



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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The Syrian Arab Republic

Humanitarian Response Plan 2019



to assist

3.5 million people



FAO requires

USD 120 million



period

January–December 2019

As food insecurity levels are expected to remain high, strengthening agricultural production is essential to ensure availability and access to food.

The protracted crisis coupled with the most severe drought in decades has resulted in persisting food insecurity along with reduced agricultural production in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2018. Internally displaced people, returnees and host communities are facing large food consumption gaps, depleted coping strategies and a large food expenditure share.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Sector to:

- Support self-reliance of affected households by protecting and building productive assets and restoring or creating income-generating opportunities to save and sustain lives.
- Improve communities' capacity to sustain household livelihoods by improving linkages with value chain through the rehabilitation/building of productive infrastructure as well as supporting services, early warning and disaster risk reduction systems.
- Strengthen coordination of the Food Security Sector.

Activities



Increase agricultural production and support livelihoods

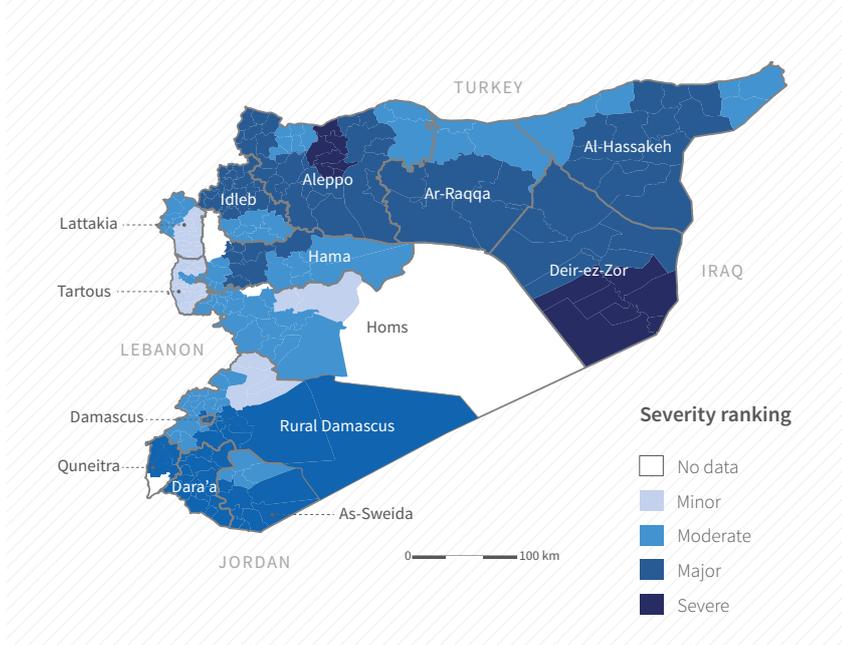
crop and vegetable production | efficient use of irrigation | technical capacity building | livestock support | income-generating activities



Strengthen food security coordination

contingency/preparedness plans | assessments | analysis | monitoring | joint programming | capacity building and technical assistance | disaster risk reduction | information and early warning systems

Acute food insecurity situation (2018)



Source: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA

Situation analysis

-  **5.7 million** people severely food insecure
-  **65%** of food insecure people are adopting negative coping mechanisms
-  **600 000** farming households do not have access to essential agricultural inputs
-  **6.2 million** protracted IDPs
-  **1.4 million** returnees
-  **324 000** IDPs in hard-to-reach areas

Impact on food security

The prolonged crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, causing mass displacements, has led to high production costs, lack of quality inputs and damaged or destroyed infrastructure (primarily irrigation), significantly disrupting agricultural livelihoods. This has resulted in limited physical and financial access to food, high prices and inflation contributing to reduced purchasing power for the most vulnerable households.

Furthermore, the country experienced the worst drought in 30 years that severely affected cereal production in the 2017/18 winter season, and the availability of staple foods. This led to a wheat deficit of more than 1.5 million tonnes to meet domestic food requirements and barley production was the lowest since 2008.

Around 200 000 pastoral and agro-pastoral households have also faced an unprecedented reduction in livestock assets, estimated to about half of the pre-crisis levels, which amounts to a damaging coping strategy.

Although the agriculture sector produces food for more than half of the population, and contributes to 25-30 percent of the GDP, the levels of food insecurity remain high. An estimated 6.5 million people are food insecure and a further 2.5 million are at risk of food insecurity.

In order for Syrians to reduce the use of negative coping mechanisms to meet their daily needs, it is critical to restore and protect agricultural livelihoods and value chains, to increase the self-reliance and to strengthen their resilience.

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