



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO in the Humanitarian Appeals
2015 mid-year update

FAO in the Humanitarian Appeals

2015 mid-year update

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• *new*

Foreword

In 2015, the world continues to face an unprecedented number of humanitarian crises. Over USD 750 million are required to address the immediate challenges facing agriculture and food security in the countries and regions highlighted in this mid-year review of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) participation in the 2015 humanitarian appeals. Even though agriculture is a source of livelihood for 75 percent of the population in most of the affected countries and the FAO appeal only represents a tiny fraction of the overall humanitarian needs, resource partners' contributions received to date barely cover 20 percent of FAO's appeal. And the needs are bigger than ever.

Most recently, Nepal's devastating earthquakes severely impacted farming families. The deepening food security and nutrition crisis in South Sudan is raising serious concerns and the number of severely food insecure people is expected to escalate from 2.5 million at the beginning of the year to at least 4.6 million by July. The situation is likely to be even worse if the renewed conflict in Greater Upper Nile continues to spiral down.

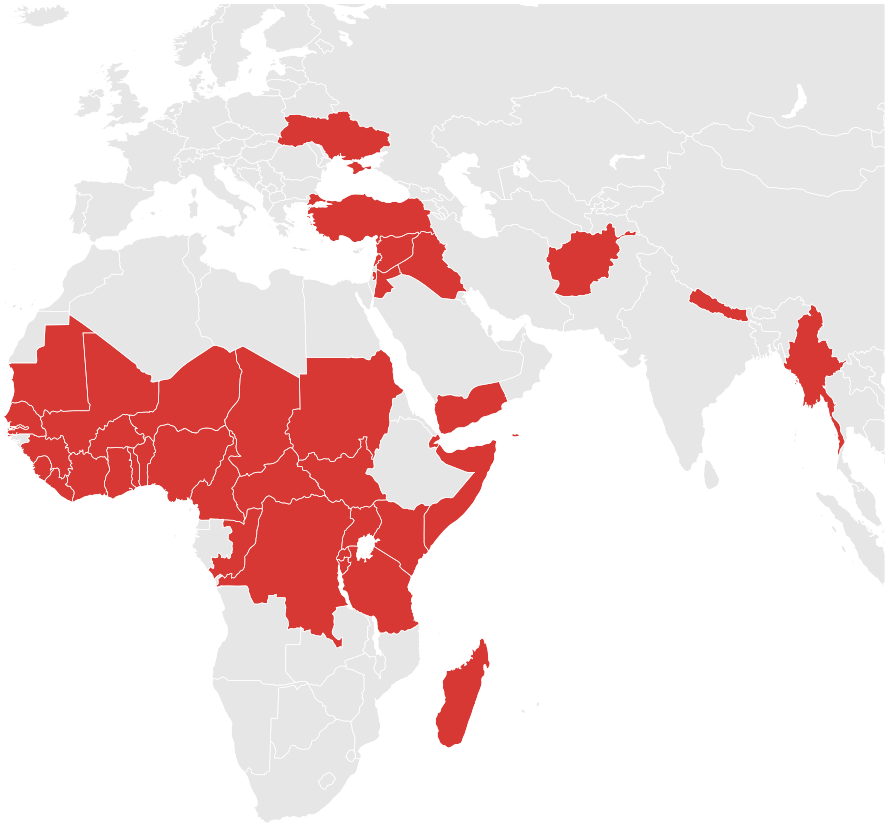
Globally, conflict and protracted crises are further weakening the resilience of families and communities in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sahel, Somalia, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Together these crises account for about 50 percent of FAO's total appeal. Millions of people, many of them food insecure and suffering from malnutrition, are fleeing violence in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria, and now Burundi. Without assets or livelihoods, they mostly depend on humanitarian assistance for their very survival. These displacements have knock-on effects, often destabilizing neighbouring countries and placing increased pressure on already strained service infrastructure and food availability in camps and host communities.

Building resilient livelihoods is an integral part of FAO's agriculture and food security interventions and plays an essential role towards peace building and conflict mitigation. Conflicts mainly affect rural populations, heavily impacting food and agricultural production and smallholder livelihoods. The rehabilitation of agriculture, therefore, has a central role to play in building and consolidating peace while contributing to food security and rural development. FAO draws on the many diverse skills of its vast pool of experts to address these challenges. From day one of the response and relief efforts we start to protect and restore the livelihoods of affected populations, helping them to stay on the land and start producing food for their families and communities, building resilience and laying the foundations for longer-term recovery.

A huge effort is needed to increase the resilience of the agriculture-based livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations to ever increasing threats and crises. Our goal is to preserve livelihoods and dignity and to get people back on their feet. We can do it, but we cannot do it alone. We need your support.

Laurent Thomas
Assistant Director-General
Technical Cooperation

Countries under appeal _____



20% OF FAO
APPEALS
FUNDED
USD 154 million received

605 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

Funding requirements (USD million)

| Appeal | Funding Requirements | Funding Gap |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Afghanistan Strategic Response Plan 2015 | 12.0 | 11.4 |
| • Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan 2015 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Central African Republic Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 | 42.0 | 32.3 |
| Central African Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan 2015 | 5.1 | 3.6 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 | 11.0 | 8.2 |
| Djibouti Strategic Response Plan 2014–2015 | 7.5 | 5.9 |
| • Djibouti Response Plan for Yemen Crisis 2015 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| • Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Madagascar Locust Response Programme 2013–2016 | 39.4 | 7.4 |
| Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 | 8.0 | 7.8 |
| • Nepal Earthquake Flash Appeal Revision 2015 | 23.4 | 20.4 |
| Sahel Regional Strategic Response Plan 2015 | 116.0 | 99.4 |
| Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 | 118.0 | 96.7 |
| South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 | 65.0 | 41.8 |
| South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan 2015 | 18.1 | 16.1 |
| Sudan Strategic Response Plan 2015 | 24.0 | 21.4 |
| Syria Strategic Response Plan 2015 | 59.1 | 50.6 |
| Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2015–2016 | 62.0 | 57.2 |
| • Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan (Revised) 2015 | 5.5 | 4.7 |
| West Africa Ebola Response Programme 2014–2015 | 42.5 | 32.4 |
| • West Africa H5N1 Avian Influenza Response Programme 2015–2016 | 20.0 | 16.7 |
| West Bank and Gaza Strip Strategic Response Plan 2015 | 30.1 | 25.1 |
| Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (Revised) 2014–2015 | 19.0 | 14.2 |

• *new*

Making a difference in 2015

13 000 SHEEP

WORTH USD 4.9 MILLION
PROTECTED FROM
COLD & FROST
IN **THE WEST BANK**



200 000

LIVELIHOOD KITS
DISTRIBUTED
FOR THE ONGOING
PLANTING SEASON
IN **SOUTH SUDAN**

1.6 MILLION

ANIMALS
VACCINATED
IN THE **SAHEL**



5 000 FAMILIES

RECEIVED SEEDS TO
PRODUCE **1 500 TONNES**
OF FOOD AND GENERATE
USD 500 000
IN **UGANDA**



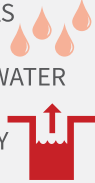
40 000 FAMILIES

RECEIVED
RICE SEEDS
IN TIME FOR THE PLANTING
SEASON IN **NEPAL**



150 COLLAPSIBLE
WATER TANKS

INSTALLED,
PROVIDING WATER
FOR **225 000**
ANIMALS/DAY
IN **SOMALIA**



4 900 TONNES

OF CEREALS &
VEGETABLES
PRODUCED,
ENOUGH TO
FEED **49 500**



PEOPLE FOR
5 MONTHS IN
**THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**



2.5 MILLION+

ANIMALS VACCINATED,
120 900 TREATED
IN **SOUTH SUDAN**



1 000 FAMILIES
PROVIDED WITH
100 KG OF HIGH
QUALITY POTATO
SEEDS IN **UKRAINE**



34 500 FAMILIES ASSISTED

THROUGH *CAISSES DE RÉSILIENCE*
ACTIVITIES IN THE **CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC**



5 200 SYRIAN

REFUGEE
FAMILIES
RECEIVED
1 400 TONNES
OF ANIMAL FEED
IN **IRAQ**



5 000 FARMING

FAMILIES EARNED
ADDITIONAL
INCOME
THROUGH
AQUACULTURE
IN **SIERRA LEONE**



LOCUSTS CONTROLLED ON

600 000+ HECTARES
SINCE SEPTEMBER 2014
IN **MADAGASCAR**



14 500

FAMILIES
RECEIVED
ENOUGH
STAPLE
CROP
SEEDS TO
PRODUCE
10 000
TONNES OF
FOOD
IN **CHAD**



300 MICROGARDENS

ESTABLISHED IN REFUGEE
CAMPS, BENEFITING
1 500 PEOPLE IN **DJIBOUTI**



3.7 MILLION+

ANIMALS
TREATED AGAINST
PARASITES,
BENEFITING **47 000+**
LIVESTOCK-DEPENDENT
FAMILIES IN **SYRIA**



1 250 DISPLACED AND HOST
FAMILIES RECEIVED WHEAT SEED,
CONTRIBUTING TO THE FOOD
RATION OF **8 000** PEOPLE
FOR ONE YEAR IN **YEMEN**



300 000
ANIMALS
VACCINATED
AGAINST
TRANS-
BOUNDARY
DISEASES
IN **YEMEN**



3 900 TONNES
OF CROP SEEDS
PROCURED
IN THE
**CENTRAL
AFRICAN
REPUBLIC**



1 500
FAMILIES
RECEIVED
14 400
FEMALE
GOATS,
PRODUCING
ENOUGH
MILK IN ONE
DAY TO FEED
30 000
CHILDREN IN
SOMALIA



26 600 FAMILIES BENEFITED
FROM **CASH-FOR-WORK**
ACTIVITIES (*REHABILITATION
OF IRRIGATION CANALS, WATER
CATCHMENTS, SOIL BONDS
& FEEDER ROADS*)
IN **SOMALIA**



5 700+ FAMILIES RECEIVED VEGETABLE PACKAGES, INCREASING ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD FOR
34 500 PEOPLE IN **SYRIA**



9 600 FAMILIES PRODUCED
STAPLE CROPS AND
VEGETABLES VALUED AT
USD 900 000 IN **SUDAN**



678 000
PEOPLE
RECEIVED
AGRI-
CULTURAL
SUPPORT IN
THE **SAHEL**



6 200 HECTARES
BEING PLANTED
WITH SORGHUM,
ENOUGH TO FEED
248 400 PEOPLE
FOR 3 MONTHS
IN **SUDAN**



200 HECTARES OF
VEGETABLE
GARDENS
REHABILITATED
BY **2 000** YOUTHS
THROUGH CASH-
FOR-WORK
IN **GUINEA**



11 900 TONNES
OF WINTER
WHEAT TO BE
HARVESTED
IN 2015, ENOUGH
TO FEED
60 100 PEOPLE
FOR **1 YEAR** IN
AFGHANISTAN



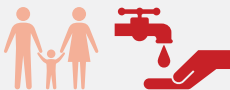
5 250 EBOLA-AFFECTED FARMERS
SUPPORTED TO PRODUCE
LOWLAND RICE AND **GENERATE
INCOME** IN **LIBERIA**



105 100 TONNES OF
CEREALS AND PULSES
PRODUCED BY
80 300 FAMILIES
IN THE **SAHEL**



276 CISTERNS
REHABILITATED
OR CONSTRUCTED
IN THE **WEST BANK**,
PROVIDING
546 FAMILIES
WITH WATER
WORTH
USD 661 000



1 150 HERDERS
RECEIVED DROUGHT-
TOLERANT SEEDS FOR
FODDER AND HAY
PRODUCTION IN **GAZA**



1 300+ TONNES OF CROP
SEEDS PURCHASED FROM
LOCAL FARMERS FOR
DISTRIBUTION TO
VULNERABLE FARMING
FAMILIES IN **SOUTH SUDAN**



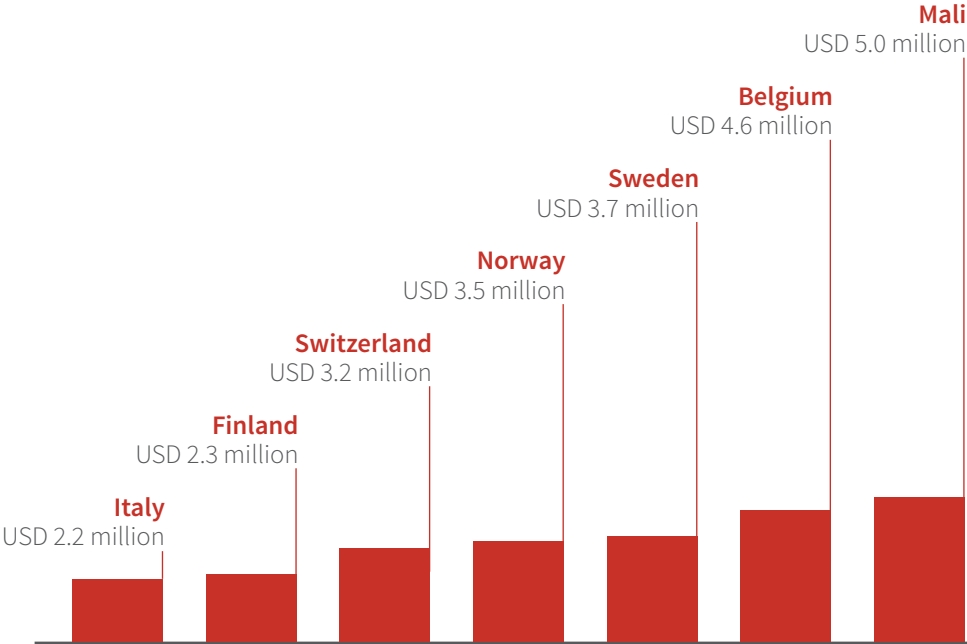
PROVISION OF LIVESTOCK
AND NUTRITION
TRAINING, BENEFITING
5 000 PEOPLE IN
RAKHINE STATE IN
MYANMAR



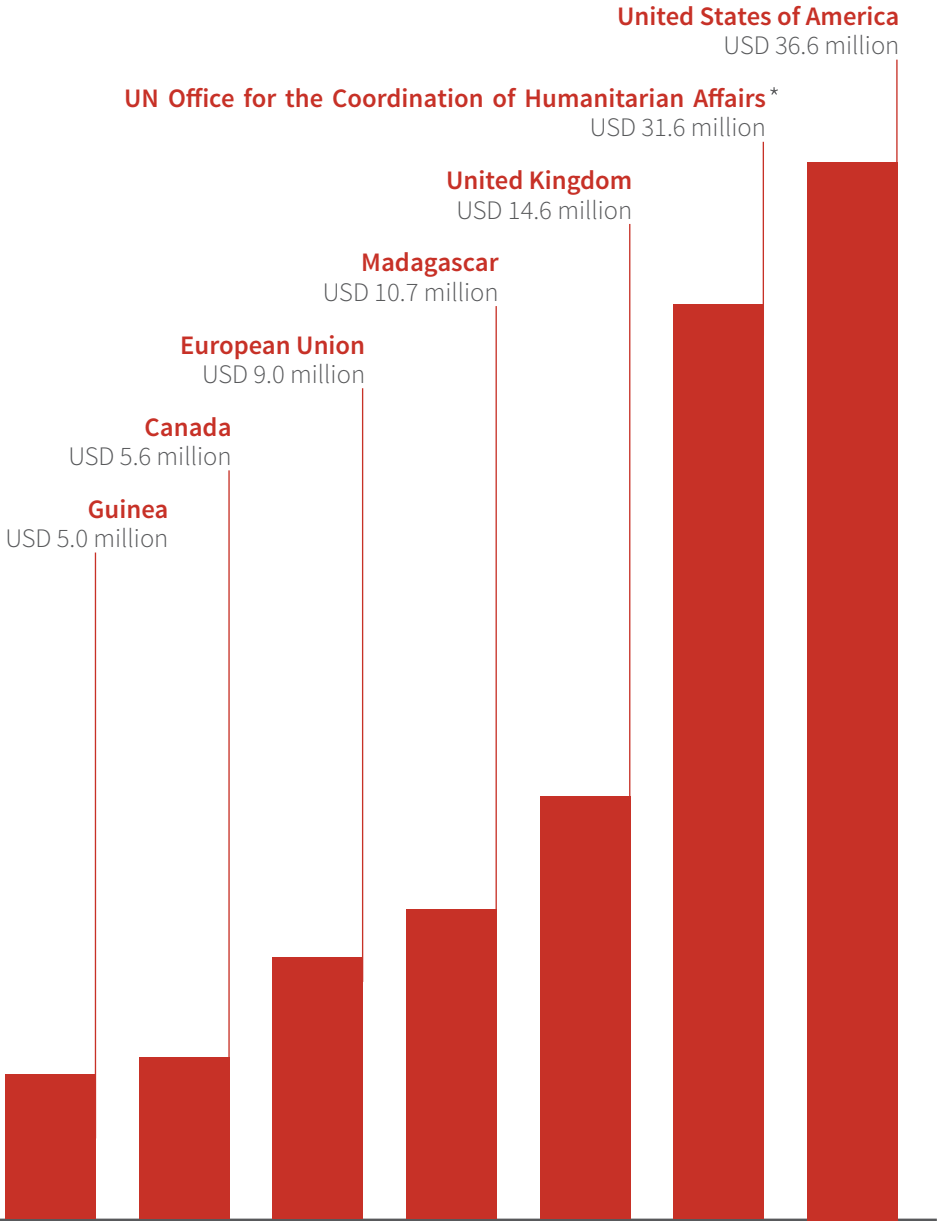
2 MILLION VACCINE
DOSES BENEFITED
1 MILLION LIVESTOCK
BELONGING TO
83 200 FAMILIES
IN **SUDAN**



FAO 2015 appeals top resource partners _____



Source: FAO



* Includes contributions from the following funding sources: Central Emergency Response Fund, Common Humanitarian Fund for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Common Fund for Humanitarian Action in Sudan, Common Humanitarian Fund for Somalia, Common Humanitarian Fund for South Sudan, Syria Emergency Response Fund and Yemen Emergency Response Fund.

FAO in the Humanitarian Appeals

2015 Mid-Year Update

Afghanistan

Conflict and natural disasters continue to threaten the food security of Afghanistan's poorest, most vulnerable populations. Increased internal conflict has displaced an estimated 20 000 people in the first half of 2015 – the majority of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Further displacement is expected in the coming months following the start of the Taliban's spring offensive. Flooding, landslides, avalanches and heavy rain and snow have already affected 6 690 families in 16 provinces, damaging homes, irrigation canals and agricultural land.

Water availability (snow-water equivalent) remains low across southern and central Afghanistan, disrupting regular irrigation and negatively impacting the imminent harvest. Despite near-average rainfall in parts of the country during the wet season (October–May), crops in other areas have been devastated by a combination of poor rainfall and pests and diseases. These shocks have deprived farmers of valuable assets needed to feed their families and generate income, pushing them closer to severe levels of food insecurity. Rebuilding livelihoods while protecting them against further shocks is critical to ensuring that affected families have access to sufficient, nutritious food.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide wheat seeds and fertilizers for the September–December 2015 planting season, and animal feed and de-wormers to sustain livestock throughout the winter.
- Distribute input packages to diversify livelihoods of returnees and host communities (fish pond construction, greenhouse and nursery management, livestock rearing, beekeeping, mushroom production and poultry production).
- Conduct a post-harvest Seasonal Food Security Assessment in August–October 2015 and develop a five-year strategy to strengthen the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis and governance structure in Afghanistan.



5% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



11.4 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 100 000 PEOPLE

► **USD 650 000** received thanks to:

Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities and United States of America

Since April 2015, rising sociopolitical tensions and related insecurity have caused nearly 100 000 Burundians to flee to neighbouring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. This figure may reach 200 000 by the end of September 2015 should election-related violence intensify. Approximately 87 percent of refugees rely on humanitarian assistance in camps along the border with Burundi, while the remainder are living with host families, mainly in rural areas.

The majority of refugees are food insecure and suffering from chronic malnutrition when they arrive in receiving countries, placing increased pressure on already strained service infrastructures and food availability in camps and host communities. In order to prevent the rapid depletion of resources and foster positive relationships among refugees and host communities, it is essential to provide support for the establishment of livelihood opportunities, including small-scale vegetable and crop production, as well as protecting livestock residing in camps and surrounding communities. These activities will allow refugees to generate income that can be used to cover urgent needs and other household expenses, while additionally benefiting the host communities. With growing numbers of Burundian refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries, support must focus on facilitating access to agricultural livelihood opportunities to improve the resilience of both refugees and host communities.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Distribute seeds and tools. Provide training to vulnerable households on agricultural techniques and good nutritional practices. Income-generating activities for women. Protect livestock health and production. Conduct food security needs assessments.
- **Rwanda:** Identify appropriate land and establish kitchen gardens in camps. Distribute seeds and tools. Mitigate risks of major transboundary animal diseases.
- **Tanzania:** Establish kitchen gardens. Distribute agricultural and fish farming kits. Income-generating activities for women. Provide training on junior farmer field schools and life skill methodology. Conduct food security needs assessments.

 **0%** OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED

 **5.1** USD
MILLION
REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 100 000 PEOPLE

Central African Republic

In the Central African Republic a grave food security situation persists: 2.7 million people still depend on humanitarian assistance to survive, 1.5 million are food insecure and more than 20 percent of the population is displaced. Despite the agreement (May 2015) between the two main militia groups to start the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the security situation remains volatile.

Conflict has had a massive impact on food security and the agriculture sector. According to the post-harvest evaluation (FAO/World Food Programme, October 2014), crop and vegetable production dropped by 58 percent in 2014. The livestock population has decreased by 77 percent, while the fisheries sector contracted by 40 percent. The collapse of the agriculture sector continues to impact food security and nutrition.

The violence, looting, destruction and repeated displacement have affected industries as a whole, from production to processing and marketing. Ensuring agricultural and livestock production is critical to avoid population movement, which will increase tensions across the country. It is essential to improve dialogue between livestock keepers and farmers by enhancing prevention mechanisms and existing resolution methods to contribute to reduce the risks of transhumance-related conflicts. It is crucial to strengthen food production and support farmers during the planting season, from April to September.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Distribute crop seeds and tools.
- Support livestock production through veterinary input distribution.
- Develop income-generating activities for women and youth to restore their livelihoods.



TO ASSIST **921 500** PEOPLE

► **USD 9.7 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, Canada, Italy, United Kingdom, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Central African Republic Regional _____

Since February 2015, due to the security and political situation, an additional 60 000 Central Africans have fled to neighbouring countries, including Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The regional instability is impacting the livelihoods of vulnerable households and straining limited resources in existing refugee sites and host communities. In Chad, according to the *Cadre harmonisé* analysis (March 2015), over 660 000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance, and an additional 2.7 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity. In the southern part of the country, the planting season has started, as above-average rainfall has been recorded.

In the coming months, it is essential to continue to provide host communities and refugees with the necessary agricultural and livelihood support in order for them to produce their own food and prevent further deterioration of already limited resources.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- **Chad**
Provide goats and livestock feed to vulnerable households (host communities, refugees and returnees). Distribute fruit and vegetable seeds. Establish savings and loan schemes for farmers' groups (*caisses de résilience* approach).
- **The Congo**
Distribute agricultural and fisheries inputs.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Distribute agricultural inputs (cowpea, groundnut, maize, rice and vegetable seeds). Monitor post-distribution and post-harvest impact. Provide training on improved agricultural techniques and good nutritional practices.



29% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED

► **USD 1.5 million** received thanks to:

European Union and Finland



3.6 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 90 000 PEOPLE

Democratic Republic of the Congo

One in ten people – 6.5 million – are still food insecure in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Population displacements along the border with Burundi (Burundian refugees and Congolese returnees) and the Central African Republic, as well as conflicts with armed groups in the eastern regions, continue to be of concern and exacerbate the level of food insecurity of already vulnerable Congolese. There is indeed a risk of overlap of the crisis linked to the arrival of Burundians seeking asylum to that linked to internal population movements (since January, the number of internally displaced people has increased to 100 000) and poverty, which could increase pressure on the livelihoods of host communities.

Floods have destroyed cultivated fields and harvests in some portions of the country (Bas-Congo, South Kivu, Katanga and Province Orientale). The first semester of 2015 was also marked by animal diseases (such as *peste des petits ruminants*, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia and epizootic ulcerative syndrome – a fungal disease of cultured and wild fish), causing losses for the most vulnerable farmers (Equateur, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Occidental, Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu and Province Orientale).

In a context of widespread poverty and structural issues of the agricultural sector, the persistence of armed conflicts in the eastern region, natural disasters and animal diseases are likely to continue to impact the food security of the population. Congolese need immediate support to restore their livelihoods and build their resilience.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide quality seeds (cereals and vegetable) and tools to vulnerable households before the main rainy season (September–October).
- Vaccinate 1.3 million livestock against animal diseases.
- Support and reinforce the Food Security Cluster and coordination activities (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, price monitoring).



► **USD 2.8 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, France and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

TO ASSIST 351 000 PEOPLE

Djibouti

Food insecurity is expected to deepen across Djibouti for the remainder of 2015 following two successive poor rainy seasons (October to February and March to May). While some areas may see small improvements following the onset of the inland *Karan/Karma* rains in August, Obock region and southeastern areas face declining food security with an usually severe June to September lean season. An influx of people fleeing the escalating conflict in Yemen since March 2015 has placed further pressure on already stretched social services, deteriorating natural resources and a weak economy. Seasonal rises in food prices have been exacerbated by the swelling population, creating serious concerns about food access in a country where most households spend over three-quarters of their income on food.

Djibouti's pastoralists are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Poor pastoral households have seen their livestock numbers fall significantly and their coping capacities erode following years of drought conditions. An accelerated decline in rangeland resources – water, pasture and browse – in the second half of 2015 is markedly affecting livestock body condition, health and productivity in Obock region and the southeast. Milk production is already lower than seasonal averages and is insufficient to meet the needs of children and their families, affecting the nutritional status of poor households. Recent upsurges in livestock diseases, including contagious bovine and caprine pleuropneumonia, further threaten pastoral livelihoods.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Distribute inputs to support vegetable, forage, milk and meat production among agropastoralists and fisheries activities among host and refugee communities.
- Create safe sites for water points and shelter of livestock belonging to host and refugee communities.
- Identify and promote innovative, women-led income-generating activities based on food production and processing.



21% OF 2014–2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



5.9 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

► **USD 1.6 million** received thanks to:

Sweden and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

TO ASSIST 86 303 PEOPLE

Djibouti response plan for Yemen crisis • NEW

The intensifying conflict in Yemen since March 2015 has displaced an estimated 300 000 people, an increasing number of whom are fleeing to neighbouring countries. By the end of May, almost 13 000 people had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen – many are returning Djiboutians and third country nationals with no means to support themselves or their families.

Despite high levels of poverty and limited resources, Djibouti has a long history in hosting refugees, particularly those escaping conflict in the Horn of Africa region (Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia). Some 15 000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, currently reside in Djibouti. Thousands of migrants, who pass through the country in search of employment and income in the Gulf States, have become stranded. Within six months, up to 15 000 people are expected to have arrived from Yemen in search of safety.

The country's capacity to cope with this new influx is being rapidly stretched. With food insecurity affecting about a third of the population, the national unemployment rate at 48 percent – up to 60 percent in some areas – and household vulnerability high following six years of long-term drought conditions, it is crucial that both host communities and newly arriving refugees receive support to produce food and generate income. The envisaged life-saving interventions should primarily target women-headed households.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2015

- Distribute agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, small livestock and tools) to refugee and host communities to rapidly increase food production, availability and access.
- Support fishing and fish processing activities for refugee and host communities.

 **0%** OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED

 **1.2** USD
MILLION
REQUIRED
TO ASSIST 10 050 PEOPLE

An estimated 4.4 million people require food security assistance across Iraq, up from 2.8 million in late 2014. Nearly 3 million people have been internally displaced since fighting escalated in January 2014. These people are experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity, and straining the limited resources of their host communities. Much of Iraq's cereal belt remains under the control of armed groups, severely restricting food production and access. Road closures are disrupting supply lines, causing food price rises and shortages of fresh produce on local markets, particularly fruit, meat, eggs and dairy products.

In the last six months, farmers and herders cited their greatest household expenditure as agricultural inputs, which were previously subsidized by the government. The high cost and low availability of farm inputs, combined with insecurity, damaged assets, insufficient water supply, disrupted veterinary services and consequent decline in production are driving farming families into debt, with many abandoning their farms and animals. Where food production is possible, the lack of market access and damaged storage facilities result in post-harvest losses and, in turn, lost food and income. Many displaced people wish to return home to newly liberated areas in Ninewa, Kirkuk and Diyala. They will need support to rebuild their livelihood assets and markets.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Distribute wheat seeds and fertilizers for the October/November winter planting season.
- Provide agricultural inputs and equipment to vulnerable returnees in recently liberated areas.
- Restock livestock (small ruminants) and provide animal feed, particularly among women.

 **0%** OF 2015*
APPEAL
FUNDED

 **25** USD
MILLION
REQUIRED
TO ASSIST 312 000 PEOPLE

* The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 was issued on 4 June, covering the period from July to December 2015

Madagascar Locust

Madagascar continues to face a locust plague which threatens the livelihoods and food security of 13 million people.

In addition, since early 2015, drought has affected the main agricultural campaign in Southern Madagascar – affecting crops but also depleting water supply for human consumption and livestock. Prolonged floods also caused heavy damages to crops in the Highlands, including Antananarivo, the capital city. The main harvest (May 2015) is predicted to be well below average for a high number of households. In March 2015, a Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster assessment estimated that, in addition to the 230 000 people classified as food insecure, 580 000 people are severely food insecure.

Thanks to large-scale anti-locust operations since October 2013, the dynamics of the ongoing locust plague were successfully halted during the first campaign (2013/14). The current second campaign (2014/15) is accompanying the decline of this plague by further reducing the number and size of the locust infestations as well as the extension of the infested areas. All Programme activities have been implemented while protecting crops and pastures.

To return to a locust recession situation, it is essential to implement the last campaign of the Three-year Programme (2013–2016). An additional USD 7.4 million is urgently needed to avoid the worsening of the locust situation, as well as to protect livelihoods and support the agricultural recovery of the most vulnerable households.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Pursue large-scale aerial survey and control operations until the end of the Programme (2014/15 and 2015/16 campaigns).

 **81%** OF 2013–2016
PROGRAMME
FUNDED

 **7.4** USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED
TO ASSIST 13 000 000 PEOPLE

► **USD 32 million** received thanks to:

Austria, Belgium, European Union, FAO, France, Italy, Japan, Madagascar (World Bank and IFAD loans and contribution from Turkey), Norway, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America. Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania contributed pesticides (triangulation)

Myanmar

Humanitarian needs have increased since the beginning of 2015, despite the signing of a historic draft ceasefire agreement between Myanmar's government and 16 ethnic armed groups in March. Fighting and displacement persist in parts of Kachin and Northern Shan states; new conflict endangers lives in Kokang Self-Administered Region; and vulnerable groups continue to live and migrate under life-threatening conditions. At the same time, 2015 afforded the opportunity for many internally displaced people to return home, including 1 500 families from Rakhine with more expected to follow.

Supporting agriculture-based livelihoods is a key humanitarian priority for the remainder of 2015. Agriculture employs two-thirds of Myanmar's people and is essential to the sustainable return of displaced populations. Response in the agriculture sector, however, is severely underfunded. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan first quarterly report of 2015, only 6 percent of beneficiaries targeted in Rakhine could be supported for this rainy season. An outbreak of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza in the poultry production zone of Monywa, Kayah region, further threatened livelihoods this year, resulting in the loss of more than 100 000 chickens and 300 000 quails.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Support internally displaced people returning to their places of origin through vegetable gardening, animal restocking and rice seed distributions.
- Support sustainable access to alternative sources of energy for cooking in internally displaced people camps.



3% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



7.8 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

► **USD 0.2 million** received thanks to:

France

Nepal's devastating earthquakes of 25 April and 12 May 2015 struck just as farmers were harvesting wheat, planting maize and approaching the rice sowing season. In the six most affected districts, around 50 percent of farming families lost nearly all of their stored crops. Many farmers also lost seed stocks, which are now difficult to source in local markets and may lead to crop shortages during the summer and winter seasons. The earthquakes caused significant damage to farm tools, gardens, fertilizer supplies and small-scale irrigation. Around one in five cattle and more than one in three poultry died, and over half the people surveyed were no longer consuming meat and eggs. FAO estimates that up to 118 km² of forest may have been damaged in the six districts.

Immediately following the disaster, FAO activated several emergency response protocols, deployed an emergency response team and assessed agricultural damages in Dhading, Dolokha, Gorkha, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Sindhupalchowk districts. Thanks to rapid support from resource partners, FAO was able to deliver rice seeds to 40 000 families in time for planting, plus other crop and livestock inputs. However, many critical needs remain in the crops, livestock and forestry sectors, including landslide prevention and emergency stabilization measures.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide vegetable and staple crop production inputs, restore small-scale irrigation infrastructure and stabilize cultivated plots and forest slopes at risk of landslides.
- Provide shelter, feed and veterinary supplies to preserve livestock assets.
- Maintain continuity of food security coordination efforts.



13% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



20.4 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 650 000 PEOPLE

► **USD 3 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, FAO, Italy and Norway

Serious concerns persist for over 20 million people in the Sahel. Recurrent conflicts, erratic weather patterns, epidemics and other shocks further weaken the resilience of families still suffering chronic levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The volatile regional situation – especially in the northeastern part of Nigeria – due to the Boko Haram conflict, continues to prompt population movements to Cameroon, Chad and the Niger, severely impacting the livelihoods and food security and nutrition of the populations in the countries bordering Lake Chad. In Nigeria, according to the latest analysis of the Famine Early Warning System Network, between April and September 2015 the number of areas in Crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Phase 3) will increase in the Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, as additional households begin to face food consumption gaps. The areas most affected by the conflict will begin to experience Emergency (Phase 4) level of food insecurity in July, as many households in these areas face greater food consumption gaps and higher risks for malnutrition and excess mortality.

The lean season has started in the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, mainly in areas that have suffered from a rainfall deficit during the 2014/15 campaign. In Senegal, the irregular rainy season – characterized by a late start, poor distribution, long dry spells and early cessation of rainfall – has negatively impacted agricultural production in 2014/15. In Mali, the rainfall deficit has resulted in early transhumance movements increasing pressure on available resources. Pastoralists have faced an early start of the lean season this year, which will be exceptionally long. In the Gambia, estimated cereal production at the end of the 2014/15 season declined by an average of 50 percent compared with the last five years (Pre-Harvest Assessment 2014, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel). In the Niger, the official results of the main 2014/15 agricultural campaign indicated a cereal deficit of 230 075 tonnes and a forage deficit of 8 436 709 tonnes.

According to the latest *Cadre harmonisé* analysis, in Burkina Faso, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, over 4.8 million people will be at risk of food and nutritional crisis (*Cadre harmonisé* Phase 3 and above) from June to September 2015; 20 out of 35 zones in Phase 3 in the region are located in Senegal, and the Niger and represent 50 percent of the population in Phase 3.

Outbreaks of the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza have been reported in Burkina Faso and the Niger, while it is alarmingly spreading in Nigeria. If the disease becomes endemic, the impact on food security and the reduction of revenues can seriously and permanently affect the livelihood of many agropastoralists.

Immediate support is needed for vulnerable populations living in areas affected by conflict, droughts, floods and pests and that continue to face difficulties to cover their daily food needs.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- **Burkina Faso**
Support the Government's response to H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza.
- **Cameroon**
Support the off season through input distribution. Provide agricultural support to the Central African refugees and their host communities.
- **Chad**
Restock livestock and provide animal feed. Distribute vegetable seeds and support farmers' groups through savings and loan activities.
- **The Gambia**
Provide livestock vaccinations and animal feed. Distribute agricultural inputs to small producers.
- **Mali**
Provide animal feed. Support small gardening activities through irrigation and agricultural inputs. Provide crop and vegetable seeds.
- **Mauritania**
Support the off season through agricultural inputs. Rehabilitate productive areas of gardens and rice fields. Distribute veterinary inputs.
- **The Niger**
Support irrigation campaign.
- **Nigeria**
Support internally displaced populations.
- **Senegal**
Distribute short-cycle varieties of cowpea and rice. Provide animal feed and vaccinations. Provide training on good agricultural and nutritional practices.



14% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



99.4 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 4 700 000 PEOPLE

► **USD 16.6 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, European Union, Finland, Mali (World Bank loan), Sweden, UN Development Programme, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

Somalia

The food security situation in Somalia has not changed significantly since the start of 2015. An estimated 731 000 people are likely to remain in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phases 3 and 4 until at least mid-year and a further 2.3 million in Phase 2 are vulnerable to declining food security in the face of further shocks. Poor nutrition continues to affect Somali children, with 202 600 children under five acutely malnourished, 38 200 of whom are severely malnourished.

The 2015 *Gu* rains, which provide up to 75 percent of annual rainfall and mark the start of the main planting season, began in late March. So far, the rains have been largely favourable, despite some areas in northern Somalia seeing localized poor rainfall levels and flash floods damaging property and crops in riverine communities of southern Somalia. Should the rains continue through to the end of June, the food security situation could begin to improve from August or September.

However, other threats to food security have emerged in 2015, such as a disruption in the flow of remittances which could severely impact food access across the country. In addition, the upsurge in conflict in Yemen since March has caused thousands to flee to Somalia. Most are returning Somalis who require support to resettle and rebuild their livelihoods.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide improved agricultural packages for 28 000 households in time for 2015 *Deyr* and 2016 *Gu* rains.
- Vaccinate 14 million sheep/goats against *peste des petits ruminants* and sheep and goat pox, and 12 million goats against contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.
- Cash-for-work to assist 26 120 households and rehabilitate community infrastructure.
- Strengthen weak river embankments to reduce the risk of recurrent floods, benefiting 3 500 riverine communities.



18% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



96.7 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 1 487 550 PEOPLE

► USD 21.3 million received thanks to:

Bulgaria, Canada, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

South Sudan

Food security deteriorated considerably in South Sudan in the first half of 2015 and is likely to continue declining. By the end of July, at least 4.6 million people are predicted to be severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phases 3 and 4). Protracted conflict, limited market functionality, high food prices, diminishing purchasing power and depleted household food stocks and assets have undermined food availability and access. Urban populations have also been affected, including 600 000 people in Juba, Wau and other major cities.

Given renewed violence and displacement in Unity and Upper Nile States at the height of the planting season, the situation will significantly worsen. In May, over 500 000 people were affected by intensified fighting in the two states. In southern Unity, tens of thousands fled heavy fighting, hiding in swamps and bush with little access to relief. These families urgently need assistance in the form of survival kits to produce nutritious food.

Livestock migration patterns have shifted considerably across the country, with serious implications for animal health. Such non-traditional migrations have heightened tensions between settled farming and nomadic herding communities, resulting in outbreaks of fighting and increased pressure on natural resources, with the potential to further impact food security.

Violence and logistical constraints have severely limited humanitarian access. The day-to-day activities of partners are frequently disrupted by insecurity in the worst-hit areas, and air transport is the only option for delivering vital inputs in some counties, increasing the costs of humanitarian operations.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Finalize the distribution of emergency crop seeds by the end of June in time for the planting season.
- Provide livelihood support (vegetable and fishing kits), particularly to vulnerable families who missed the planting season owing to conflict.
- Vaccinate and treat livestock to reach the target of 6 million animals.
- Preposition crop and vegetable seeds, and fishing kits, in time for the 2016 season.



TO ASSIST 2 300 000 PEOPLE

► USD 23.2 million received thanks to:

Denmark, United Kingdom, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

South Sudan Regional

More than 60 000 refugees have fled South Sudan in the last six months, bringing the total to over 564 500 since the conflict began in December 2013. With heavy fighting in Unity and Upper Nile States and growing food insecurity, this number may exceed 820 000 by the end of 2015.

South Sudanese are arriving increasingly rapidly to the border areas of neighbouring Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. As the lean season is now peaking for the region and the main harvests of the 2015 growing season are scheduled from August onwards, there is significant concern that the influx of refugees will further impact the region's food security, straining already limited resources of host communities.

Following years of drought and disease, Kenya's host communities are particularly vulnerable. Especially as the country is home to hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees, there is risk of tension as refugees may be seen as disproportionately benefiting from aid resources.

Over half of the refugees that fled in 2015 arrived in the Sudan – 20 percent in the first week of June alone. The majority are women and children and located in White Nile State, where food security is already stressed. The upcoming rainy season requires that relief inputs be prepositioned – many areas where refugees are located in the Sudan may become inaccessible.

Refugees in Uganda lack sufficient access to land to be self-reliant. This issue is compounded by delayed and below-average rains in the north of the country – where 70 percent of the refugees are located – which will likely reduce overall production.

Income-generating activities and livelihood diversification are crucial to building the resilience of and reducing the tension between refugee households and host communities.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- **Kenya**

Promote sustainable firewood use, particularly through the provision of fuel-efficient stoves. Provide vouchers for the purchase of local fruit, vegetables and legumes in order to provide market opportunities and enhance nutrition and livelihoods.

- **Sudan**

Provide agricultural inputs (vegetable and crop seeds) for 18 000 households, including 12 500 refugee families and 5 500 host families. Train 6 000 women in and around refugee camps on the use and production of fuel-efficient stoves. Vaccinate small ruminants belonging to 1 250 households.

- **Uganda**

Assist 20 000 refugee and host families with agricultural inputs (vegetable and crop seeds). Provide 5 000 households with fuel-efficient stoves or training to build them with local materials. Support 4 000 households with cash-based initiatives or the provision of low-maintenance, high-yielding chickens to increase income and food accessibility.



11% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



16.1 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 300 000 + PEOPLE

► **USD 2 million** received thanks to:

European Union and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Sudan

Despite much improved food production compared with the poor 2014 season, 4.2 million people in the Sudan are expected to be severely food insecure (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Phases 3 and 4) by the end of June. Good rains have helped production rise by up to 280 percent above 2014 levels in some areas, with a notable increase in the availability of vegetables and legumes, as well as cereals, in markets.

However, food security continues to be undermined by ongoing violence and related displacement in the Greater Darfur area, as well as in Blue Nile and South Kordofan States. Almost 130 000 South Sudanese are sheltering in host communities and camps, while more continue to cross the border to escape worsening conflict.

In Darfur, several conflicts between January and May 2015 led to the destruction of property, burning of pastures, standing crops and harvested produce and looting of assets, particularly livestock. Agricultural inputs have been lost, constraining next season's production. Water points have been ruined, leaving people and their animals relying on shallow wells. In Blue Nile and South Kordofan States, agricultural production has again been disrupted by fighting as farmers have been unable to tend their fields. Repeated displacement and loss of livelihood assets have severely undermined people's coping capacities, exposing them to deepening food insecurity and malnutrition.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Distribute vegetable and legume seeds to 10 000 extremely vulnerable households affected by ethnic conflict in time for the winter season.
- Vaccinate and treat 350 000 animals belonging to 27 000 vulnerable agropastoral households in Greater Darfur and West and South Kordofan.



11% OF 2014/15
PROGRAMME
FUNDED



21.4 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 1 411 250 PEOPLE

► **USD 2.65 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

Since March 2011, the conflict has internally displaced 7.6 million people and left 9.8 million people food insecure within Syria. Around 12.2 million people require humanitarian assistance and 4.8 million live in hard-to-reach or besieged areas largely cut off from aid. FAO is running operations from Damascus with capacity also in Gaziantep, Turkey, to maximize its delivery of agricultural livelihood support to people in need, including those in hard-to-reach locations. An FAO/World Food Programme Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission was requested by the Government and conducted in May 2015, with findings anticipated to be issued in July.

Although cropping conditions during the 2015 season benefitted from more favourable amounts and distribution of rains compared to the previous year, four years of conflict have had a devastating impact on the agriculture sector. Input costs continue to rise significantly for all crops, particularly due to inadequate distribution of government-subsidized seeds, higher prevalence of low quality seeds, lack of fertilizer, increased costs and limited availability of farm labour, and deterioration in mechanized farming capacity. Harvest operations and transport are especially a concern in insecure areas, compounded by high fuel costs. The conflict has also severely affected vegetable production and the poultry sector, negatively impacting nutrition. Moreover, the number of livestock has decreased by 35-40 percent since the start of the crisis. High feed costs, inaccessible pastures and shortage of veterinary supplies continue to severely affect livestock owners and increase the threat of transboundary animal diseases.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide wheat and barley seeds for the winter cereal campaign, to be sown by late November 2015.
- Support backyard vegetable and poultry production.
- Provide emergency livestock assistance, including feed and veterinary support.



14% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



50.6 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 733 500 PEOPLE

► **USD 8.5 million** received thanks to:

Italy, Switzerland, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

Syria Regional

Syria's refugee crisis continues to grow in scale and complexity, with unprecedented social and economic impacts on host countries. To date, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey together have received almost 4 million Syrian refugees – nearly 25 percent of which was since December 2014. Over 90 percent are concentrated in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey (16, 30 and 45 percent, respectively). Virtually all of the 250 000 Syrian refugees in Iraq are hosted in the Kurdistan Region, where more than a quarter of Iraq's 3 million internally displaced people also seek refuge.

Both refugees and host communities face serious food security challenges that require more lasting solutions. Around 60 percent of refugees rely on humanitarian assistance as their primary source of food. As the crisis persists, refugees are exhausting their savings, have limited income opportunities due to their status and are increasingly vulnerable. Many Syrian refugees fled with their farm animals to maintain sources of food and income. However, animal feed is scarce and costly, pastures are overgrazed and unvaccinated livestock from Syria heighten the threat of transboundary animal diseases. In Iraq, the number of livestock owned by Syrian refugees has declined by some 40 percent, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. Without a more sustainable response, refugees will become increasingly destitute. In Jordan, 86 percent of refugees live below the national poverty line, equivalent to around USD 3 per day.

For host countries, the influx of refugees has increased national food demand and driven food prices up. Local farmers have also lost cross-border trading opportunities; they face rising production costs and cannot access farmland along the border due to violence. At the same time, the surplus of Syrian labour is reducing local employment and wages, and fueling social tensions. There is increasing pressure on scarce natural resources, such as water, pastures and forests, while the uncontrolled entry of diseased plants and animals from Syria could devastate the region's food chain and beyond. These threats could have long-term repercussions if unaddressed. Agricultural interventions are severely underfunded, despite the critical need to protect and restore food security, employment, economic growth, natural resources and social cohesion.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- **Iraq**
Provide immediate supplementary animal feed to safeguard the life-sustaining food production and dietary diversity of refugee herding families (e.g. milk, dairy products and meat). Support related market-based interventions.
- **Lebanon**
Implement microgarden programmes in collective centres for displaced and host populations. Distribute small ruminants and livestock feed to host communities. Provide support to veterinary services for the control of transboundary animal diseases.
- **Jordan**
Provide inputs and training for homestead farming and poultry-raising for local communities and refugees in northern Jordan. Support the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases. Provide training and inputs to establish micro/vertical gardens in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps for increased year-round intake of fruits and vegetables.
- **Turkey**
Carry out microgardening activities in selected refugee camps. Support the recovery and rehabilitation of smallholder agricultural production and marketing in impoverished areas along the border with Syria.



8% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



57.2 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 3 115 793 PEOPLE

► **USD 4.8 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, FAO, Ireland, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

An estimated 1.8 million people in Ukraine require agriculture and food security support as a result of the ongoing conflict. In Donetsk and Luhansk – considered the breadbasket of eastern Ukraine – agriculture has suffered important losses, estimated at USD 75.3 million for crops and USD 6.4 million for livestock. Much of the winter wheat harvest was lost in June/July 2014, and displacement affected the planting of spring crops in 2015. Families relying on small backyard plots – mainly for growing vegetables and potatoes – and livestock rearing for their food and income have been particularly affected. Greenhouses, orchards, farm machinery and animal shelters have been damaged or destroyed and livestock (particularly cattle and chickens) lost or killed. Some were slaughtered by their owners due to a lack of animal feed.

Small-scale farmers' access to food and agricultural inputs is severely limited. The complete disruption of markets in conflict-affected areas has made some items unavailable and caused prices to soar (by more than 300 percent for some fruits and vegetables). As a result, affected families have stretched or exhausted their savings, reducing the quality and quantity of their meals. Without critical crop and livestock inputs, vulnerable farming families risk becoming heavily dependent on food assistance.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide animal feed to vulnerable livestock owners, helping to prevent distress sales or slaughter and keep remaining animals alive.
- Distribute poultry packages (chickens and feed) for meat and egg production in conflict-affected rural and suburban areas.
- Provide vegetable seeds packages to boost backyard production.



14% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



4.7 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 25 480 PEOPLE

► **USD 788 000** received thanks to:

Belgium and FAO

West Africa – Ebola

The unprecedented Ebola virus disease outbreak continues to impact the food security, economies and livelihoods in the three worst-hit western African countries: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Although the World Health Organization declared Liberia Ebola-free on 9 May 2015 and the number of Ebola cases started to go down compared to the October-December figures in both Guinea and Sierra Leone, the impact of Ebola on the affected population is still being felt.

In Sierra Leone, the food security situation has not improved in 2015. Few farmers planted rice – Sierra Leone’s main crop – and the harvest will be insufficient to meet their needs. In Guinea, most Ebola-affected districts continue to face a decline in agriculture production compared to the five-year average. This is a result of lack of manpower and a continuing fear of contagion associated with work on agricultural production farms.

Since most Ebola-affected agricultural households lost their main sources of livelihood, the immediate need is to support their capacity to generate income through livestock restocking, startup capital to buy, sell and market produce, and mobilize savings and loan schemes. With no capital to invest many women and youth have been left without any means of survival.

Boosting agricultural production and supporting small agribusinesses are vital to the recovery of Ebola-affected farming households.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Boost incomes and agricultural production to safeguard livelihoods.
- Strengthen national and regional early warning systems to identify Ebola virus in wildlife.
- Continue and strengthen Ebola disease spread control in affected counties.



24% OF 2014/15
PROGRAMME
FUNDED



32.4 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 1 145 000 PEOPLE

► **USD 10.1 million** received thanks to:

African Solidarity Trust Fund, FAO, Guinea (World Bank loan), Sierra Leone (African Development Bank loan), Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities and Switzerland

In late 2014 FAO received the first field reports of what appeared to be outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on poultry farms and in live bird markets in Nigeria. Confirmed in January 2015 as a reintroduction of the H5N1 avian virus known to cause massive mortalities in poultry and a fatal disease in people, similar outbreaks have since occurred in Burkina Faso, the Niger, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Countries at risk include Benin, Cameroon and Togo.

As of June 2015, the livelihoods of hundreds of communities in the region have been affected and over two million birds have died or have been culled. This figure is likely to go up as veterinary systems are poorly resourced and farmers afraid to report. Unabated, the number of families affected can quickly reach millions.

In Africa, poultry rearing is crucial for rural development and livelihoods. Buying chicks is inexpensive, and the costs to set up larger operations are low and returns are high for farmers. But where poultry production has expanded rapidly without biosecurity and robust veterinary systems, the introduction of H5N1 can have catastrophic consequences – for livelihoods, trade and human health.

Recent FAO assessment missions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana and Togo identified the need to strengthen preparedness plans and contingency funding at national and regional levels for widespread H5N1 HPAI outbreaks. FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme emergency assistance is used to mitigate what could be a disastrous onslaught. FAO is however seeking USD 20 million to support the control and elimination of the H5N1 HPAI incursion into the West Africa poultry sector. Tackling the disease at its source is the best preventive measure.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Ensure preparedness. Develop and streamline country contingency plans to detect, assess, control and mitigate H5N1 risks.
- Decrease risk. Promote safer poultry production and marketing practices and hygienic live bird markets. Enhance biosecurity and mitigate socio-economic impacts.
- Strengthen surveillance and detection along production and market chains, and enhance diagnostics and networks.



17% OF 2015–2016
APPEAL
FUNDED



16.7 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED
TO ASSIST **330 000 000** PEOPLE

► **USD 3.3 million** received thanks to:

FAO, Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities and United States of America

West Bank and Gaza Strip

Numerous shocks impacted the livelihoods of Palestinian families in the first half of 2015, against a backdrop of protracted crisis and slow recovery from the July-August conflict in Gaza last year. Intense snow, rain and flooding from Storm Huda severely affected crops and livestock in January; restrictions in Area C of the West Bank impeded key agricultural activities, including the construction of cisterns to increase vital water supply; and five outbreaks of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (27 890 confirmed cases between January and April) resulted in huge losses for farmers and poultry sectors across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Donor funding and flexibility in 2015 allowed FAO to provide critical livelihood support, including timely assistance to herders who risked losing their livestock to Storm Huda. However, needs across the West Bank and Gaza Strip greatly outweigh the available resources. Avian influenza seriously threatens local and regional food chains, calling for improved surveillance and response capacity. Despite strong demand from the local population for sustainable livelihood assistance, agriculture is among the least funded sectors helping the Gaza Strip recover from last year's conflict. Needs are particularly high in the Access Restricted Area of the Gaza Strip (all land within 1 500 metres of the Israeli border barrier), where the vast majority of damage from the conflict remains unaddressed.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Rehabilitate land and water resources in the Access Restricted Area and establish small-scale animal production (e.g. rabbits, chicken and sheep) to provide immediate sources of protein and diversified incomes to families in the Gaza Strip.
- Restore and build the productive assets of vulnerable Palestinian farmers and herders including Bedouins (e.g. cistern construction and farmland rehabilitation) through in-kind and cash assistance for livelihood support interventions aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, access to water and land, and employment opportunities.
- Upscale national surveillance and response capacities for avian influenza and other animal diseases (e.g. foot-and-mouth disease).



17% OF 2015
APPEAL
FUNDED



25.1 USD
MILLION
STILL REQUIRED

TO ASSIST 77 354 PEOPLE

► **USD 5 million** received thanks to:

Belgium and Canada

Since conflict escalated in March 2015, thousands of Yemenis have been injured and killed, and over half a million displaced by military operations. Already vulnerable families lack vital supplies and services, including medical treatment, water and food. Regular commercial imports – which Yemen relies on for 90 percent of its food – have been cut off. Some 12.9 million people face Emergency and Crisis levels of food insecurity, according to provisional estimates from the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis process in June.

There is a severe shortage of wheat in the markets due to disrupted and destroyed food processing, storage and distribution systems. Since late March, wheat prices have increased by 50-100 percent and fuel prices have risen by over 500 percent in some areas. Local cereal production has commenced in the central highlands but risks disruption as the conflict further reduces farm access and labour availability. Farming infrastructure is reportedly damaged in northwestern governorates, and farmers face reduced sales and farm-gate prices for fresh produce as a result of high transport costs and risks from the conflict. Animal feed shortages threaten livestock production, also impacted by transport constraints and diminished trade. Yemen was in dire need of increasing agricultural production before the fighting intensified and severely reduced food supply and access. Emergency agricultural interventions will be critical to preserving household food production and income generation.

FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Provide livelihood inputs and support for crop production, backyard gardening, poultry raising, livestock production and health and fisheries.
- Increase water supply for farming purposes, including the distribution of solar water pumps and rehabilitation of water infrastructure (e.g. wells, canals, cisterns and reservoirs).
- Implement cash and voucher transfer based activities and support income-generating activities linked to the production of food with high nutritional value, focused on women's groups.



► **USD 4.8 million** received thanks to:

Belgium, FAO, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America

TO ASSIST 691 277 PEOPLE

Global Food Security Cluster

Since January 2015, the FAO and World Food Programme co-led global Food Security Cluster supported existing coordination solutions in over 30 countries while responding to new sudden-onset emergencies, including the earthquakes in Nepal and Tropical Cyclone Pam in the Pacific Islands. In Vanuatu, for example, effective food security sector coordination ensured that farmers received rapid guidance on how best to save planting materials, families were aware of imminent food distributions and humanitarian partners had detailed action plans for food security response within days of the disaster. These and other government-led efforts supported by the Cluster have placed Vanuatu on a faster recovery path, with response today highly focused on building back better from the storm.

In 2015, the global Food Security Cluster conducted global-level simulations and trainings that enriched its roster of cluster coordinators and strengthened deployment and response capacity, thanks to support from traditional donors and standby partners. Country-tailored trainings also took place in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Niger, Pakistan, Syria and the Ukraine on the use of a recently developed, standard cluster information management tool by local partners. 2015 presents enormous challenges for country clusters to meet food security needs and set priorities against severe funding deficits. By June 2015, only 24 percent of food security sector requirements were funded within the global Humanitarian Appeal out of a total of USD 6.3 billion.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER PRIORITIES FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER 2015

- Boost deployment readiness through training and simulation exercises.
- Strengthen country clusters' awareness and capacity related to preparedness and resilience programming, and roll out the information management tool.
- Enhance the quality and consistency of needs assessments, including through collaboration with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification's Global Support Unit.



► **USD 3.1 million** received through:

Co-lead agencies (FAO and World Food Programme) and partners



FOR SUSTAINED SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES REQUIRING FOOD SECURITY COORDINATION

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