



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Syrian Arab Republic

Building local resilience
in the Syrian Arab Republic

Project profile



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Beneficiaries

54 600 households

(327 600 people)



Contribution

USD 18 888 242 from the
Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
through the Foreign, Commonwealth
and Development Office (FCDO)



Implementation period

**14 June 2022–
31 March 2025**



Targeted governorates

**Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor,
Hama, Homs, Idleb and
Rural Damascus**



Project code

GCP/SYR/030/UK

Context

The Syrian Arab Republic remains one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies. Thirteen years of conflict have severely disrupted the country's economy and affected the agriculture sector, a key part of the economy, causing at least USD 16 billion worth of losses in production, assets and infrastructure.¹ The unabated deterioration of the economic situation, marked by high inflation, currency depreciation and rising prices of food commodities and agricultural inputs, has diminished Syrians' purchasing power and reduced their ability to meet their immediate food and nutrition needs. Today, a family earning a minimum wage can only afford a fraction of its monthly essential needs.

In addition, challenges in restoring key agricultural infrastructure, lack of fuel and credit for farmers and limited access to and availability of essential agricultural inputs have taken a heavy toll on rural livelihoods and production capacities. This multifaceted crisis, further compounded by multiple domestic and external shocks, has also disproportionately affected those most in need such as women, youth and persons with disabilities. Women, for example, find themselves doubly disadvantaged, with the crisis heightening their vulnerability and barriers such as unequal access to knowledge, technology, finance and training, as well as restrictive laws and social norms around their ownership of land and other assets, limiting their ability to participate and thrive in the agriculture sector.



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The convergence of these factors, especially the deepening of the economic crisis, has driven acute food insecurity in the Syrian Arab Republic to alarming levels. More than half of the population (12.1 million people) are currently acutely food insecure, and an additional 2.9 million are at risk of sliding into hunger. Moreover, the country faces a worrying food security outlook, driven by continued economic decline, localized conflict and assistance cuts.²

Rationale

Investing in local food production by providing rural households with improved access to irrigation, quality seeds and fertilizers, training on context-specific and climate-smart approaches, animal health and artificial insemination services and fodder production support, reduces dependency on humanitarian aid and contributes to strengthening their resilience to withstand future shocks. Furthermore, addressing gender-specific obstacles against women and girls, particularly in the form of their restricted access to and control over assets, resources and services, contributes to the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence and facilitates their participation in agriculture and entrepreneurship activities.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing a multiyear resilience project in six governorates with high levels of food insecurity. The project integrates climate-smart, agriculture-oriented actions with gender-responsive interventions to help vulnerable farming households boost their production, become more resilient to shocks, and improve their food security, nutrition and self-reliance. This set of actions is integrated with social empowerment interventions that seek to promote gender equality and reduce gender based violence.

For beneficiaries who will be targeted with support towards local food production, every USD 1 invested will save at least USD 6 in food-related assistance, and further generate income and build resilience for the targeted households.

The project draws on FAO's long-standing technical and operational experience in implementing past and ongoing resilience projects, such as the 2017–2020 programme funded by the then Department for International Development, and the “Support Smallholders Programme” funded by the European Union and Germany from 2019 to 2022. To maximize its impact, the project also capitalizes on the wealth of lessons learned from implementing similar projects and ensures complementarity with existing resilience interventions in the country.



Objective

Improve the medium to long-term food security and resilience of targeted communities, prioritizing women, young people and persons with disabilities who are in chronic need.

Outcomes

Outcome 1. Increased local production of food and improved supply of affordable food in local markets.

Outcome 2. Improved and regular income for vulnerable adults especially women, young people and persons with disabilities and their dependents.

Outcome 3. Increased resilience to environmental pressures, especially for smallholders.

Outcome 4. Women, men, girls and boys have greater support for gender equity and equality and social cohesion in the family, community and society.

Prioritized interventions

- Rehabilitation of community-managed field irrigation and/or drainage networks in Aleppo and Hama governorates.
- Supporting the production of nutritious local crops through the provision of quality agricultural production inputs and training on context-specific and relevant climate-smart agriculture and other relevant good agricultural practices using the Farmer Field School (FFS) participatory extension approach.
- Supporting livestock production by establishing community-based field veterinary units to provide livestock keepers with veterinary and artificial insemination services and improved livestock management, and enhancing animal feed and fodder production skills through the FFSs.
- Supporting agroprocessing/value addition, market linkages and agri-entrepreneurship and marketing skills strengthening through the NABTA programme (a programme created by FAO specifically for the Syrian context).
- Collecting data on agroclimatic risks and market-related trends to feed early warning systems and disseminate information to farmers in time to take necessary action.
- Integrating economic and social empowerment interventions to reduce violence against women and girls.



Key achievements to date

- Distributed crop production inputs to 613 farming households in Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor and Hama governorates.
- Distributed 2 502 fodder seeds and provided animal health services to 9 070 households and artificial insemination services to 2 044 livestock-keeping households.
- Supported 187 FFSs, benefiting 4 587 farmers.
- Rehabilitated and operationalized one dairy processing unit in Deir-ez-Zor, benefiting 1 600 households.
- Trained 3 785 households on good agricultural practices and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Established 19 community-based field veterinary units in Homs, Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor and Hama, benefiting 11 114 households.

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With the financial support of the
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Note

- 1 FAO. 2017. *Counting the cost: Agriculture in Syria after six years of crisis*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i7081e/i7081e.pdf>
- 2 WFP and FAO. 2023. *Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023 to April 2024 Outlook*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8419en>

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