

## **Shifting from war to peace economies**

### **Abstract**

During the recent 8 years of imposed war on the country, Syrian government has been applying the principles of war economy in order to adapt with the new situation. However, in light of the emerging end of the crisis, and the restoration of most territories that were controlled by terrorist armed groups, the current study was written to chart out the way for shifting from war economy to peace economy, particularly in the field of agriculture. The study adopts the improvement of GDP agriculture along time as an indicator for evaluating the efficiency of reconstruction and rehabilitating agricultural policy. Accordingly, it considers that the faster GDP agriculture restores its pre-war levels, the more applied policies are successful and fruitful, and vice versa. Furthermore, the study develops a theoretical model that includes all factors which likely influence GDP agriculture, including investments - a variable that factually reflects the success of reconstruction policy. The study also develops 3 scenarios for investment in future, namely an optimistic scenario, a neutral scenario, and a pessimistic scenario. Subsequently, for each scenario, it estimates GDP agriculture value, and divides it on the value of GDP agriculture that would have been achieved in case the crisis didn't happen. The analysis reveals that this share would not exceed 66% in 2023 in case of pessimistic scenario; this means that the policies to be applied in this scenario would not be sufficiently efficient. Identically, GDP agriculture share would be more than 150% in case of neutral scenario, indicating that reconstruction policies to be considered in this scenario would be efficient and successful. The share, however, would exceed 200% in case of optimistic scenario, which would be an exceptional success for reconstruction policy. The study concludes with recommendations to modify some governmental policies that have been applied during the war period, focusing particularly on activating agricultural support, and tackling environmental consequences of the crisis, besides rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources in order to reuse them sustainably so as to convert natural endowment into real motive for reconstruction and development, which would ultimately increase population welfare. It also suggests transforming Syria (on the long run) from a country that depends – up to extent – on others in securing its agricultural inputs to a country that depends on its own resources in obtaining its requirements for agricultural and food production.