



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Building Local Resilience in Syria (BLRS) Project

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UK Aid contribution

- BLRS project phase 1 budget: **GBP 15 250 769**
- FAO is targeting **54 600** unique beneficiary households, with a priority for women, youth and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Needs overview

- **12 million** people in Syria are facing food insecurity¹.
- **58 percent** of households borrow money to buy food¹.
- Women-headed households are twice more unable to meet basic needs than men-headed households¹.
- FAO requires **USD 122.6 million** to assist **2.8 million** people in Syria².

¹Syrian Arab Republic: 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

²Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023.

Strategic focus

FAO and the UK Aid have joined efforts to implement the **Building Local Resilience in Syria (BLRS) project**, which integrates a set of climate-smart, agriculture-oriented actions with gender-responsive interventions to help vulnerable farming communities in the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR) boost their production, become resilient to shocks and improve their food and nutrition security conditions and self-reliance.

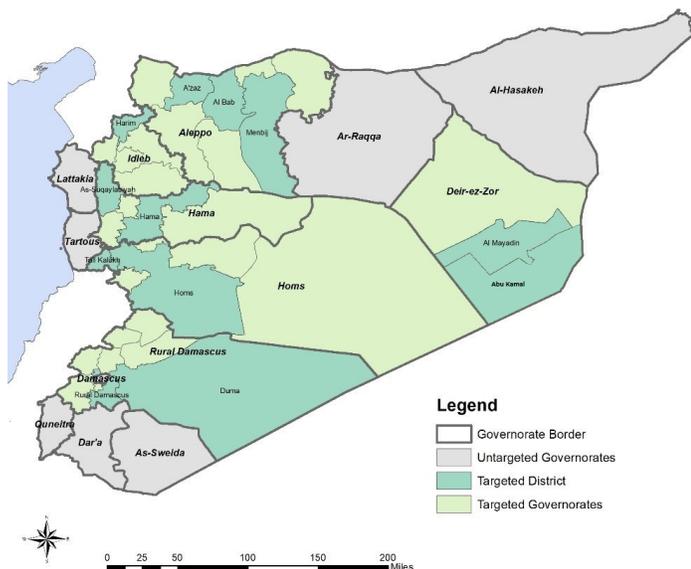
Project objectives

- Increase local production of affordable and nutritious food by enhancing female and male farmers' knowledge and skills to run their farm as a business.
- Tackle gender-based violence against women and girls, and promote social and gender equality.
- Empower women and youth to establish innovative, profitable, and entrepreneurial agri-businesses.
- Increase equitable access to irrigation water by rehabilitating irrigation and drainage networks and support the communities to manage water resources sustainably.

Targeted locations

The BLRS project has a Whole of Syria (WoS) scope, targeting 29 sub-districts across six governorates: Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, and Rural Damascus.

Map: BLRS Project targeted locations at the governorate and district level.



Map source: UN-OCHA, October 2023

Project activities

- **Farmer field schools (FFS) and agricultural training:** Crop, livestock and fodder production support targeting **15 000 households** with a participatory community approach to enhance farmers' skills for effective and climate-resilient agricultural practices.
- **Rehabilitation of field irrigation and/or drainage networks:** FAO will conduct light rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage networks in two locations to allow access to water for **21 000 households**. The Organization will support rural communities to establish Water Users Associations (WUAs) to improve water resource management for fair distribution of water to lands according to the crops' needs and lands' space.
- **Artificial insemination and animal health services campaigns:** Maintaining a good breed of healthy animals is a key objective for FAO's national animal services campaigns, which will target **34 000 households**.
- **Nabta agri-preneurship programme:** FAO's entrepreneurship programme for agriculture, Nabta will be targeting **1 500 young individuals** to boost the leadership role of youth in local agricultural systems.

Project activities

- **Agro-processing units (APUs) and cash/voucher groups:** Cash value vouchers will support the ability of more than **1 350 women** to access equipment and inputs, boosting their food production, and supporting the establishment of food processing units by female leaders in local communities.
- **Dimitra clubs and facilitated gender discussion group series (DGS) sessions:** FAO is targeting **3 000 individuals** in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates to involve the local communities and households in discussions for the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG), and to aid women's and girls' economic empowerment and wellbeing.
- **Climate change adaptation and early warning:** FAO is regularly monitoring and disseminating early warning information to farmers, so that at least **40 000 targeted farmers** are more risk-aware and able to cope with agro-climatic and market-related pressures.

Intended impact

By integrating market-driven, climate-smart agriculture, and gender-responsive resilience building activities, FAO will support crisis-affected families to achieve:

- Improved longer-term food and nutrition security.
- Strengthened resilience to shocks and stresses at individual, household and community levels.
- Stronger social and economic participation of vulnerable groups, especially women.
- Improvement of women and girls' wellbeing, safety, dignity and agency.

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