

Annex 5: Trends, challenges and priorities – Near East and North Africa

Near East and North Africa	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities – 2016 Regional Conference
<p>➤ Conflict and upheaval and related social and economic impacts, in particular forced displacement and migration. The NENA region currently exhibits the highest number and intensity of conflicts in the world, with wide ranging and long lasting impacts. Conflicts threaten to reverse the gains in nutrition and poverty reduction that the region made in the last decade, disrupting food production and trade; leading to loss of existing food stocks, increases in food prices, loss of employment and incomes and eventually reducing production of, and access to, food.</p> <p>➤ Sluggish economic growth, poor fiscal outlook and low investor confidence.</p> <p>➤ Rising levels of import dependence and exposure to market shocks. The region’s population, currently estimated at about 400 million, is expected to reach 600 million by 2050. With food production already lagging behind consumption for most food groups, population growth, along with increasing urbanization and changing consumption patterns, will lead to an increasing demand for food and reduced land and water available for agriculture.</p> <p>➤ Malnutrition and undernourishment. Differences in levels and trends of undernourishment differ widely from one country to another and are expected to continue, with an increasing trend in areas with high incidence of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish strategies and policies to eradicate food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition and to build resilience to shocks, crisis and conflicts as a means to achieve stability and peace in the Region. - Broaden support in the areas of building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition, small-scale agriculture for inclusive development, and water scarcity as priority areas of action, as well as extending support to food safety, agricultural trade and market information. - Build capacity in statistics and information for decision-making, early warning and measuring the effectiveness of development interventions by countries and FAO. - Support evidence-based policies and research and extension for the whole value chain complementing the efforts and actions undertaken by countries. - Promote agricultural policies that are linked to sustainable food consumption and production systems that are conducive to improved nutrition, health and the protection of the environment and responsive to national needs. - Promote regional cooperation and integration among countries of the region, through harmonization of policies and effective response both to crises and to long-term food security needs. - Work in collaboration and partnership with sub-regional, regional and international institutions, particularly for work in countries affected by regional crises, and strengthen the institutional capacity of countries to respond to crises. - Strengthen the role of non-governmental and civil society organizations at all levels for achieving better progress on the Regional Initiatives and programmes geared towards mitigating food insecurity and hunger. - Expand the use of high-yielding and drought-tolerant varieties of crops, pasture and rangeland species. - Provide support to family farmers, invest in programmes to reduce rural poverty and improve opportunities for market access and livelihoods, and promote South-South cooperation. - Enhance cooperation with UNIDO and other international Organizations for the development and introduction of appropriate agro-machineries and technologies to enhance the productivity in the agriculture sector and along the supply chain. - Provide technical assistance for safe use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer through the use of good agricultural practices guided by the Codex Alimentarius texts and standards. - Develop collaborative strategies and plans to manage transboundary animal disease risks, especially in times of crisis, improving disease reporting, monitoring of livestock movements, strengthening quarantine systems, and cross-border

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<p>conflicts and protracted crises. On the other hand, nearly one quarter of the population in the region is considered obese, putting NENA among the regions with the highest prevalence of obesity globally. This is a continuing trend with significant differences across countries and gender, with consistently higher rates of obesity in women.</p> <p>➤ Transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases. Animal diseases and plant pests – including their introduction, establishment, re-emergence and outbreaks – result in major food problems either directly through yield reductions of food crops and loss of animals (or spill-over to humans) or indirectly through the reduction of yields of cash crops, inefficient feed conversion and loss of consumer confidence. Climate change factors have further aggravated the situation.</p>	<p>research and dialogue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the development of sustainable animal source food systems, particularly those that are focused on the rural poor and their better integration into national value chains. - Focus on the nexus between emergency and rehabilitation in the livestock sector, especially in member Nations affected by conflicts and protracted crises, through enhanced policies and developing national and regional projects responding to threats of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses as well as protecting and rehabilitating livestock sector. - Support sustainable development of the livestock sector, including improved meat, leather and wool production, processing and adding value to adapted local breeds through capacity building and facilitating experience sharing among countries, with a special focus on sheep fertility and lamb growth and sustainable feed production. - Reinforce, with the support of FAO and partners, the governance of the veterinary services to effectively prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases at national, regional and global levels. - Implement the Global Plan of Action for animal genetic resources, and expand the use of high yielding, drought- and salt-tolerant forage, pasture and rangeland varieties. - Enhance capacities and raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance in line with the Conference resolution 4/2015. - Promote natural resource management systems built on participation of small holders, pastoralists and communities at large. - Apply the Blue Growth Initiative in the region within the framework of the regional initiatives. - Organize knowledge and experience sharing events and build capacity to develop a sustainable and viable fishery and aquaculture industry in the Region. - Assist countries to assess fishery resources at country and regional level, information sharing, compilation and dissemination by regional Fish Monitoring Centre, to be established as data and information repository. - Develop guidelines on carrying out environmental impact assessments for aquaculture projects. - Promote the technical knowledge and capacities in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture. including through South-South cooperation. - Support countries in combating fish related diseases in the Region.