data could not be analysed to assess joint distribution of deprivations. Given the reference population has changed since 2006 due to refugee influx and internal displacement, it becomes more difficult. Estimates were made by projecting censored headcounts from MICS 2006 for poverty indicators using available information for 2017, and calculating the rate of change for indicators. A range was calculated by varying the rate of change across data sources and making different assumptions on the change in poverty intensity. To validate the magnitude, a generalized linear model was developed to estimate the relationship between global MPI for 106 countries and a set of macro variables, including GNI per capita (PPP 2011), poverty rate using the $3.50 poverty line, and World Bank scores for governance effectiveness and political stability. Models were fitted and the projected values were between acute poverty and poverty estimates for the MPI in 2006 and the projected 2017. This middle position confirms Arab acute MPI reflects a more severe deprivation than the global MPI but less than the moderate poverty thresholds.

106 Physical capital is the tangible fixed assets produced and consists of dwellings, other buildings and structures, machinery and equipment, and cultivated assets. See OECD Glossary of Statistical terms. Available at https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/index.htm.

107 World inflation rate was used as a discount rate rather than United States inflation rate as it better reflects the factors/dynamics that affect the price level in the international market. This is in addition to the fact that Syria’s trade with the United States is negligible, especially during the conflict period and after the imposition of restrictive economic measures.

108 Facilities examined were wells, water towers, water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, dams, drainage structures, pumping stations, storage reservoirs and water and sanitation offices.

109 Raqqa suffered more than other cities in water and sanitation infrastructure losses.

110 World Bank, 2017b, p. 83.

111 Lack of government-supplied electric power resulted in a flourishing black market for fuel and electricity generating supplies.

112 More sophisticated methodologies employed by the World Bank produced similar estimates for the level of divergence between the in-conflict estimated GDP for the Syrian Arab Republic and the counterfactual GDP. See World Bank, 2017b, p. 83.

113 Reported as nill in the mirror data series.

114 The Central Bureau of Statistics takes into account the parallel market prices when measuring the CPI.

115 World Bank, 2009a.

116 The IMF's financial modelling approach, conducted by ESCWA, estimated the economy's savings rate dropped from 20 to 4 per cent from 2010 to 2011 and remained negative throughout the conflict. The savings gap widened from -8.7 to -23 per cent, and also remained negative.


118 Salmon, Assaf and Francis, 2018.


120 Net interest margin is a profitability indicator that measures how much the interest volume the bank receives from loans exceeds the interest volume paid on its deposits.

121 World Bank, 2017a.

122 Data on this measure are not available for the post-conflict phase.

123 For Syria's interest rate spread, please see Central Bank of Syria http://cb.gov.sy/ar/stats/category?id=ad4f12f431; for Arab countries, please see World Bank, Interest Rate Spread https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FR.INR.LNDP.
The dollar values of banking figures are reached by converting the figures of each year to dollar using the average exchange rate of the relevant year.

Based on another assumption that the social hiring under certain criteria (such as Syrian Arab Army’s martyrs’ first-degree relatives) in the public sector offsets the impact of the drain in the human resources that happened in the public sector due to the internal and external displacement of the people.

In 2009, 58 per cent of firms stated that intermittent electricity was a serious concern, demonstrating the war’s toll on infrastructure.

Salmon, Assaf and Francis, 2018.

Hausmann, Rodrik and Velasco, 2005.

World Bank, 2011.

The government estimated the informal sector to be 30-60 per cent of GDP, and hiring 32 per cent of workers in 2008.


Regulatory quality captures perceptions of the government’s ability to implement and formulate sound policies that promote the development of the private sector. As per the World Bank Group’s definition, rule of law reflects the perception of contract enforcement and property rights, as well as the police, courts and the likelihood of crime and violence. It implies: (1) government bound by law; (2) equality before the law; (3) law and order; (4) predictable and efficient rulings; and (5) human rights.

Corruption reflects perceptions of the degree to which public power is used for public gains, as well as the elite’s “capture” of the State.

World Bank, 2017c.

World Bank, 2009b.

On average, from 2000-2011 yearly domestic credit to government and state-owned enterprises was 11 per cent higher than that to the private sector.

World Bank, 2011.

Macroeconomic environment falls under macroeconomic policies; access to finance, cost of finance, infrastructure, appropriability and market failures under structural policies; and human capital under social policies.

ESWA, 2018.

Nazemi and Decina, 2019.


Chapter 4


The principles for the vision are: (1) All components of Syria seek to achieve a voluntary, safe and dignified return of the displaced Syrian people. Return is treated as a long process of reintegration that involves the rehabilitation of millions of lives, which leads to the rehabilitation of Syrian social capital and towards achieving the long-term development of the country; (2) Syria is a country where peace is the only way to achieve political will and human security is a major priority. Both find in national reconciliation the foundation for nationally owned peacebuilding and State-building processes. The priority should be given to rebuilding the culture of peace and eliminating structural violence; (3) Syria is a country where management of cultural diversity relies on the concept of citizenship, and on the common values of the Syrian society; (4) The value of solidarity is reinforced to achieve social cohesion and rebuild human capital; (5) All components of Syrian society are present and active partners in administering a dynamic public space; (6) Syria is a country where all the social fabric is represented in an inclusive and balanced manner across all domains; (7) The national Syrian economy is founded on a balanced macro-economic model that serves the achievement of comprehensive development and ensures the social protection of all its citizens, who actively participate in the inputs and outputs of the development process; (8) Syria is a country where public institutions are run by the principles of good governance, are capable and administratively decentralized, and the national administrative structure is transparent, accountable and inclusive; (9) Syria is a country that seeks to achieve recovery and reconstruction of the infrastructure, to generate knowledge, creativity and innovation and deploy them in the administration and protection of resources to account for the needs of coming generations. It uses information technology and communication to support peace and growth.


Hinnebusch, Imady and Zintl, 2016.

From the NAFS Programme Strategic Policy Alternatives Framework (SPAF), 2017 document, and reflect the type of the Syrian Arab Republic it is hoped will emerge from this tragedy.

According to UNHCR, non-refoulement constitutes the cornerstone of international refugee protection. Enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention (or Geneva Convention) it provides that no contracting State shall expel or return (refouler) a refugee in any manner to the frontiers of territories where his/her life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.