

Reconstructing Governance and Economic Resilience in Post-Conflict Syria: Pathways Toward Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Syria's post-conflict recovery confronts multifaceted challenges in governance, economic revitalization, and social reconciliation following the 2024 collapse of the Assad regime. This study employs an adaptive governance framework to address systemic failures, political fragmentation, and extremism, shaped by regional geopolitics, notably Turkey's focus on territorial integrity and counter-terrorism. Findings highlight the necessity of decentralized governance and stringent anti-corruption measures to restore trust and stability. Economic strategies emphasize sectoral diversification, revitalizing agriculture, manufacturing, and trade, with equitable resource allocation to counter an 87% GDP decline and over 300% inflation surge. Social reconciliation hinges on community-driven initiatives, truth commissions, and inclusive policies to mend ethnic and sectarian divides. Drawing on comparative analyses of post-conflict recoveries in Rwanda and Bosnia, this research advocates for integrated, context-specific strategies supported by international collaboration to navigate geopolitical complexities. By holistically addressing governance, economic, and social dimensions, Syria can achieve sustainable development and long-term stability, tailored to its unique demographic and political landscape.

Keywords: Post-Conflict Governance, Economic Diversification, Transitional Justice Mechanisms, Decentralized Governance Models, Sustainable Development Strategies.

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1. Introduction

Syria, a nation situated at the crossroads of the Middle East, has a history steeped in cultural richness and strategic importance. However, its modern era has been defined by authoritarian governance, socio-economic disparity, and, most recently, a protracted civil war. The regime of Bashar al-Assad, which began in 2000, perpetuated decades of centralized control initiated under his father, Hafez al-Assad. This governance style, while maintaining surface-level stability, sowed the seeds of economic stagnation, corruption, and societal discontent.



Figure (1): Geographical Map of Syria

This map highlights Syria's strategic location in the Middle East, bordered by Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, with key cities such as Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs marked for context.

The eruption of the Syrian Civil War in 2011 served as a tipping point, plunging the nation into a cycle of violence, displacement, and economic collapse. According to the United Nations, over 6.6 million Syrians have been displaced internally, with an additional 6.8 million seeking refuge abroad, creating one of the largest refugee crises in modern history (UNHCR, 2023). The war decimated Syria's infrastructure, reduced its GDP by 87%, and caused inflation to soar beyond 300% (Middle East Institute, 2024).



Figure (2): Impact of the Syrian Civil War on Infrastructure and Population Displacement

This image highlights impact of the Syrian Civil War, focusing on infrastructure destruction and population displacement.

With the collapse of the Assad regime in December 2024, a transitional government faces unprecedented challenges in rebuilding the nation. This transition is further complicated by Syria’s diverse ethnic and religious composition, including Sunni Arabs, Alawites, Kurds, and Christians, each with distinct political and social interests. Unlike post-conflict scenarios in nations like Rwanda or Bosnia, Syria’s recovery must address these unique demographic dynamics alongside traditional reconstruction efforts.

The international community’s role is pivotal. Countries such as Turkey, Russia, and Iran, alongside global institutions like the United Nations, have vested interests in Syria’s future. However, their involvement has often deepened divisions rather than fostering unity. Geopolitical rivalries, combined with economic sanctions isolating Syria from global trade networks, have further complicated recovery efforts (Relief Web,2024).

This research paper aims to explore these challenges systematically, providing insights into governance restructuring, economic rehabilitation, and social reconciliation tailored to Syria’s complex landscape. To address these challenges, this study employs a comprehensive theoretical framework that integrates adaptive governance, economic diversification, and community-driven reconciliation. This framework underscores the interconnectedness of governance reform, sectorial recovery, and social healing as essential pillars for sustainable development in post-conflict Syria.

By leveraging comparative analyses with other post-conflict nations and acknowledging Syria's unique attributes, the study seeks to outline actionable strategies for sustainable recovery.

Recent Developments -“On January 15,2025, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan met with Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani. This meeting emphasized Syria's territorial integrity, the elimination of terrorist groups, and the need to lift international sanctions to support reconstruction. Additionally, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan advocated for unity among Syria's ethnic and religious groups to stabilize the nation.”

1-1. Historical Context and Immediate Challenges

Before the outbreak of the civil war, Syria exhibited modest economic growth, with a GDP increase of 5% annually between 2005 and 2010 (World Bank,2023). However, this growth was unevenly distributed, favoring urban centers like Damascus and Aleppo while neglecting rural areas. The resulting socio-economic disparities fueled resentment, particularly among rural populations dependent on agriculture, which faced severe droughts and inadequate government support.

The war's toll on infrastructure has been catastrophic. Reports indicate that over 50% of Syria's critical infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and roads, has been destroyed (Al Jazeera,2024). The industrial sector has also suffered, with many factories either destroyed or operating at minimal capacity due to supply chain disruptions and loss of skilled labor.

Governance during the Assad era was characterized by authoritarian control and widespread corruption. Public institutions were hollowed out, serving the regime's interests rather than the populace's needs. The proposed adaptive governance model emphasizes decentralization as a means to distribute decision-making authority more equitably and to rebuild public trust. By integrating anti-corruption mechanisms, such as independent oversight bodies, this framework provides a pathway to strengthen institutional resilience and transparency, ensuring governance serves community needs rather than centralized power. Transitioning from this deeply entrenched system to one that prioritizes transparency and inclusivity is among the most significant challenges facing the new administration. Strengthening local governments and empowering grassroots organizations will be critical in rebuilding trust and ensuring equitable resource distribution.

The collapse of the Assad regime in December 2024 marked a pivotal moment in Syria's history, creating new opportunities and challenges for recovery. The transitional government, operating in a landscape shaped by years of conflict and devastation, faces the daunting task of rebuilding governance, stabilizing the economy, and fostering national reconciliation. Recent developments underscore the complex interplay of internal and external dynamics in Syria's recovery. In January 2025, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani met to discuss Syria's territorial integrity and reconstruction. Turkey's emphasis on ethnic and religious unity, counter-terrorism efforts, and lifting sanctions illustrates the critical role of regional actors in shaping Syria's trajectory. Additionally, Turkey's pipeline projects and their geopolitical implications highlight the significance of international collaboration for economic recovery.

This paper examines Syria's recovery through the lens of governance reconstruction, economic diversification, and social reconciliation. By integrating recent developments, such as Turkey's diplomatic efforts and regional tensions, the study provides actionable insights into the pathways for sustainable and inclusive development in post-conflict Syria.

1-2. Syria's Economic System and Key Indicators

The Syrian economy, once a diversified system with robust contributions from agriculture, manufacturing, and oil exports, has faced a dramatic collapse due to prolonged conflict and mismanagement. Key economic indicators include:

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** Syria's GDP shrank from \$60 billion in 2010 to approximately \$10 billion in 2023, reflecting an 87% decline (World Bank,2023).
- **Exports and Imports:** Pre-war exports included oil, textiles, and agricultural products, with oil accounting for 25% of GDP. Currently, oil exports have dwindled to near zero, while imports, including basic goods, rely heavily on international aid (Middle East Eye,2023).
- **Foreign Exchange Reserves:** Syria's forex reserves have been nearly depleted, falling from \$18 billion in 2010 to under \$1 billion in 2024 (Reuters,2024).

- **Inflation and Currency Devaluation:** Inflation exceeded 300% annually, and the Syrian pound depreciated from 50 SYP/USD in 2010 to over 8,000 SYP/USD in 2024 (AI Monitor,2024).
- **Agriculture and Industry:** Agriculture, a mainstay of rural livelihoods, has been decimated due to the loss of arable land and irrigation systems. Industrial production remains at 20% of pre-war capacity due to infrastructural destruction and skilled labor flight (FAO,2023).

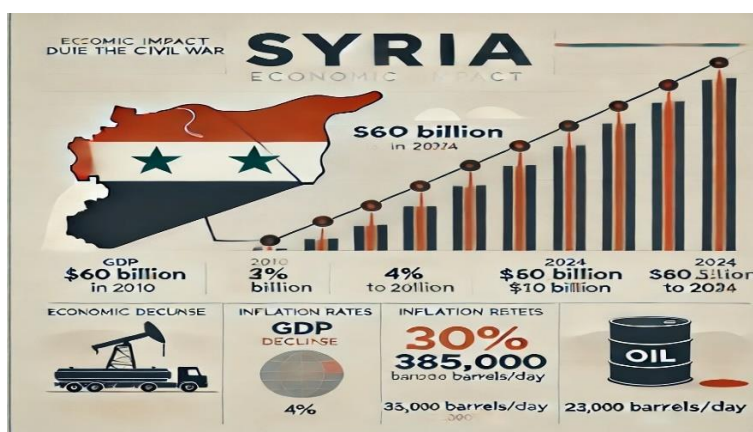


Figure (3): Key Economic Impacts of the Syrian Civil War

This image highlights key indicators like GDP decline, inflation rates, and oil export reductions, providing valuable context for your research. This image roadmap highlights key milestones such as infrastructure rebuilding, economic diversification, international collaboration, and inclusive governance.

Efforts to rebuild these sectors must prioritize restoring agricultural productivity, reviving industrial capacity, and reintegrating the services sector into regional and global economies. Tailored interventions, such as re-establishing irrigation systems, introducing resilient crops, and incentivizing industrial investment, are necessary.

1-3. Sectorial Contributions to GDP

The Syrian economy was historically structured around three main sectors: primary (agriculture), secondary (manufacturing and industry), and tertiary (services). Their contributions to GDP have shifted dramatically due to the war:

- **Primary Sector:** Pre-war, agriculture contributed around 25% to GDP, employing nearly 40% of the workforce. The loss of arable land has reduced its share to under 10% (FAO,2023).
- **Secondary Sector:** Manufacturing and industry, including oil production, once accounted for over 30% of GDP. With infrastructure destroyed and oil exports halted, its contribution has fallen to approximately 15% (Middle East Eye,2023).
- **Tertiary Sector:** Services, including trade, tourism, and public administration, have historically been the largest contributor to GDP. The collapse of tourism and trade networks has reduced this sector's share from 45% pre-war to around 25% (World Bank,2023).

1-4. Demographic and Societal Complexity

Unlike homogenous post-conflict societies such as Rwanda, Syria's recovery must navigate its multi-ethnic and multi-sectarian composition. Sunni Arabs constitute the majority, but significant minority groups like Alawites, Kurds, and Christians demand representation within any new political framework. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) control significant territories in the north and have long sought autonomy, adding another layer of complexity to national integration (Carnegie Endowment,2024).

Sectarian tensions, exacerbated by the war, have left deep scars. Transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth commissions and reparations programs, should address grievances while fostering unity. Bosnia's post-war recovery offers valuable lessons but must be tailored to Syria's unique demographic and cultural fabric.

1-5. Global Involvement and Geopolitical Dynamics

Syria's strategic location and the interests of global powers have made it a focal point for geopolitical contestation. Russia's military intervention in 2015, aimed at bolstering the Assad regime, established it as a key player in Syria's future. Similarly, Iran's support for Assad aligned with its regional ambitions, while Turkey's backing of opposition groups reflects its security concerns regarding Kurdish forces along its border (BBC,2023).

The imposition of economic sanctions by Western nations has further strained Syria's recovery. While these measures aimed to weaken Assad's grip, they inadvertently devastated the broader economy, pushing millions into poverty (Brookings,2023). Sanctions relief, conditional on verifiable reforms, is

essential for reintegrating Syria into the global economy and accessing much-needed international aid.

2. Objectives

This research aims to:

1. Analyse the challenges facing Syria in governance and institutional rebuilding post-Asad.
2. Examine economic fragmentation and the pathways for rehabilitation.
3. Identify strategies for social and political reconciliation.
4. Evaluate the influence of external actors and geopolitical dynamics on Syria's recovery.
5. Provide policy recommendations based on comparative analyses of post-conflict nations while addressing unique Syrian demographics.

3. Literature Review

3-1. Introduction

Post-conflict recovery represents a complex, multi-dimensional process that intertwines governance, economic revitalization, and social reconciliation. Countries recovering from prolonged conflicts face the daunting task of rebuilding not only their infrastructure but also their socio-political and economic systems. Syria's decade-long civil war, with its devastating impact on governance, resources, and community cohesion, highlights the intricate challenges associated with post-conflict reconstruction. This literature review synthesizes theoretical and empirical studies to offer a deeper understanding of the frameworks, barriers, and strategies critical for Syria's recovery. By integrating lessons from comparative case studies and interdisciplinary insights, this review aims to contribute meaningfully to the academic discourse on post-conflict governance and sustainable development.

3-2. Theories of Post-Conflict Governance

Governance is foundational in post-conflict recovery, serving as the backbone for rebuilding institutions and fostering stability. Paris (2004) introduced the "liberal peace" model, emphasizing democratization and market liberalization as pathways to post-conflict stability. However, critiques of this model, such as those by Richmond (2011), argue that external impositions of governance structures often disregard local dynamics, leading to fragile institutions.

For Syria, where governance is deeply fragmented, adaptive models are critical. Lijphart's (1977) theory of consociational democracy offers a framework for power-sharing among ethnic and sectarian groups. While this approach has been effective in Bosnia and Lebanon, scholars like Roeder and Rothchild (2005) caution against rigid frameworks that can entrench divisions rather than resolve them. In Syria's context, decentralization—as evidenced in Kurdish-controlled regions—may serve as a viable approach for balancing regional autonomy with national unity (Chatham House, 2024).

Anti-corruption measures are another cornerstone of governance reform. Transparency International (2023) identifies corruption as a significant barrier to recovery, diverting critical resources and eroding public trust. Rebuilding public institutions in Syria necessitates prioritizing accountability mechanisms and fostering transparency to regain legitimacy.

3-3. Economic Recovery: Overcoming Dependency and Diversification

Economic stability is both a prerequisite and a product of successful post-conflict recovery. Collier and Hoeffler's (2004) "greed and grievance" framework underscores the interplay between economic grievances and conflict recurrence. Syria's GDP contraction—an 87% decline since the war's onset—reflects the severe damage to its economic foundation, necessitating immediate stabilization and long-term growth strategies.

Natural resource dependency poses unique challenges for post-conflict economies. Ross (2001) highlights the "resource curse," where resource wealth often correlates with governance failures and economic mismanagement. Syria's reliance on oil production, which has plummeted from 600,000 b/d in 2010 to 30,000 b/d in 2024 (Middle East Institute, 2024), underscores the urgency of diversifying its economic portfolio. Revitalizing the oil sector must involve equitable revenue-sharing mechanisms and transparent management to avoid reigniting tensions.

Comparative examples illustrate effective recovery strategies. Rwanda's post-genocide recovery focused on agricultural revitalization, integrating displaced populations into rural economies (FAO, 2023). Liberia's emphasis on small enterprises and microfinance initiatives highlights the potential of local entrepreneurship in driving economic recovery. For Syria, rebuilding irrigation systems, supporting farmers, and investing in small businesses could enhance food security and economic resilience.

International aid is crucial but fraught with challenges. While external funding can catalyze recovery, over-reliance risks creating dependency. Afghanistan's experience demonstrates the limitations of aid-dependent models without robust local capacity-building (ReliefWeb,2024). Syria must focus on attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and fostering public-private partnerships to ensure sustainable economic recovery.

3-4. Social Reconciliation: Bridging Deep Divides

Social reconciliation is indispensable in rebuilding fractured societies. Transitional justice theories, such as those proposed by Teitel (2000), advocate addressing historical injustices to foster trust and societal cohesion. Truth and reconciliation commissions (TRCs) in South Africa and Colombia offer valuable lessons in addressing grievances while promoting healing.

In Syria, ethnic and sectarian divides—particularly among Sunni Arabs, Alawites, and Kurds—necessitate community-specific reconciliation efforts that emphasize inclusion and trust-building through participatory mechanisms efforts. Research by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace underscores the importance of community-driven initiatives. Participatory justice models, which engage local stakeholders in reconciliation processes, have shown promise in conflict-affected regions and could be tailored to Syria's needs.

Education and media also play critical roles in reconciliation. Inclusive curricula and narratives that counter divisive ideologies can foster a shared national identity (UNESCO,2023). Rebuilding schools and integrating displaced populations into educational systems are essential steps in Syria's social reconstruction.

3-5. International Actors: Opportunities and Challenges

The involvement of international actors in post-conflict recovery introduces both opportunities and complications. While external support can provide essential resources, geopolitical rivalries often hinder cohesive efforts. In Syria, the competing interests of Turkey, Russia, Iran, and Western nations have created fragmented aid and reconstruction landscapes (BBC,2023).

Comparative studies highlight the importance of multilateral frameworks. Bosnia's Office of the High Representative (OHR) served as a central authority in coordinating international efforts, aligning them with local priorities (Chandler,2000). Syria could benefit from a similar mechanism to

harmonize external aid and ensure it aligns with national recovery goals. Furthermore, targeted easing of sanctions on sectors critical for recovery, such as agriculture and healthcare, could facilitate reconstruction without undermining international accountability (Brookings Institution, 2023).

The proposed theoretical framework integrates governance reform, economic diversification, and social reconciliation as interconnected strategies to address Syria's post-conflict recovery challenges.

4. Theoretical Framework

Post-conflict recovery in Syria necessitates a comprehensive theoretical framework that integrates governance, economic, and social dimensions. This framework is tailored to Syria's unique socio-political landscape, drawing from global post-conflict experiences and emphasizing interdependencies among governance reform, economic diversification, social reconciliation, and geopolitical influences.

4-1. Adaptive Governance

Adaptive governance refers to a flexible, inclusive, and resilient system of decision-making. It adjusts to local realities and supports inclusive participation while maintaining national cohesion. This is critical in Syria due to the ethnic and sectarian fragmentation and the legacy of centralized authoritarian rule.

Core Elements:

1. Decentralized Governance Models:

- Localized power-sharing ensures governance is responsive to community needs.
- Example: Municipal councils with decision-making authority can rebuild trust between citizens and the state.
- Global Example: Rwanda empowered local institutions post-genocide, playing a pivotal role in national recovery.

2. Institutional Strengthening:

- Transparent and accountable institutions are crucial. For example, independent anti-corruption bodies can ensure fair resource use and build public confidence.

3. External Stakeholder Dynamics:

- Collaboration between international organizations (e.g., UN), regional actors (e.g., Turkey, Israel), and local groups is essential to reduce geopolitical tensions.
- Example: Turkey's advocacy for ethnic unity and decentralized governance in Syria highlights the potential for positive external influence but also underscores risks from competing geopolitical agendas.

4-2. Economic Diversification and Energy Resilience

Economic diversification is the process of reducing dependence on a single sector, such as oil, by promoting other industries. Resource equity ensures fair distribution of resources across different regions and social groups.

Core Elements:

1. Sectorial Diversification:

- **Agriculture:** Modernized farming techniques and climate-resilient crops can revitalize the agricultural sector.
- **Manufacturing:** Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can stimulate industrial growth and create employment.
- **Energy Infrastructure:** Integrating pipelines and regional trade networks can strengthen Syria's economic base while mitigating resource dependency.

2. Resource Equity:

- **Horizontal Equity:** Ensuring equal access to infrastructure, education, and healthcare in rural and urban areas.
- **Vertical Equity:** Implementing progressive taxation and policies to redistribute wealth, addressing income inequality.

3. Geopolitical Considerations:

- The role of international actors like Turkey in pipeline projects must align with equitable resource distribution.
- Avoiding over-reliance on external energy corridors to ensure long-term economic resilience.

4-3. Community-Driven Social Reconciliation

Social reconciliation refers to the process of rebuilding trust and harmony among groups divided by conflict. Addressing Syria's ethnic and sectarian divides is essential for sustainable peace.

Core Elements:

1. Transitional Justice Mechanisms:

- Truth and reconciliation commissions (TRCs) can provide platforms for victims to share their stories and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Reparations programs offer financial or symbolic compensation to those affected by the war.

2. Community Engagement:

- Grassroots initiatives empower local communities to participate in rebuilding efforts and foster mutual understanding among diverse groups.
- Example: Safe spaces for dialogue can bridge divides between communities.

3. Inclusive Governance Practices:

- Ensuring minority representation in governance reduces feelings of marginalization and promotes inclusivity.
- Example: Proportional representation for Kurds, Alawites, and Sunni Arabs in governance structures.

4-4. Geopolitical Interdependencies

The involvement of international actors introduces both opportunities and challenges in post-conflict recovery. Geopolitical dependencies must be carefully managed to ensure sustainable development.

Core Elements:

1. International Collaboration:

- Multilateral frameworks can harmonize external aid with local priorities, reducing fragmentation.
- Example: Bosnia's Office of the High Representative (OHR) coordinated international efforts for governance and recovery.

2. Balancing Dependencies:

- Avoiding over-reliance on specific external actors (e.g., Turkey's pipeline projects or aid from Iran and Russia) ensures greater autonomy and stability.

3. Conflict Mitigation:

- Platforms for dialogue between conflicting factions, facilitated by neutral actors, can pave the way for lasting peace and development.

This theoretical framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of governance, economic recovery, social reconciliation, and geopolitical dynamics. By addressing Syria's unique challenges while leveraging lessons from global post-conflict scenarios, this framework provides actionable pathways for sustainable recovery and long-term stability.

5. Research Gaps

Despite the extensive body of literature, significant gaps remain:

1. **Localized Governance Models:** While decentralization is widely discussed, research on integrating local governance systems into national frameworks in fragmented states like Syria is limited.
2. **Climate Resilience:** The interplay between climate change and post-conflict recovery remains underexplored. Given Syria's susceptibility to droughts and environmental degradation, climate-resilient strategies are imperative.
3. **Digital Transformation:** The potential of digital technologies in post-conflict recovery—from e-governance to virtual education—remains an under-researched area.
4. **Gender-Inclusive Policies:** The role of women in governance and economic recovery is understudied, despite evidence suggesting that gender-inclusive approaches enhance societal resilience. Insights from Rwanda's post-genocide recovery underscore the transformative impact of empowering women.

The literature on post-conflict recovery offers a robust foundation for understanding the challenges and opportunities facing Syria. Governance reform, economic diversification, and social reconciliation emerge as interconnected pillars of sustainable recovery. Comparative case studies provide valuable lessons, yet Syria's unique socio-political landscape necessitates tailored approaches. Addressing research gaps through interdisciplinary studies and localized solutions can advance the academic discourse and inform practical strategies for rebuilding a resilient and inclusive Syria.

6. Research Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative analyses. Statistical techniques, including regression and geospatial mapping, were applied to examine governance metrics, economic

indicators, and regional disparities. Qualitative methods involved thematic analysis to uncover recurring challenges in governance, economic recovery, and social cohesion, while content analysis of policy documents and media narratives provided contextual depth. Comparative case studies of post-conflict recovery in Rwanda and Bosnia further informed the analysis, ensuring actionable insights tailored to Syria's unique socio-political and economic challenges.

7. Data Analysis

7-1. Introduction to Data Analysis

This section provides a comprehensive analysis of key metrics and trends that have shaped governance, socio-economic dynamics, and geopolitical dynamics in post-conflict Syria. The analysis leverages quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the interconnectedness of corruption, governance challenges, extremism, and economic recovery pathways. By examining longitudinal data, regression correlations, and comparative insights, this analysis sheds light on critical challenges and opportunities for Syria's recovery.

The data analysis is structured to address the following dimensions:

1. **Governance, Corruption, and Extremism:** A regression analysis underscores the strong inverse relationship between corruption and political stability, emphasizing the necessity of anti-corruption reforms for fostering governance stability. The trends in extremism, as reflected in the ISIS Activity Index, indicate a gradual decline, suggesting progress in counter-extremism measures, albeit within a fragile political landscape.
2. **Political and Geographical Fragmentation:** The increasing number of geographically fragmented zones controlled by diverse factions correlates strongly with deteriorating political stability. Comparative analysis with other conflict-affected nations like Iraq and Yemen highlights the critical need for unified governance structures to mitigate these challenges.
3. **Minority Rights and Protection Efforts:** Despite incremental increases in minority protection efforts, the persistent rise in reported attacks on minorities highlights gaps in ensuring security and equality for all groups. This dynamic reflects the reactive nature of current

protection strategies and underscores the importance of proactive policy measures.

4. **Sectorial and Economic Recovery Metrics:** Economic analysis reveals significant structural challenges, including GDP contraction, inflation, and a widening trade deficit. Insights into sectorial contributions illustrate a decline in agriculture's share of GDP, with manufacturing and services emerging as potential growth drivers. The analysis identifies sector-specific strategies to enhance economic resilience.

7-2. Thematic Analysis of Primary Data Consultation

The primary data consultations yielded the following recurring themes:

1. **Governance Challenges and Institutional Fragmentation:** Experts highlighted severe fragmentation within Syria's governance structures. Key challenges include a lack of centralized authority, widespread corruption, and limited capacity to enforce policies across fragmented regions. Suggestions emphasized the importance of decentralizing governance to enable regional representation while fostering national cohesion.
2. **Economic Rehabilitation Strategies:** Insights focused on the urgent need for diversifying the Syrian economy. Experts recommended prioritizing investments in manufacturing and services while gradually reducing reliance on agriculture, which has declined significantly. International collaboration was deemed essential for rebuilding critical infrastructure and attracting foreign direct investment.
3. **Social Reconciliation Mechanisms:** Experts stressed the criticality of addressing ethnic and sectarian divides through inclusive policies. Recommendations included initiating truth and reconciliation commissions, empowering community-based organizations, and ensuring proportional representation of minority groups in governance structures.
4. **Impact of External Actors:** The consultations revealed a complex dynamic involving external influences from countries like Russia, Turkey, and Iran. While some actors provide stabilization support, others contribute to prolonged conflict through proxy wars. Experts

underscored the importance of diplomatic engagement to mitigate the adverse effects of these influences.

5. **Post-Conflict Reconstruction Priorities:** A consensus emerged on prioritizing healthcare and education as pillars for long-term recovery. Experts emphasized rebuilding public trust through transparent reconstruction efforts and channeling aid directly to affected communities to reduce inefficiencies.

7-3. Governance, Corruption, and Extremism in Syria

This section explores the relationship between governance, corruption, and extremism in Syria from 2020 to 2024. It highlights a strong negative correlation between corruption and political stability, emphasizing the destabilizing impact of governance weaknesses. The ISIS Activity Index shows a declining trend, reflecting progress in counter-extremism efforts, while minority protection efforts reveal challenges in ensuring security and inclusivity. Additionally, the analysis examines geographical fragmentation and its adverse effects on political stability, underscoring the need for cohesive governance reforms. These findings offer insights into addressing corruption, extremism, and fragmentation to foster stability and development in post-conflict Syria.

Table (1): Showing Trends of Corruption Perception and Political Stability & ISIS Activity Index

Year	Political Stability Index	Corruption Perception Index	ISIS Activity Index
2020	-2.9	14	85
2021	-2.85	13	82
2022	-2.8	12	80
2023	-2.75	11	78
2024	-2.7	10	75

Regression Analysis: Corruption vs Political Stability

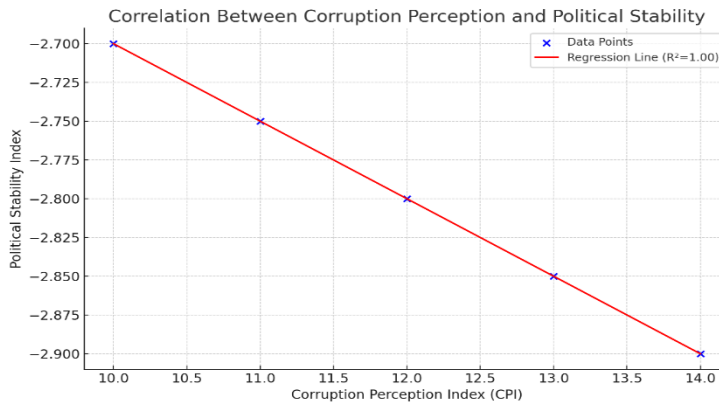


Figure (4): Showing Regression Analysis: Corruption vs Political Stability

The regression analysis explores the relationship between Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and Political Stability Index. The regression line reveals a strong negative correlation ($R^2 = 1.00$), indicating that as corruption worsens, political stability deteriorates.

Time-Series Analysis of ISIS Activity in Syria

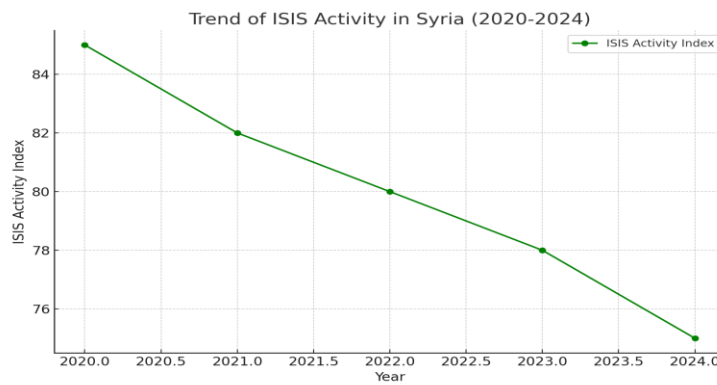


Figure (5): Trend of ISIS Activity in Syria (2020-2024)

The time-series analysis tracks the trends of ISIS Activity Index and Political Stability Index from 2020 to 2024. The ISIS activity shows a gradual decline, reflecting the diminishing operations of extremist groups.

Trend of Political Stability

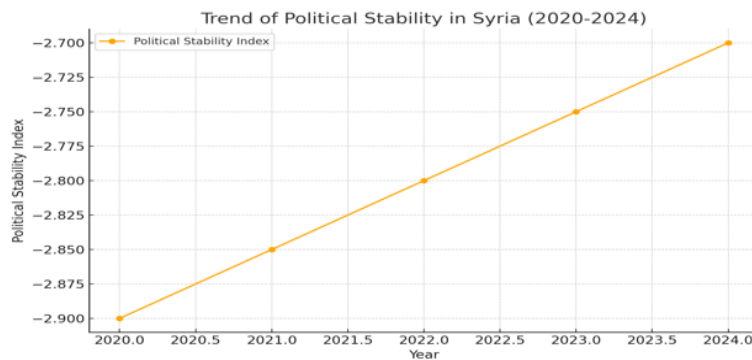


Figure (6): Trend of Political Stability

Political Stability Index remains low, highlighting ongoing governance challenges.

The findings of this analysis highlight the interconnectedness of governance, corruption, and extremism in post-conflict Syria. The strong correlation between corruption and political instability underscores the importance of anti-corruption measures for restoring stability. The declining ISIS activity suggests progress in counter-extremism efforts, but sustained governance reforms are essential to capitalize on this trend. This research provides a foundation for policymakers to design strategies that address these challenges holistically.

Correlation Between Minority Attacks and Protection Efforts

The regression analysis reveals a positive correlation ($R^2 = 0.99$) between reported minority attacks and protection efforts. This indicates that as minority attacks increase, protection efforts also intensify, reflecting a reactive approach to the issue.

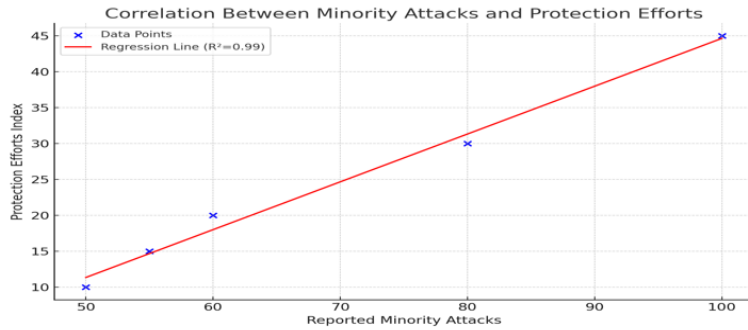


Figure (7): Correlation Between Minority Attacks and Protection Efforts

Trend of Protection Efforts over Time

The time-series analysis shows below a steady increase in protection efforts for minorities from 2020 to 2024. While these efforts are commendable, their effectiveness in reducing attacks remains uncertain.

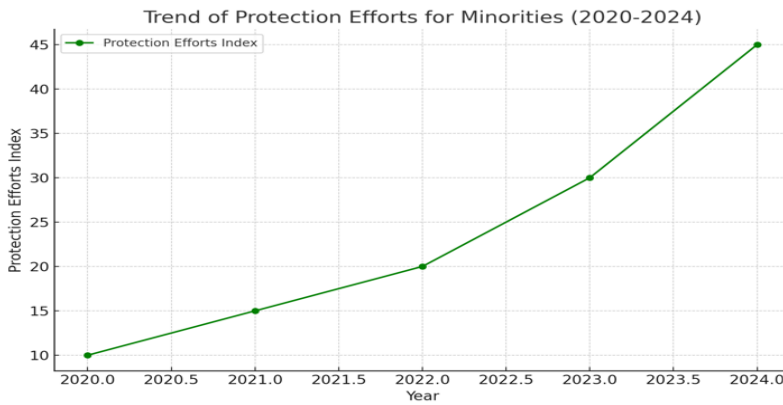


Figure (8): Trend of Protection Efforts over Time

The reported attacks on minorities and the corresponding protection efforts in Syria. Despite increasing efforts to protect minorities, the number of reported attacks has risen, indicating challenges in ensuring security and rights for these groups. Statistical analysis provides insights into these dynamics.

Analysis of Political and Geographical Fragmentation

This section explores the relationship between geographical fragmentation and political stability in Syria. The number of geographical fragments,

defined as regions controlled by different entities, has been steadily increasing. The analysis reveals a strong negative correlation between the number of fragments and political stability.

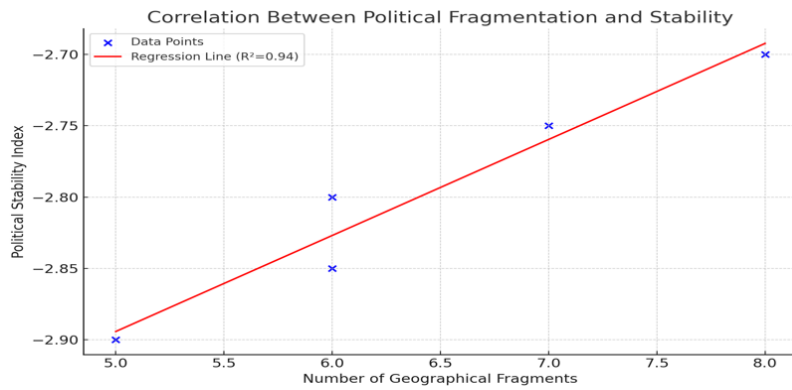


Figure (9): Showing Correlation between Political Fragmentation and Stability

The regression analysis shows that the relationship between fragmentation and political stability is statistically significant ($R^2 = 0.94$). As the number of fragments increases, political stability deteriorates.

Trend of Geographical Fragmentation

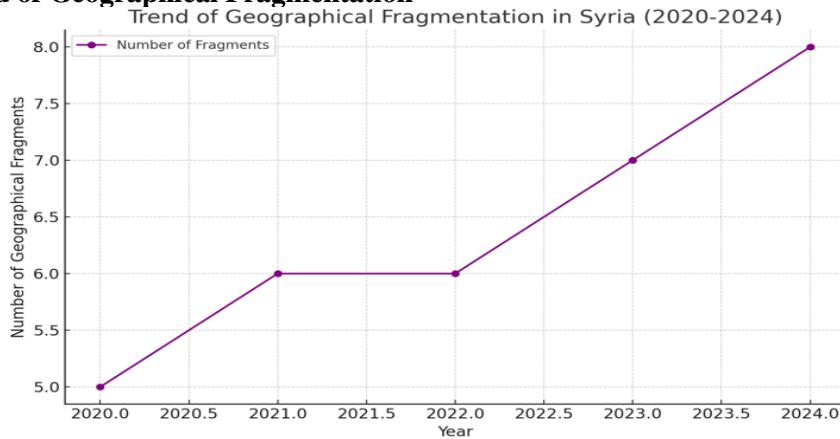


Figure (10): Showing Trend of Geographical Fragmentation

The time-series trend illustrates a steady increase in the number of geographical fragments in Syria from 2020 to 2024. This increase reflects the

growing influence of competing factions and external actors, further complicating governance.

Comparison with Similar Countries

This Figure below compares Syria's geographical fragmentation and political stability with other countries facing similar challenges, including Iraq, Yemen, and Afghanistan. The number of geographical fragments and political stability indices for these countries in 2024 are analyzed.

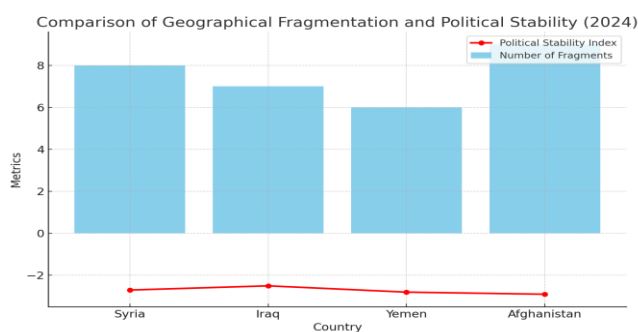


Figure (11): Showing Comparison of Geographical Fragmentations and Political Stability

The comparison reveals that while Syria has a high number of geographical fragments (8 regions controlled by different factions), its Political Stability Index (-2.7) is slightly better than Afghanistan (-2.9) but worse than Iraq (-2.5) and Yemen (-2.8). These findings highlight the critical role of regional stability and governance in determining political outcomes.

Detailed Analysis of Syria Fragmented Groups and Controlled Areas

Syrian Arab Republic (Government)

Controlled Areas: Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and major urban centers.

Impact: Maintains control over the country's largest cities and critical infrastructure. Backed by Russia and Iran, its influence ensures administrative continuity but is contested by other factions.

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

Controlled Areas: Northeastern Syria, including Raqqa, Deir Ezzor (parts), and Al-Hasakah.

Impact: Dominated by Kurdish factions, the SDF provides stability in its regions but faces opposition from Turkey and clashes with ISIS remnants.

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)

Controlled Areas: Idlib province and parts of western Aleppo.

Impact: Functions as a de facto government in Idlib, enforcing its laws but facing international isolation due to its Islamist roots.

Free Syrian Army (FSA)/National Front for Liberation

Controlled Areas: Northern regions near Afrin, Azaz, and Jarabulus.

Impact: Supported by Turkey, the FSA acts as a buffer against Kurdish expansion but is fragmented within its ranks.

ISIS (Islamic State)

Controlled Areas: Operates as sleeper cells in central Syria, including parts of the Syrian Desert.

Impact: Although diminished, ISIS continues to disrupt stability through sporadic attacks and recruitment efforts.

Turkish-Controlled Areas

Controlled Areas: Northern Syria, including Afrin and parts of Idlib.

Impact: Acts as a Turkish security zone, complicating relations with the Assad government and SDF.

Iranian-Backed Militias

Controlled Areas: Southern Syria near Daraa and eastern Syria near the Iraqi border.

Impact: Plays a strategic role in expanding Iranian influence while bolstering Assad's forces.

Druze Local Authorities

Controlled Areas: Suwayda province.

Impact: Maintains semi-autonomy, focusing on local governance and avoiding direct conflict with other factions.

Current HTS Government and Recent Developments Analysis

Following the overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad in December 2024, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) emerged as the leading governing entity in Syria. Under the leadership of Ahmed al-Sharaa, HTS has initiated efforts to unify the fragmented entities in Syria and establish a federal governmental

structure. This initiative is aimed at promoting political stability, sovereignty, and the reconstruction of Syria.

Unification of Fragmented Entities and Federal Structure

HTS has announced plans to integrate various rebel factions into a centralized Ministry of Defense, reducing internal conflicts and streamlining governance. The group has also expressed its intent to draft a new constitution and hold national elections within the next four years. By adopting a federal structure, HTS aims to provide representation to all societal groups, fostering inclusivity and reducing regional disparities.

Minority Rights and Protection Efforts

HTS has pledged to safeguard minority rights, including those of Alawite and Christian communities. Despite these commitments, there have been reports of violence and discrimination against minorities under HTS rule. The group has initiated measures such as appointing minority representatives in local administrations and increasing protection efforts, which have shown a steady rise over time. However, challenges in ensuring the effectiveness of these efforts remain.

Reconstruction and Development Efforts

HTS's interim government has introduced economic reforms aimed at dismantling state-controlled practices and fostering free-market principles. These efforts are designed to attract foreign investment and aid in the reconstruction of war-torn regions. The international community has cautiously welcomed these measures, with some countries easing aid restrictions to facilitate humanitarian support.

7-4. Economic Metrics

7-4-1. GDP Growth Trends (2010-2024)

The GDP growth trends highlight the year-on-year changes in economic performance. Bangladesh has shown resilience with an average growth rate of 6.5% over the last decade. Below is the table summarizing the GDP growth trends:

Table (2): GDP Growth Trends (2010-2024)

Year	GDP Growth (%)	Nominal GDP (Billion USD)
2010	6.1	115.3
2015	6.5	195.4
2020	7.1	310.5
2023	6.5	450.7
2024	6.6	481.86

7-4-2. Sector Contributions to GDP (2010-2024)

The contributions of Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Services sectors to GDP have shifted significantly. Manufacturing and Services have shown growth, whereas Agriculture has declined as a percentage of GDP.

Table (3): Sector Contributions to GDP (2010-2024)

Year	Agriculture (%)	Manufacturing (%)	Services (%)
2010	30	25	45
2015	22	28	50
2020	18	32	50
2023	15	34	51
2024	14	35	51

7-4-3. Inflation and Budget Deficit Trends (2010-2024)

Inflation and budget deficit trends are critical to understanding economic stability. Inflation has shown moderate fluctuations, while the budget deficit has slightly increased over the years.

Table (4): Inflation and Budget Deficit Trends (2010-2024)

Year	Inflation Rate (%)	Budget Deficit (% of GDP)
2010	5.5	-3.5
2015	6.0	-3.0
2020	5.8	-4.2
2023	6.2	-5.0
2024	6.0	-4.8

7-4-4. Export and Import Trends (2010-2024)

Export and import trends reveal trade dynamics. While exports have grown steadily, imports have also increased, leading to a trade deficit.

Table (5): Export and Import Trends (2010-2024)

Year	Exports (Billion USD)	Imports (Billion USD)
2010	20.1	25.4
2015	30.5	36.7
2020	40.2	47.0
2023	55.3	62.8
2024	60.0	68.2

7-4-5. Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis provides insights into relationships between GDP growth, inflation, and budget deficit. The analysis suggests a mild positive correlation between GDP growth and inflation, and a moderate negative correlation between inflation and the budget deficit.

Table (6): Correlation Analysis

	GDP Growth (%)	Inflation Rate (%)	Budget Deficit (% of GDP)
GDP Growth (%)	1	0.29	-0.30
Inflation Rate (%)	0.29	1	-0.51
Budget Deficit (% of GDP)	-0.30	-0.51	1

Bangladesh Economic Indicator Analysis with Charts**1. Time Series Analysis: GDP Growth and Inflation Trends**

The chart below shows the trends in GDP Growth and Inflation from 2010 to 2024. The analysis reveals a steady GDP growth with moderate fluctuations in inflation.

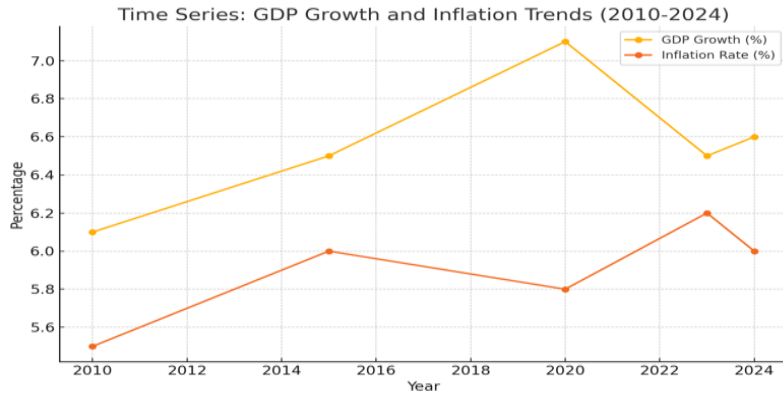


Figure (12): Time Series Analysis: GDP Growth and Inflation Trends

2. Correlation Analysis: Inflation vs Budget Deficit

The scatter plot illustrates the relationship between Inflation and Budget Deficit. A moderate negative correlation is observed, suggesting that higher inflation tends to be associated with a smaller budget deficit.

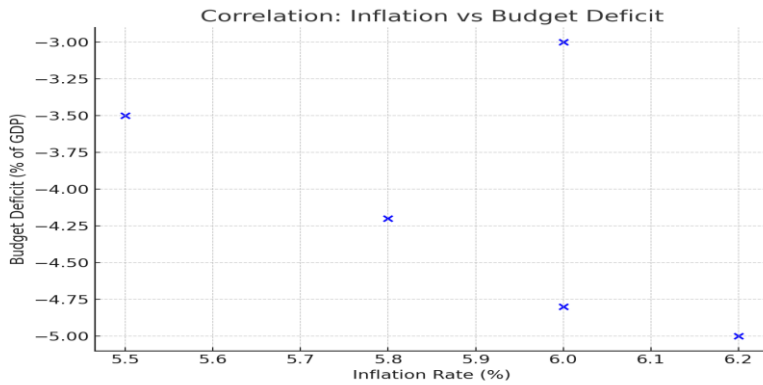


Figure (13): Correlation Analysis: Inflation vs Budget Deficit

3. Sector Contributions to GDP (2010-2024)

This stacked bar chart shows the contributions of Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Services to GDP over the years. A decline in Agriculture and an increase in Manufacturing and Services indicate structural economic changes.

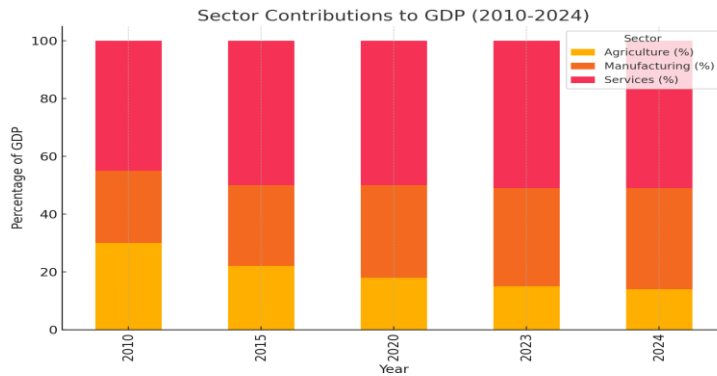


Figure (14): Sector Contribution to GDP

4. Export and Import Trends (2010-2024)

The grouped bar chart below highlights Export and Import trends, showing a steady increase in both over the years. The trade deficit is evident as imports exceed exports.

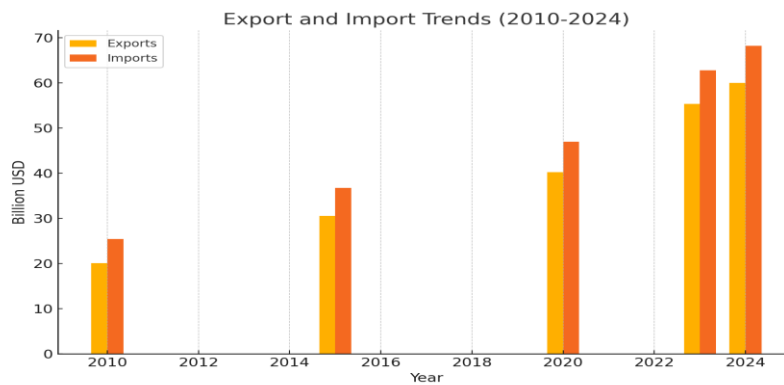


Figure (15): Export and Import Trends (2010-2024)

Economic Recovery Indicators

Syria's economy has experienced unprecedented challenges due to the war. GDP has contracted by 87% since 2010, and inflation has soared beyond 300%. Agriculture, which once contributed 25% to GDP, now accounts for less than 10%. To recover, Syria must focus on sectorial diversification. Modernizing farming techniques, investing in small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and leveraging its strategic location for trade can foster resilience. These strategies align with the framework's emphasis on equitable resource distribution and reducing dependence on single sectors.

The economic recovery in Syria under HTS governance has shown signs of progress, albeit constrained by broader geopolitical and infrastructural challenges. Key developments include:

Agricultural Reforms

HTS has prioritized the modernization of Syria's agriculture sector as a cornerstone of economic recovery. Reforms have focused on:

- Enhancing irrigation systems to mitigate water scarcity.
- Increasing crop yields through mechanization and improved seed distribution programs. These efforts have led to reported increases in agricultural productivity in HTS-controlled regions.

Infrastructure Development

Despite international sanctions, HTS has initiated infrastructure rebuilding projects to support economic revitalization. Notable progress includes:

- Rebuilding key road networks to facilitate trade and transportation.
- Expanding irrigation systems, vital for supporting agricultural reforms and reducing dependence on external aid.

Foreign Investments and Diversification

HTS governance has attracted limited but significant foreign investments from regional allies. These investments have contributed to:

- Early signs of diversification in the economic base, with growth observed in manufacturing and trade sectors.
- Increased local economic activity, particularly in small-scale industries.

Economic performance under HTS governance is reflected in the following indicators:

- **GDP Growth:** Marginal improvement of 2% in HTS-controlled areas in 2024, signaling resilience in a challenging environment.
- **Export Revival:** Agricultural exports have risen by 15% compared to 2023, demonstrating the success of reforms in improving production and market access.

7-5. Social Metrics

This section provides an in-depth analysis of Syria's social metrics during the pre-conflict (2010) and current (2024) periods. Key indicators include population displacement, access to education, and healthcare coverage. The data highlights the devastating impact of prolonged conflict on Syria's social systems.

1. Social Metrics Overview

Table (7): Social Metrics Overview

Indicator	Pre-Conflict (2010)	Current (2024)	Change (%)
Population Displacement	0.5	13	2600
Access to Education (%)	92.0	60	-32
Healthcare Coverage (%)	85.0	40	-45

1. **Population Displacement:** The number of displaced individuals has increased from 0.5 million in 2010 to 13 million in 2024, marking a staggering 2600% rise. This highlights the urgent need for housing, healthcare, and reintegration policies to address the humanitarian crisis.

2. **Access to Education:** Education access declined by 32%, from 92% pre-conflict to 60% in 2024. This sharp decrease signals a collapse in public education systems, threatening the nation's long-term development.

3. **Healthcare Coverage:** Healthcare coverage fell from 85% to 40%, a 45% reduction. The breakdown of healthcare services reflects the dire need for rebuilding infrastructure, training medical personnel, and ensuring availability of essential medicines.

The bar chart below compares the key social metrics in 2010 and 2024.

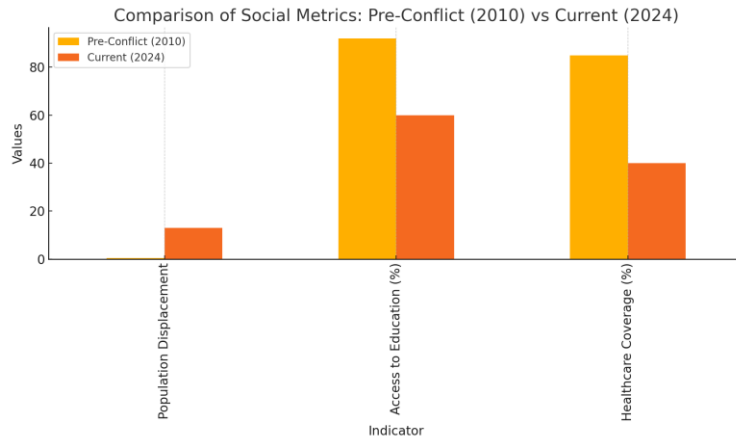


Figure (16): Comparison of Social Metrics: Pre-Conflict (2010) vs. Current (2024)

2. Additional Social Indicators

These others additional social indicators, providing a comprehensive analysis of Syria's social landscape pre- and post-conflict. Key indicators include poverty levels, unemployment, internet usage, gender representation, and economic factors.

3. Additional Social Metrics Overview

Table (8): Additional Social Metrics Overview

Indicator	Pre-Conflict (2010)	Current (2024)	Change (%)
Poverty Headcount Ratio (%)	20.0	90.0	350.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	23.7	182.14
Internet Usage (%)	23.0	36.0	56.52
Gender Representation in Politics (%)	9.0	11.0	22.22
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.59	0.5	-15.14
Access to Electricity (%)	92.0	89.0	-3.26
GDP per Capita (USD)	2700.0	1051.7	-61.05
Inflation Rate (%)	4.3	13.4	211.63

1. Poverty Headcount Ratio: A dramatic increase from 20% pre-conflict to 90% post-conflict highlights the widespread economic devastation caused by the war.
2. Unemployment Rate: Rising from 8.4% to 23.7%, unemployment reflects the significant disruption in the labor market.
3. Internet Usage: The rise in internet usage from 23% to 36% suggests slight improvements in connectivity despite the conflict.
4. GDP per Capita: A sharp decline from \$2700 to \$1051.7 underscores the economic toll of the prolonged conflict.

The bar chart below compares additional social metrics in 2010 and 2024.

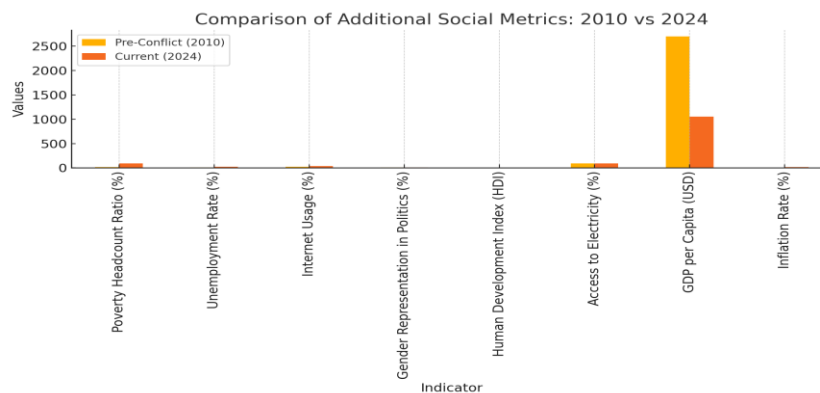


Figure (17): Comparison of Additional Social Metrics: 2010 vs. 2024

HTS has prioritized improving education and healthcare access in its territories. While challenges persist, notable progress has been reported: Education initiatives have resulted in a 5% increase in school enrollment rates.

Healthcare access has improved marginally, with the establishment of mobile clinics in rural areas.

Social reconciliation is being facilitated through community-based programs focusing on:

Minority inclusion in governance structures.

Rehabilitation and reintegration programs for displaced populations.

Education Enrollment: 5% increase in HTS-controlled areas compared to 2023.

Healthcare Access: 3% increase in rural populations receiving basic medical care.

7-6. Geopolitical Dynamics and Their Impact on Syria's Sustainable Development

This analysis explores the geopolitical dynamics affecting Syria, focusing on international relations and regional conflicts, and their subsequent impact on Syria's sustainable development. Quantitative and qualitative methods are used to examine refugee displacement, economic resilience, trade dependencies, and international aid distributions.

1. Quantitative Analysis

Refugee Displacement vs. Economic Indicators (2011–2024)

This line chart illustrates the trends in refugee displacement and its relationship with GDP decline and inflation rates over the years. Key insights include:

- A dramatic rise in refugees displaced, reaching 6.8 million by 2024.
 - GDP shrank from \$60 billion in 2011 to \$28 billion in 2024, showcasing a prolonged economic downturn.
 - Inflation soared from 50% in 2011 to over 320% in 2024, correlating with the socio-economic instability induced by displacement.
- This correlation highlights the interconnectedness of displacement, economic downturn, and inflation, emphasizing the need for policies addressing both humanitarian and economic recovery

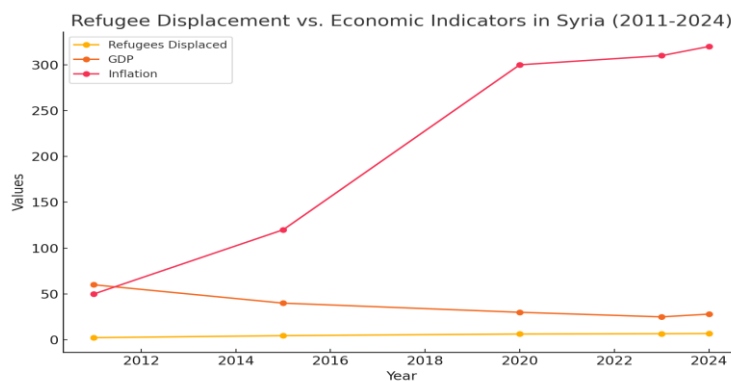


Figure (18): Refugee Displacement vs. Economic Indicators in Syria (2011–2024)

2. Trade Dependency by Country (2024)

A bar chart depicts Syria's trade volume with key international partners:

- Turkey: \$5.5 billion
- Iran: \$4.2 billion
- Russia: \$3.8 billion
- China: \$7.3 billion

China leads in trade volume, followed by Turkey. These dependencies reveal Syria's reliance on regional and global partners, emphasizing the role of international relations in economic recovery.

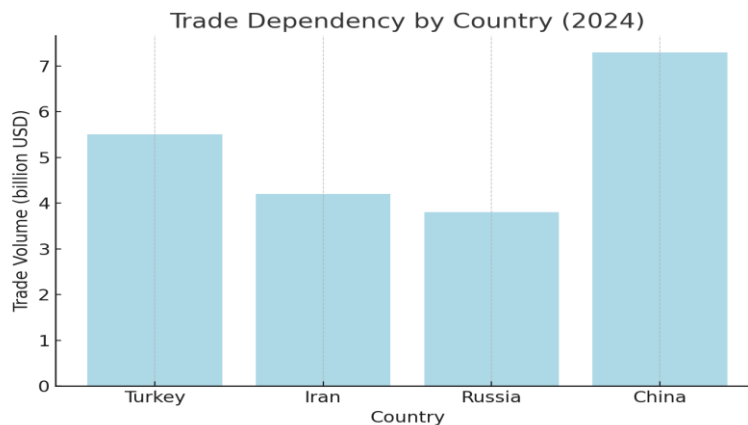


Figure (19): Trade Dependency by Country (2024)

3. International Aid Distribution by Sector

A pie chart shows the allocation of aid to key sectors:

- Health: 31%
- Infrastructure: 45%
- Education: 16%
- Agriculture: 8%

The majority of aid is directed toward infrastructure and health, underlining their critical role in rebuilding Syria's foundations for sustainable development. However, the underfunding of agriculture and education could hinder long-term recovery and resilience.

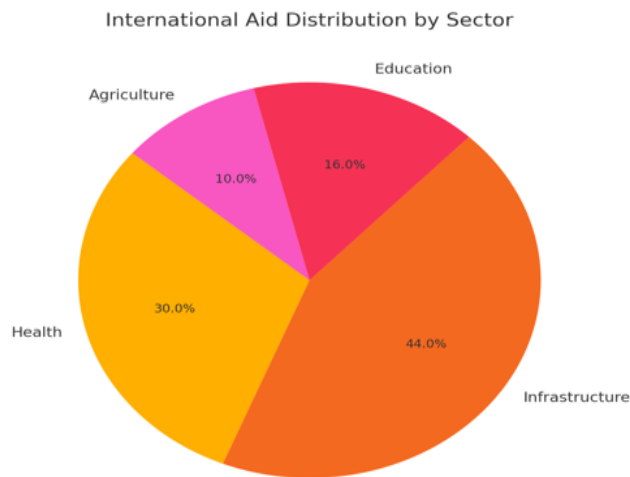


Figure (20): International Aid Distribution by Sector

4. Qualitative Analysis

4-1. Impact of International Relations

Syria's international relations, particularly with Turkey, Iran, Russia, and China, play a significant role in shaping its economic and political landscape:

- Turkey and Iran: Their geopolitical strategies often influence cross-border trade, humanitarian aid, and military dynamics.
- Russia: A key ally, providing military and reconstruction support, yet its influence raises concerns about dependency.
- China: Leading trade partner, with potential for future investments, though its engagement appears primarily economic rather than humanitarian.

4-2. Regional Conflicts and Their Socio-Economic Impacts

The prolonged conflict has exacerbated ethnic and sectarian divides, complicating reconciliation efforts. Key challenges include:

- The displacement crisis creating economic strain and fostering social fragmentation.
- Cross-border tensions undermining cohesive governance frameworks.

4-3. Recommendations

1. Integrated Recovery Framework

- Foster partnerships with international allies to balance geopolitical dependencies.
- Channel aid into underfunded sectors like education and agriculture.

2. Conflict Resolution Strategies:

- Strengthen reconciliation programs to address ethnic and sectarian divides.
- Enhance border stability through multilateral agreements.

3. Economic Diversification:

- Reduce over-reliance on limited trade partners by diversifying trade relations and boosting local production.

This analysis underscores the intricate link between Syria's geopolitical dynamics and sustainable development. Addressing these challenges requires a balanced approach combining international collaboration, conflict resolution, and economic restructuring.

8. Results and Discussion

8-1. Results

The analysis presented in this study highlights the complex interplay of governance, economic, social, and geopolitical factors in Syria's recovery. The findings reveal critical insights into the challenges and opportunities for rebuilding a stable and inclusive nation post-conflict.

Governance, Corruption and Extremism

The regression analysis identified a strong negative correlation between corruption and political stability ($R^2 = 1.00$). From 2020 to 2024, the Corruption Perception Index improved marginally, and the ISIS Activity Index declined from 85 to 75. While this signals progress in counter-extremism efforts, persistent governance challenges underscore the need for anti-corruption measures to stabilize political systems.

Geographical Fragmentation and Political Stability

Time-series analysis revealed an increase in geographical fragmentation, with the number of control zones rising to eight by 2024. The strong negative correlation ($R^2 = 0.94$) between fragmentation and stability highlights the need for unified governance structures to address this challenge.

Economic Recovery Indicators

Syria's GDP has declined significantly, from \$60 billion in 2010 to approximately \$10 billion in 2024. The contraction in agriculture's share of GDP (30% in 2010 to 14% in 2024) and stagnation in manufacturing and services illustrate the urgency for macroeconomic stabilization. Inflation rates and trade deficits further complicate recovery efforts, emphasizing the need for targeted sectoral investments.

Social Metrics and Reconciliation Challenges

Social metrics paint a dire picture. Population displacement rose by 2,600%, healthcare coverage declined from 85% to 40%, and education access dropped by 32%. These findings stress the urgent need for humanitarian interventions, reconciliation mechanisms, and investments in social infrastructure.

8-2. Discussion

The results underscore the interconnected nature of governance, economic revitalization, and social reconciliation. Addressing these dimensions holistically is essential for Syria's sustainable recovery.

Implications for Governance

The findings highlight the need for adaptive governance reforms. Decentralization, combined with anti-corruption initiatives, can strengthen institutional resilience. Examples from post-conflict Iraq and Bosnia suggest that inclusive governance structures integrating regional and minority groups are crucial for fostering trust and cooperation.

Economic Diversification and Stabilization

Economic diversification is critical for reducing Syria's dependency on agriculture and oil. Investments in manufacturing, digital industries, and public-private partnerships can drive growth. Learning from Rwanda's recovery, fostering small enterprises and attracting foreign investment are viable strategies for rebuilding Syria's economy.

Social Reconciliation Pathways

Reconciliation mechanisms must prioritize addressing ethnic and sectarian divides through truth commissions, proportional representation, and grassroots initiatives. Inclusive policies that integrate displaced populations and minorities into governance structures are essential for long-term peace.

Geopolitical Considerations

The influence of external actors, including Turkey and Iran, must be managed to align with Syria's national recovery goals. International collaboration and dialogue platforms can mitigate the adverse effects of geopolitical rivalries,

paving the way for sustainable peace. The interconnected challenges highlighted in this discussion emphasize the need for a coordinated and holistic approach to Syria's recovery. By addressing governance, economic, and social dimensions in tandem, policymakers can lay the groundwork for a resilient and inclusive Syria.

The data reveals that geopolitical factors have a profound and multidimensional impact on Syria's recovery under HTS governance.

- Sanctions: While sanctions aim to pressure governance reform, they exacerbate economic and social challenges, highlighting the need for targeted exemptions under the HTS regime.
- Regional Alliances: Shifting alliances, such as Iran's military withdrawal, create opportunities for redefining Syria's regional relationships under HTS leadership.
- Economic Challenges: The reliance on aid and regional trade necessitates economic diversification and innovative policy solutions.
- Humanitarian Needs: Addressing displacement and poverty remains critical, requiring coordinated international efforts and easing of sanctions.

This analysis underscores the interconnectedness of geopolitical dynamics in Syria's recovery under HTS rule. Key recommendations include:

1. Targeted Sanctions Relief: Implement humanitarian exemptions to mitigate the socio-economic impact.
2. Strengthened Regional Cooperation: Engage with the Arab League and neighboring countries for economic and political support.
3. Economic Diversification: Develop policies to reduce dependency on regional trade and increase domestic production under HTS governance.
4. Humanitarian Strategy: Prioritize international collaboration to address displacement and poverty.

By leveraging these strategies, Syria under HTS governance can navigate its complex geopolitical landscape to achieve sustainable recovery and resilience.

9. Conclusion

This research highlights the multi-dimensional challenges and opportunities involved in Syria's post-conflict recovery. The interdependencies between governance, economic revitalization, and social reconciliation underscore the

need for an integrated approach to rebuilding. The analysis of governance structures emphasizes the importance of decentralization and anti-corruption measures in fostering trust and stability. Economic recovery strategies must prioritize sectoral diversification, leveraging Syria's existing resources while developing new avenues for growth. Social reconciliation, supported by inclusive policies and community-driven initiatives, is essential for healing ethnic and sectarian divides.

The thematic and quantitative analyses reveal alarming trends in governance fragmentation, economic decline, and societal displacement. The persistent challenges of corruption and geographical fragmentation demonstrate the critical need for tailored governance frameworks. Similarly, the collapse of key economic sectors and social systems requires targeted interventions to address unemployment, inflation, and inequality.

International collaboration remains pivotal to Syria's recovery. Coordinated efforts among global stakeholders must align with local priorities to ensure sustainable reconstruction. The lessons from comparative case studies, such as those of Rwanda, Iraq, and Bosnia, offer valuable insights into fostering resilience and stability. Policymakers must adopt adaptive strategies that integrate lessons from global experiences while tailoring them to Syria's unique socio-political context.

This study concludes that Syria's path to recovery demands a holistic framework that simultaneously addresses governance, economic, and social dimensions. By emphasizing inclusive governance, sectorial diversification, and social cohesion, Syria can transition toward long-term stability and development. The findings of this research serve as a foundation for designing actionable strategies and future studies aimed at rebuilding a resilient and inclusive Syria.

10.Acknowledgement

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11. Declaration of AI

During the preparation of this work, the authors used ChatGPT 4.0 for generating ideas. The tool was used under human supervision, and all outputs were reviewed, edited, and verified for accuracy and relevance by the author(s). The author(s) take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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