

# The SYRIAN MIGRATION CRISIS

## Shaping a developmental Post-Conflict Model

IMF/WB Group Spring Meeting Civil Society Policy Forum  
April 14, 2016

**A common Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian Approach**



**Samir AITA**

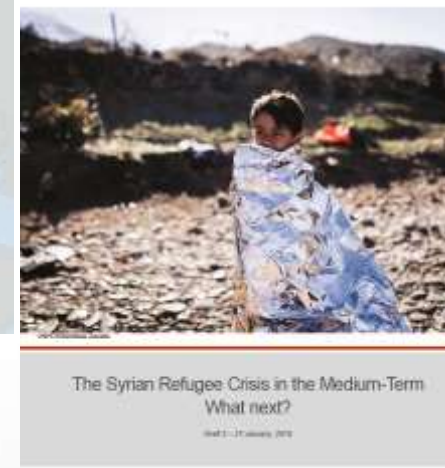
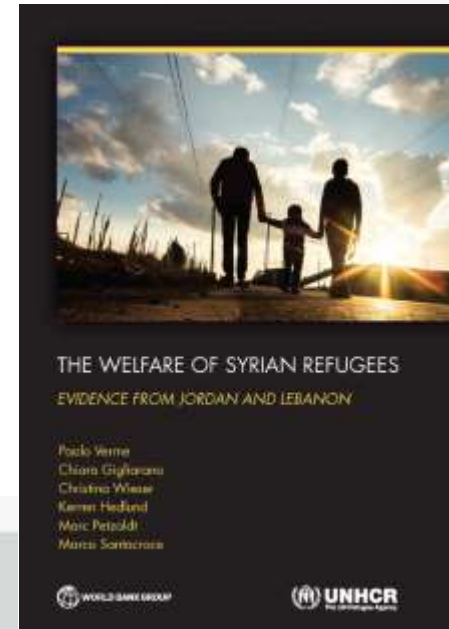
*Chair, Cercle des Economistes Arabes*

# A major unprecedented crisis... little analysis

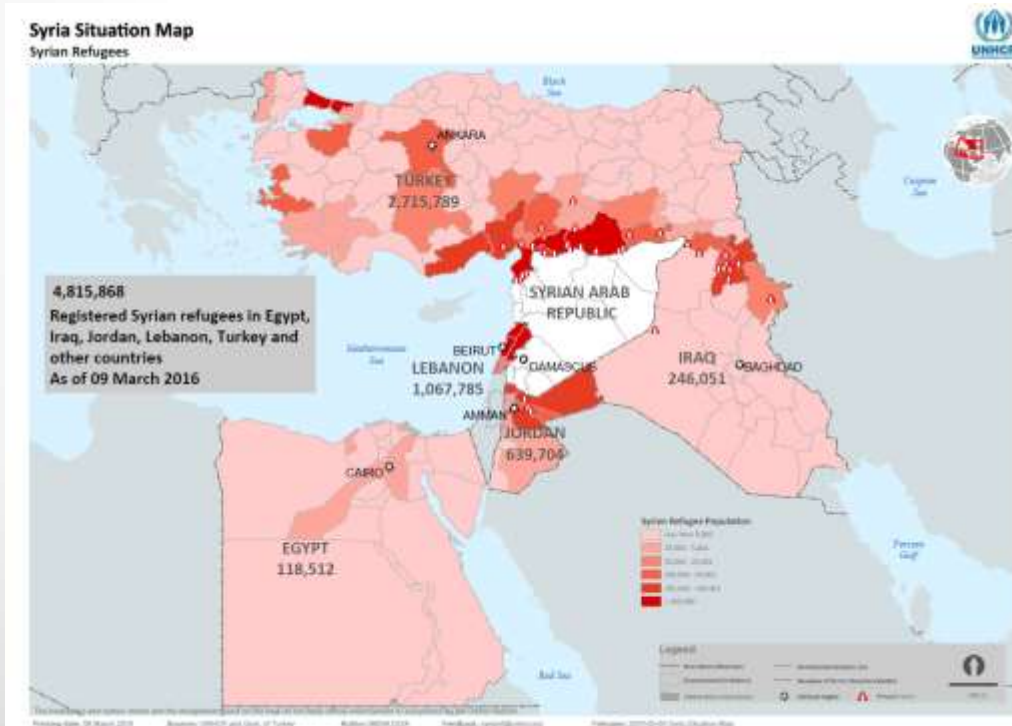
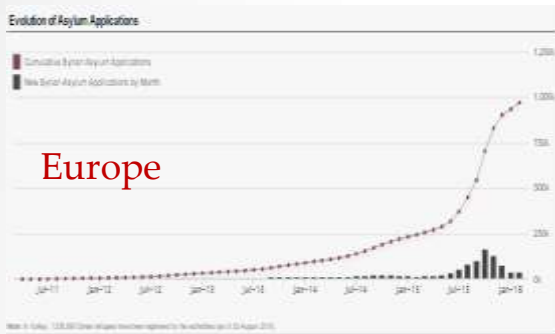
- **11 million persons displaced, half of Syrian population (end of 2015)**
  - 4.4 million registered refugees
  - 1.5 million abroad not registered UNHCR
  - 5 million IDP's
  - > 400,000 killed
  - >.... Injured, disabled, ....
  - 970,000 asylum application to Europe (1/3)

**Late and insufficient  
To derive policies**

- **Drawing policies???**
  - From 2013-2014 data?
  - While humanitarian aid is overwhelmed and “far from reaching manageable equilibrium”

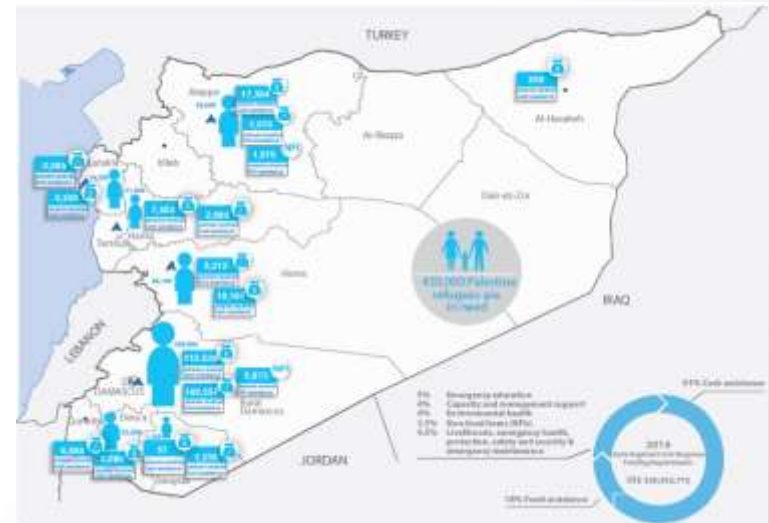


# Where are the Syrian Refugees?



# The data and the welfare

- **UNHCR/World Bank report**
  - **Mainly on Jordan data**
  - **Little data on Lebanon**
  - **Why Jordan & Lebanon only?**
  - **Lack of transparency on Turkey data**
  - **No Iraq**
  - **No Egypt**
  - **Where are the Palestinians refugees?**
- **Poverty and welfare?**
  - **No proper household income / spending surveys**
  - **Poverty line << local poverty**
  - **Jordanian camps not considered !?**



# The initial situation of refugees

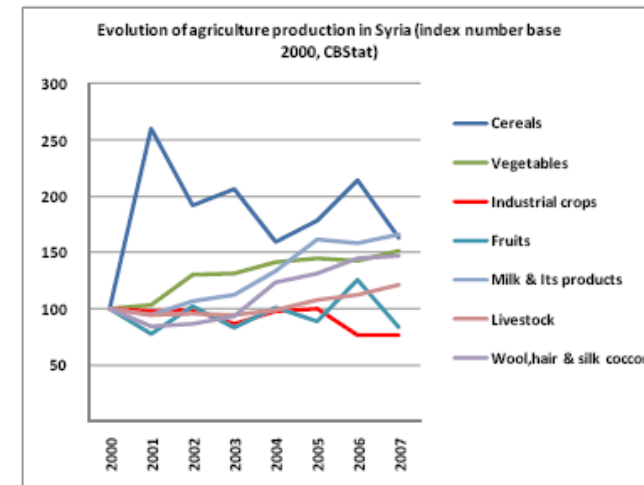
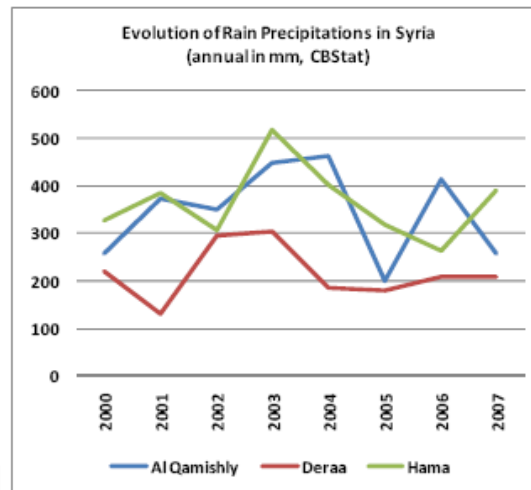
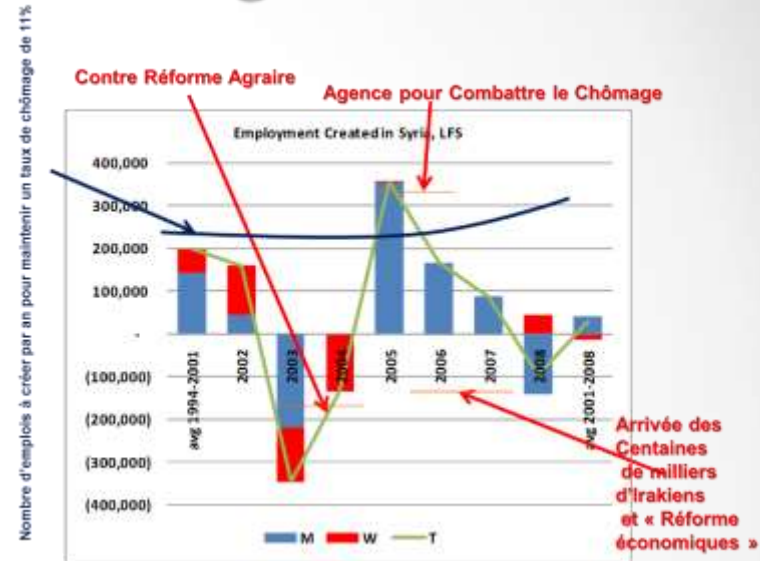
- **The shocks on Syrian population**

- 2003-2004 economic policies in agriculture
- 2006-2007 arrival of 1,5 M Iraqis
- 2007-2008 drought

- **Informal employment**

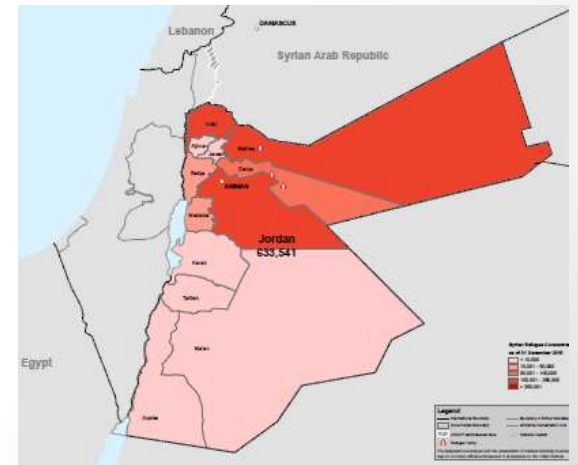
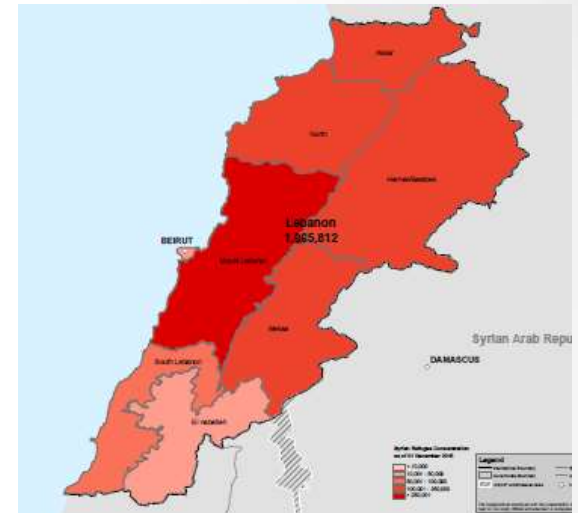
- 80% of total (outside State & agric.)
- 105 k created/year
- 250k needed/year
- 40% agric. Lost
- Youth >> unemployment
- Lost of social protection
- Crony capitalism,
- Growing inequalities

- **Drought or Economic policies ?**



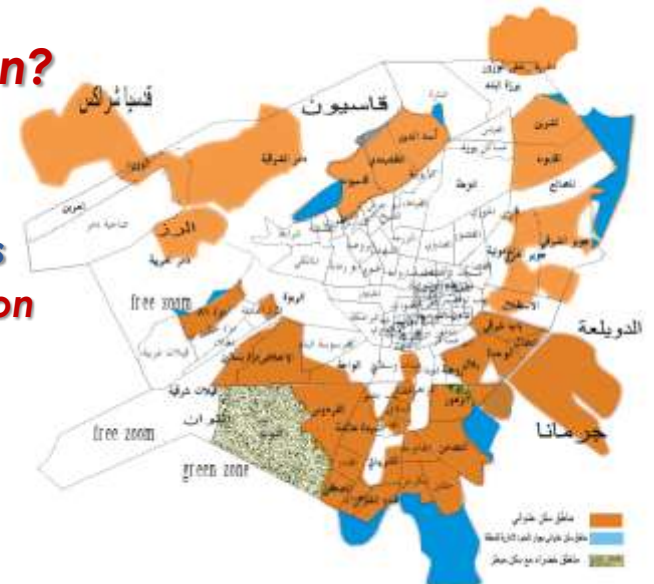
# The impact of Refugees on hosting communities

- **Circular migration work**
  - **Lebanon**
    - > 300 k in Lebanon
    - Part brought their families
    - → 1.5 million ?
  - **Jordan**
    - ? Same families
    - ½ workers were already
- **The major issue is for skilled workers**
  - **Doctors, engineers**
  - **Financial sanctions on Syrians**
- **Discuss vulnerable non working families separately**
- **Informal work in hosting communities**
- **Positive effect of aid on hosting economies**
  - **+1.3% GDP growth in Lebanon**
  - **+0.7% GDP growth in Jordan**
  - **But economies were hardly hit in 2011**
    - As Syria was main trade partner**
    - And even before**



# Shaping a developmental post-conflict model

- **Recovery and Reconstruction of Syria**
  - Human, material and intangible destructions,
  - Mechanisms of economy dismantled
  - Warlords economy
- **Return of refugees hindered**
  - Where to return to? Informal cities? Destroyed !!
  - What to do for work?
  - What if skilled workers don't return?
- **Who will manage the “smooth” return ?**
- **Who will manage recovery & reconstruction?**
- **Needs recovery of Lebanon and Jordan**
  - Hosting areas disadvantaged before crisis
  - Lack of infrastructures, public services, inequalities
  - While companies are preparing Syria reconstruction
  - While business communities are linked
  - While banking systems are linked



# *Assessing the Syrian situation*



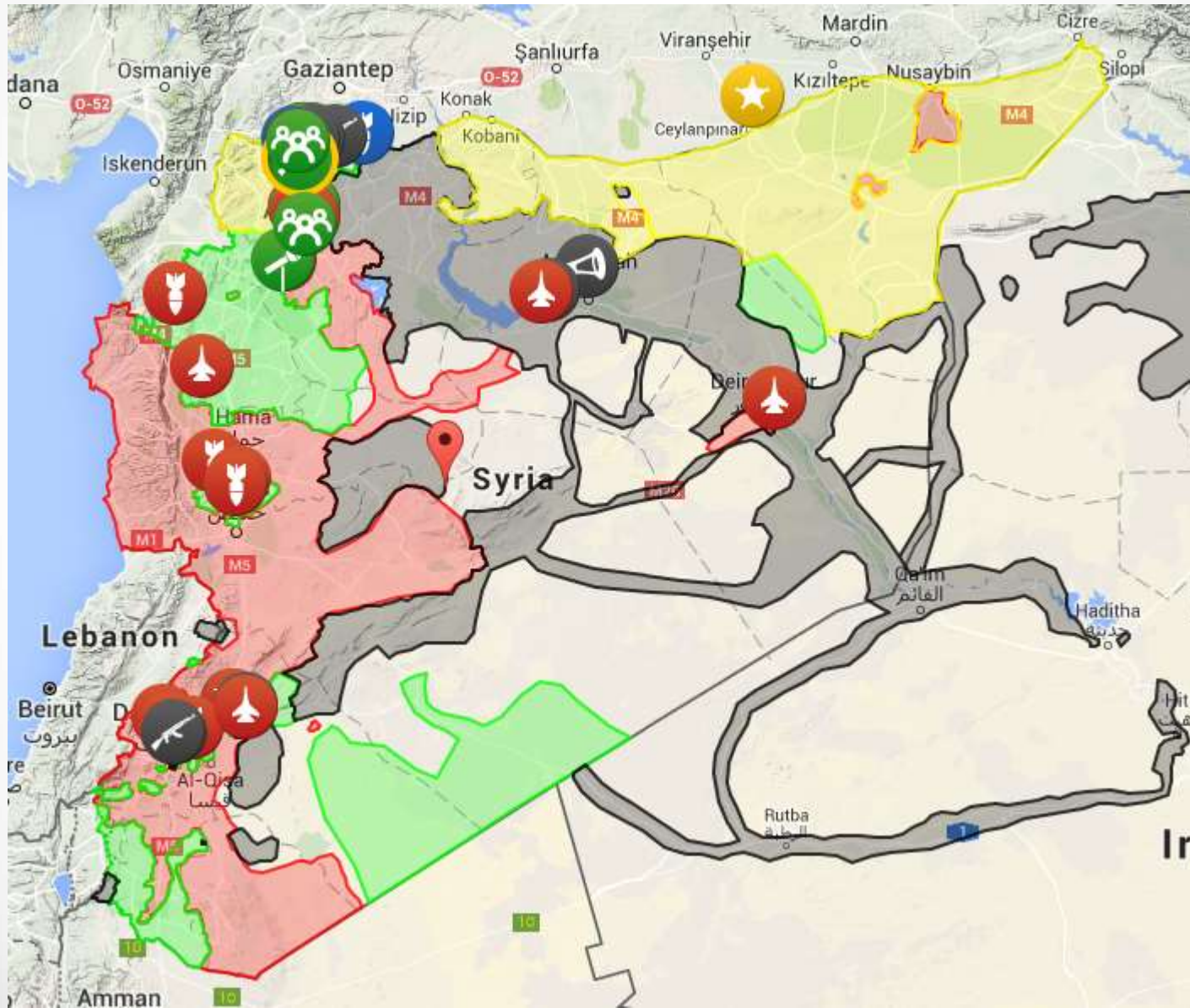
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Syrian Centre for  
Policy  
Research

**Confronting fragmentation!**

**Impact of Syria Crisis Report 2015**



# How the conflict shall be resolved?



# The proposed framework

- 1. Coping NOW with the development challenges of hosting regions**
  - Infrastructures, public services, education, health
  - Business development environment, for future regional partnership (ex. Electricity)
- 2. Creating incentives for the return of the refugees**
  - Especially the skilled: health, engineers, SME's
  - Package to start business
- 3. Lift general financial sanctions on Syrians NOW**
- 4. Think DEVELOPMENT regionally**
  - A Mashreq approach
  - A region to region intra-country approach
- 5. Create a decent employment environment**
  - Legalize work in neighboring countries, to fix skills in neighboring countries
  - To fix the skills in the region
- 6. Create positive expectations for post-conflict development**
  - Marshall Plan or NEW DEAL
- 7. Think local, act global**