



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

YEMEN AND FAO

PARTNERING TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION AND INCREASE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES

The FAO Country Representation in Yemen has been operational for 40 years. Since the beginning of operations in the country, FAO has provided support to farmers, herders and fishers and has supported the improvement of agricultural production and productivity. Today, FAO is also working with the Yemeni authorities to support sustainable restoration and diversification of agricultural livelihoods.

Emergency livelihoods response and resilience building

Yemen is suffering the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with the population facing constant threats to both lives and livelihoods.

In response, FAO has developed Emergency Livelihoods Response Plans, which are supported by several resource partners. The overall objective of the Response Plans is to reduce acute food insecurity and save the lives of the most vulnerable households through improved access to food, economic empowerment, livelihoods restoration, agricultural infrastructure improvement and capacity development. The Plans also lead to move effective coordination of interventions.

An example of a Response Plan is a three-year European Union-funded programme, jointly implemented by FAO, ILO, UNDP and WFP, under which communities' resilience is being built. Under this EU-funded programme, FAO is leading activities for the provision of improved seeds, livestock feed for animals and small-scale equipment, such as solar-powered irrigation pumps.

A crucial component of FAO's interventions is the focus on strengthening various agricultural value chains, which is making a huge impact in the dairy sector in the first phase of the programme. This kind of programme is equipping Yemeni families with the tools they need to earn a living even in the face of the conflict-induced crisis.

Matching FAO's expertise to Yemen's development priorities

FAO assistance in Yemen is shaped by the **2018-2020 Plan of Action** with the goal of improving food security and nutrition and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable households while restoring the country's agriculture sector. It is centred on three priority areas.

- ➔ **Emergency support to the most vulnerable rural and peri-urban households** across famine-risk districts
- ➔ **Support for the sustainable restoration and diversification of agricultural livelihoods and agri-food systems** across districts where access is secured
- ➔ **Improved coordination of planning, programming and support for food security, nutrition and agricultural livelihoods**

Jointly developed with the the Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation (MoPIC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), the Ministry of Fish Wealth (MoFW) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), this Plan of Action will guide FAO's operations in Yemen through food security, nutrition and agricultural livelihoods programmes and projects.

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Food security information for action

Since 2013, FAO – with funding from the European Union – has implemented several programmes aimed at improving food security and livelihoods in Yemen. Central to this has been the need to improve the country’s ability to monitor emerging threats to food security such as poor weather, crop pests and diseases, and soaring prices of food commodities and agriculture inputs, so that appropriate and timely livelihood support can be provided.

“Through appropriate mechanization, small scale farming can be transformed into a more market-oriented business, improving labour productivity and helping enable farmers to lift themselves out of poverty.”

Qu Dongyu
FAO Director-General

Availability of reliable and timely food security data – a key output of this programme – means that partners can respond better and faster in times of crises. Such information has increasingly become the foundation on which the government and humanitarian and development agencies rely on to roll out programmes that strengthen communities’ resilience to withstand future food security shocks.

Enhancing and restoring agricultural production

The Smallholder Agricultural Production Restoration and Enhancement Project (SAPREP) is a three-year project funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) through the World Bank. The project provides investments in community infrastructures, mostly to harvest water and to protect agricultural land, and provides support to poor households and smallholders to improve agricultural production, income and nutrition. This project is also helping conflict affected farmers to re-engage in crop and livestock sectors to restore their livelihood and provide income for their basic needs.



Integrated community-led water resource management

The Sana’a Basin Project aims to reduce groundwater abstraction from the main (sandstone) aquifer to more sustainable levels. This will improve rural livelihoods by guaranteeing long-term supplies of water for drinking and farming purposes.

The project is focused on the organization of farmers in Water User Associations (WUAs), the introduction of better governance and gender equity, training in improved irrigation techniques and alternative crops, and support to farmers who choose to adopt these technologies in their production systems.

Solving water resource conflicts

For several years now, a combination of factors such as climate change and population growth, among others, has resulted in an imbalance between supply and demand in the water sector across Yemen. With water resources rapidly depleting, competition for the precious liquid has heightened tensions and resulted in several conflicts.

Considering this situation, FAO with funding from the United Nation Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), is empowering WUAs to promote an improved water resource management, thereby reducing local conflicts over water resources. For the first time in the participating villages’ history, women are active participants in the meetings with Sheikhs and are involved in promoting gender-specific solutions.

Improving purchasing power, food production and income diversity

FAO is supporting the most vulnerable and food-insecure households with cash-based assistance and quick-impact emergency agricultural livelihood interventions. The assistance has already been instrumental in boosting the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households, stimulating local demand, improving market functioning, and increasing the availability of food. The cash-based interventions are strengthening the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households and ensuring that vulnerable households can meet immediate food needs while boosting their own production. The assistance has proved successful in rehabilitating community agricultural infrastructure and productive assets such as irrigation canals, water harvesting and storage facilities and erosion control dikes.