



# Contingency Planning for Post-Return Syria

**Goal:** To support the development of evidence-based planning processes and interventions geared towards facilitating sustainable and peaceful transition in post-conflict Syria.

**Duration:** July 2015 – June 2016

**Situation Analysis:** The civil conflict in Syria poses the most complex and immediate humanitarian threat to the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region. At least 6.6 million people have been displaced within Syria, the majority of whom have inadequate access to food, healthcare, schools and shelter. The total number of registered Syrian refugees is 4,786,412 hosted principally by Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. In response to this crisis, the international community has concentrated its efforts on providing humanitarian support. But as the conflict roils through its fifth year and host states grow increasing

concerned about burgeoning refugee populations, attention is shifting to contingency planning around return scenarios.

When approaching such planning, it is important to understand recent events in Syria, not as sporadic and unanticipated, but as the outcomes of long and complicated struggles involving resource inequality, underdevelopment, poor access to opportunity and civic rights. There has been little historical or scientific interrogation of the causal factors underpinning the conflict, nor how particular influences might be captured to support sustainable transition and to build long-term resilience. Experience globally—demonstrated most recently in Iraq and Yemen—is that there are key flashpoint issues in the aftermath of any conflict. These include disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; the protection of vulnerable groups (particularly protection from gender-based and retaliatory violence); re-establishing the rule of law; resolving land and property issues; and law enforcement.



# Project Components

To support the development of evidence-based planning processes and interventions geared towards facilitating sustainable and peaceful transition in post-conflict Syria.

A further issue that has existential bearing on post-conflict peacebuilding is the framework for how rights violations perpetrated before and during the conflict are dealt with, and modalities for dispute resolution and rights realisation in the post-conflict repatriation period. To address this effectively, the collection of information and data on the legal and property rights framework, the law enforcement system, as well as people’s expectations regarding key justice issues upon return, should begin at the earliest possible moment.

This project seeks to compile an evidence base on the legal framework, access to justice environment, and housing, land and property system in Syria prior to the current conflict. It will also seek to gauge expectations regarding key rule of law indicators, anticipated flashpoints for conflict and rights violation, and the likely influence of tribal justice processes. Accurate and reliable data in these areas will facilitate more effective targeting of assistance, allow for vulnerability considerations to be integrated into programming, and promote the development of evidence-based policies, planning processes and interventions geared towards sustainable transition. Moreover, a coherent understanding of these issues will mitigate the risk of secondary disputes arising in the stabilisation and reconstruction phases with a view to safeguarding against longer-term political unrest

Activity	Outcome	Indicators
1. Mapping of the justice, security and property rights landscape in pre-conflict Syria focusing on post-transition flashpoint issues.  2. Key stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions with refugees in host communities in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan  3. High level workshop targeting policy-makers, justice sector employees, and civil society organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Findings inform contingency planning and programming in post-conflict Syria.</li> <li>• Improved analysis and understanding of potential HLP and access to justice issues in post-conflict Syria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome of peer review</li> <li>• Contingency planning reflects key issues of concern.</li> </ul>