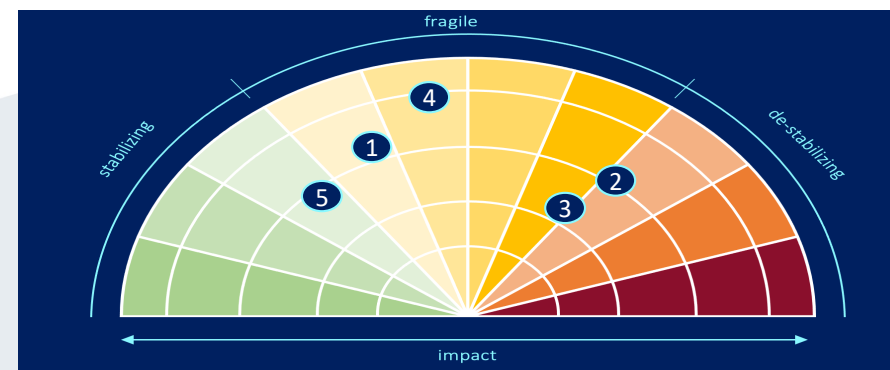


# Syria Update

28 July 2025  
ICOD: 27/07/2025

Hot Spot	Syria
Key Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is visible recognition of the STG by the IC, signaling further engagement and integration.</li> <li>Sanction reliefs increased the likelihood for economic restructuring, attracting increasingly more countries to invest</li> <li>The US plans to withdraw its military presence, handing over counter terrorism efforts to the STG, though there are ongoing hesitations, due to the ISR's resistance and proxification efforts</li> <li>The PKK/YPG/SDF integration to the STG delays. The form of integration with/without dissolution remains as the critical point, despite the agreement of March 10.</li> <li>There are some doubts about the inclusiveness and comprehensive representation of the ethnic and religious groups, despite the STG reiterates its commitment to comprehensive government.</li> <li>ISR disruptive actions risks renewed instability. The occupation in southern SYR, proxification of Druzes and PKK/YPG/SDF, reckless military actions across SYR. However, its dedication to weak and fragmented SYR might backfire with resurgence of IRN-aligned proxies.</li> </ul>
What to Monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International engagement and recognition of the STG,</li> <li>The US positioning with regards to PKK/YPG and the level of support, and the future of PKK/YPG in Syria, after the call</li> <li>The level of consolidation of STG and its public approval from different sects and ethnic groups</li> <li>ISR threat perception from STG actions and developments in SYR, as ISR retains disruptive instruments</li> <li>DAESH's attempts to capitalize from the situation and the STG's ability to repel</li> <li>The future of Iranian and Russian presence and influence</li> </ul>
What to Expect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destabilizing attempts from internal and external actors will <i>likely</i> continue either to gain leverage and increase gains or disrupt the pace of consolidation</li> <li>The future of PKK/YPG/SDF will <i>likely</i> be the critical indicator of a unified SYR, though the debates over the scope of integration are still unfolding.</li> <li>ISR will <i>likely</i> leverage the occupied territories to trade-off its support to the PKK/YPG/SDF. ISR <i>likely</i> prefers a fragmented, instable, and weak SYR to leverage its interests and keep its freedom of action in SYR.</li> </ul>



Indicators	Meaning	Status
Internal Cohesion	1 Successful formation of an inclusive government	Fragile, but promising
Economic Recovery	2 Effective reconstruction efforts, with international support easing sanctions.	De-stabilizing, but promising
Humanitarian Improvement	3 Reduction in needs through aid, with UNHCR appeals for returnee support.	De-stabilizing, but promising
Security and Stability	4 No major violence, with integration of armed groups into state institutions	Fragile, but stabilizing in the STG controlled areas
International Engagement and Recognition	5 Positive diplomatic relations with countries resuming missions	Stabilizing

# ISR's Strategy of de-Iranification (ongoing)

28 July 2025  
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Impact: transition to new regional order (Arab-oriented of ISR-oriented?)

Constraint: regional war

Objectives	Policies	Developments	Success	Impact	Constraints
<b>de-proxification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countering Iran's Proxies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iran aligned proxies were degraded, but not eliminated, <i>except Houthis</i></li> </ul>	<b>Largely Achieved</b>	Pressing Restraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Societal support</li> <li>Remaining fighting capacity</li> </ul>
<b>de-capacitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum Pressure 2.0 and sanctions</li> <li>Military Option (ISR)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminating AD systems, gaining air superiority</li> <li>Eliminating BM production and delivery</li> <li>Operation Raising Lion</li> <li>Limited and unknown impact on BMs,</li> </ul>	<b>Partially Achieved</b>	Pressing Restraint Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retaining capability</li> </ul>
<b>de-nuclearization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Strikes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation Raising Lion</li> <li>Operation Midnight hammer (B-2s)</li> <li>Unknown impact, likely not destroyed but delayed</li> </ul>	<b>Partially Achieved</b>	Pressing Restraint Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repercussions, (unintended and unprecedented)</li> </ul>
<b>de-legitimization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information &amp; Influence Operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narrative war 'raising lion'</li> <li>Clandestine networks</li> </ul>	<b>Largely Failed</b>	Prudence Consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Credibility gap of the West</li> </ul>
<b>de-regionalization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional containment through alliances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largely achieved through de-proxification</li> <li>ISR and the US ineffectiveness and disagreements on the future of the region hinder the process</li> </ul>	<b>Largely Achieved</b>	Pressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undermining regional stability</li> </ul>
<b>Regime Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present ISR as the savior of society</li> <li>Return to Shah-period</li> <li>Reintegration of IRN to IC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regime change narrative backfired and consolidated Iran society</li> </ul>	<b>Failed</b>	Regional transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional war</li> </ul>