



## IN NUMBERS



**7 million**

people food insecure and  
2 million at risk  
(projection 2017)



**USD 11-17 billion**

cost of rebuilding the  
agriculture sector over a  
three-year period



**USD 16 billion**

financial cost of damages  
and losses in the agriculture  
sector (2011–2016)



**USD 119.4 million**

appealed for by FAO under  
the 2017 Humanitarian  
Response Plan

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **As the Syrian war enters its seventh year, food production remains at a record low.** Hunger is rampant and deepening across the country with over half the population unable to meet their daily food needs.
- **Approximately 7 million people will be food insecure in 2017 and a further 2 million are at risk of food insecurity.**
- According to the FAO report, [Counting the cost: Agriculture in Syria after six years of crisis](#) the following findings were reported:
  - A total of **USD 16 billion has been lost** in terms of production and damages to the agriculture sector.
  - An estimated **USD 11-17 billion is required** to rebuild the agriculture sector over a three-year period.
  - **Over 75 percent of households still grow food for their own consumption**, even if at a much reduced scale.
  - **Some 94 percent of communities felt that increased support in agriculture would reduce internal and external migration.**
  - **Government's ability to support farmers has been highly affected.** Support has either decreased significantly or stopped entirely.
  - **Less than half the 2011 rural population still lived in rural areas in 2016.**

## CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

**As the Syrian war enters its seventh year, food production remains at a record low.** Hunger is rampant and deepening across the country with over half the population unable to meet their daily food needs. Food scarcity and high food prices are particularly problematic in areas experiencing large population changes. In Deir-ez-Zor and Madaya, food security has worsened following an increase in conflict and constrained market availability. To confront food shortages, affected populations – particularly displaced households – continue to adopt negative coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals or restricting consumption by adults so children can eat.

**Approximately 7 million people will be food insecure in 2017 and a further 2 million at risk of food insecurity.** Over half of Syria's population have fled their homes, including 6.3 million who are internally displaced and 4.9 million who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries as of March 2017.

**Over 75 percent of households still grow food for their own consumption and more than a third of rural households rely on their own production for over a quarter of their food requirements.** Households in Aleppo and hard-to-reach parts of Rural Damascus and southern areas are relying more heavily on food assistance. Low access to disposable income and reduction in purchasing power continues to affect the food security of crisis-affected people. In January, casual labourers could only buy 5.1 kg of wheat flour per day – a slight increase by 2 percent compared to December 2016, unchanged compared to six months prior, and a decrease of 18 percent compared to January 2016.

## CHALLENGES FACING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**An estimated USD 16 billion worth of agricultural production and assets has been damaged and destroyed**, according to FAO's first comprehensive nationwide assessment on the cost of war to the agriculture sector. The significant losses are particularly affecting rural farming and herding families, forcing people to migrate or to look for other sources of income. Vast areas of agricultural land with orchards or crops have been destroyed and farmers are facing shortages of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, fuel to power irrigation pumps, etc.) or are unable to afford them due to soaring prices. Annual crops were registered as the largest share of lost production (economic losses), followed by livestock. Conversely, the livestock subsector accounted for the highest proportion of damage, followed by perennial crops. In addition, irrigation structures have been damaged, along with processing and storage facilities, farming equipment and agro-sector buildings. Initial cost of rebuilding the agriculture sector over a three-year period is estimated between USD 11 and 17 billion, depending on the evolution of the conflict. The Governorates with the largest losses were Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Dar'a and Idlib, each registering over USD 1 billion of damage and loss.

**Damages and losses in crop production amounts to nearly USD 6.3 billion**, almost half the total value of damages and losses suffered by the agriculture sector. In total, the value of destroyed crops is estimated at around USD 768 million, equal to 20 percent of the entire recorded damage to the sector. The total loss resulting from these damages is estimated at about USD 730 million. Lack of fertilizers was a critical production constraint for perennial crops. Lack of fuel, outbreaks of pests and diseases and lack of water were also listed as important constraints. Significant damage to tree plantations was reported in Dar'a, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa due to destruction caused by the conflict.

**Livestock owners' very limited access to animal health services and quality animal production inputs persists, which lowers livestock productivity.** The livestock sector suffered high damages due to animal deaths, amounting to over USD 2 billion – a third of the total amount of damages to the agriculture sector. The actual number of animals per household has fallen dramatically, especially for cattle. The main reason for the decrease in animal ownership was the sale of animals for income generation, in addition to the increased costs of maintenance. The loss of animals – either by death due to poor living conditions, killed or stolen – was particularly high in Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, Lattakia, Quneitra and Rural Damascus.

**In fisheries and aquaculture, the total value of damages and losses was around USD 80 million, of which USD 103 000 were losses.** Water area in Syria, including marshes, consists of only 1 610 km, which represents approximately 0.9 percent of the country's total area. By far the largest reported losses were in Idleb (about USD 58 million), followed by Hama (USD 15.4 million) and Ar-Raqqa (USD 4.8 million).

**The Government's ability to support farmers has been highly affected.** Support has either decreased significantly or stopped entirely. Households rely on own production (seeds and manure) or on the market, but still have insufficient access. The crisis and associated sanctions have disrupted trade and markets. Access is limited to quality seeds, fertilizers, machinery and fuel needed to operate pumps and tractors. More than 25 percent of households overall (70 percent in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor) reported lacking seeds, and more than 50 percent lack access to fertilizers, while 35 percent do not use fertilizers anymore. Inputs available at local markets are frequently overpriced and of dubious quality. Pesticides are now mainly sourced from informal markets, resulting in the use of poor quality and sometimes dangerous products. Pests and diseases were reported as being of particular concern for perennial crop production.

## FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

### 2017 RESPONSE

In 2017, FAO has reached **280 374 people** with:



#### Backyard food production inputs

Poultry and vegetable packages, sheep restocking, vegetable seeds – 5 900 households were able to supplement their diets with fresh vegetables and laying hens and feed were provided to 3 658 households



#### Animal health inputs

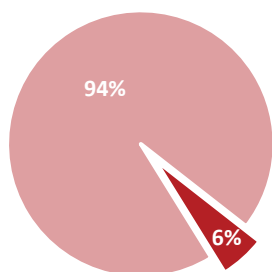
Treatments against parasites – 37 171 livestock-dependant households received treatment for their livestock against endo- and ectoparasites

Through pending programming, FAO plans to reach an additional:



**228 000 people** through cross-border operations  
**293 928 people** through regular programming in Damascus

### FUNDING



- **Funding to-date:** USD 6.69 million
- **Funding gap:** USD 112.71 million

**Donors:** European Union, Germany, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**FAO requires**  
USD 119.4 million

**To assist**  
3.36 million people

### 2017 PRIORITIES



#### Support staple food production

wheat, barley and pulse seed • training on improved cropping methods • rehabilitate damaged irrigation infrastructure • technical training • improve the capacity of technicians and seed producers



#### Increased household nutrition and income

egg-laying hens • vegetable kits • poultry and rabbit distributions • conditional cash transfers • vouchers • technical training



#### Increasing/protecting livestock assets

animal feed • livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns and inputs • veterinary capacity • sheep, goat, cattle distributions • capacity development



#### Planned, collective response

coordination • drought early warning • needs assessment, monitoring • planning and strategy development • data collection, analysis and reporting • capacity building

### COORDINATION

FAO plays a leading role in coordinating food security activities, as well as collecting and analysing data. The Regional Food Security Analysis Network – funded by the United States of America and FAO, and jointly implemented by FAO and iMMAAP – supports emergency food security interventions by providing timely information and working towards an enhanced early warning system. Together with WFP, FAO is coordinating and co-leading the Food and Agriculture Sector in Damascus and the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Gaziantep. Within the Whole of Syria framework, a Food Security and Agriculture Sector coordination mechanism is also operating from Amman.

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