



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Yemen

Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan 2018

Support to agriculture-based livelihoods



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RECOMMENDED CITATION

FAO. 2018. *Yemen, Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan*. Rome. 36 pp.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CAHW	Community animal health worker
CMWG	Cash and Markets Working Group
ELRP	Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
GDP	Gross domestic product
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally displaced person
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PPR	<i>Peste des petits ruminants</i>
UN	United Nations

Overview



to assist
5.7 million people



FAO requires
USD 57.1 million



period
**January –
December 2018**

Activities include



Restore agriculture-based livelihoods

- crop production support
- rehabilitation of agriculture infrastructure through cash-for-work
- income-generating activities
- greenhouses and solar pump irrigation
- input trade fairs



Increase livestock production

- livestock restocking
- poultry and fishing support
- emergency vaccination and treatment



Strengthen coordination for food security and agriculture

- regular meetings to enhance collaboration
- appeal documents
- agriculture and food security surveys and analyses

Yemen is facing the world's largest food security crisis following two and a half years of airstrikes, armed clashes and attacks on civilian infrastructure, which have also caused the spread of cholera at an unprecedented scale. Yemenis are increasingly exhausting their coping mechanisms and as a result the humanitarian crisis remains extremely widespread. The expansion of the conflict has also led to large-scale displacement compounded with existing high levels of vulnerability, including high rates of malnutrition.

In response, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed the **Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan (ELRP) 2018**. This plan guides FAO's response to prevent the levels of food insecurity and malnutrition from worsening. It sets out key emergency agricultural livelihood interventions to be implemented within the framework of the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

The overall goal is to **improve food security and nutrition, alleviate rural poverty**, and enhance Yemen's capacity to manage and respond to risks and threats in the agriculture sector through a resilience-based approach. In this regard, the plan reflects FAO's strategic objective to strengthen livelihoods by helping countries to prepare for, manage and respond to threats and crises.

The ELRP was prepared after an extensive analysis of the drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen, a thorough review of assessment reports, and discussions with FAO technical staff and local stakeholders.

Implementing the ELRP will require USD 57.1 million to support approximately 820 000 households (5.7 million people) – over a 12-month period – in the 16 governorates with the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. This is 4.5 percent of the overall Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) requirements of USD 1.27 billion to assist 8.8 million people facing various forms of vulnerability and severe levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phases 3 and 4). Some 8.4 million severely food insecure Yemenis will require immediate life-saving emergency food assistance either as in kind/relief food, voucher transfers, or as cash-based transfers. It is envisaged that some vulnerable households will also access food through involvement in conditional cash-for-work or food-for-work programmes.



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Photo: Farmers learn how to plant almond trees using modern methods.

Summary



Impact

Reduced acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen



Objective

Improve food security and nutrition of **5.7 million people** (818 500 households)



FAO requires

USD 57.1 million



Outcome 1

Improved agricultural production and livelihoods security of the most vulnerable households through emergency provision of agricultural inputs, and protection and safeguarding livestock

USD 26.2 million



Outcome 3

Strengthened coordination in the fields of agriculture and food security for effective decision making

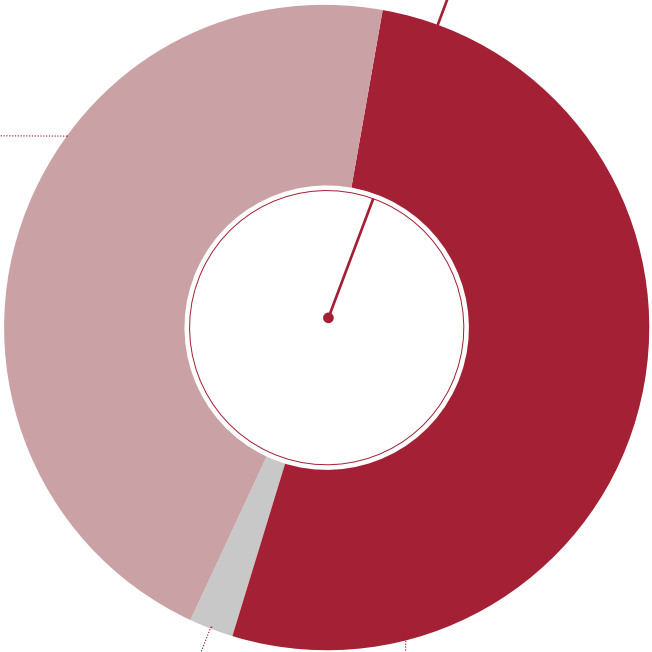
USD 1.2 million



Outcome 2

Restored and diversified agricultural-based livelihoods and income-generating opportunities

USD 29.7 million



Situation analysis

In numbers



17.8 million people food insecure, of whom **8.4 million** are severely food insecure – a **24%** increase compared with 2017



32% of all districts estimated to be at risk of famine



2 million IDPs



1.8 million children acutely malnourished



73% of the population relied on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihoods prior to the escalation of violence



60% of households rely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods



85% of farming households require emergency support of agricultural inputs



54% are facing problems in crop and livestock disease control and require emergency asset protection and safeguarding

Yemen has become increasingly unstable due to a protracted crisis that has severely negatively impacted the livelihoods of millions of people, threatened delivery of essential humanitarian services and set back progress achieved in several areas in the past years. Conflict and displacement, volatile food and commodity prices, drought and a sharp drop in remittances have pushed more people into poverty and hunger, thus making FAO interventions in crops, livestock and fisheries even more vital than in past years.

According to the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), **22.2 million people in the country are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance**. Of that number, 11.3 million people require immediate assistance to save and sustain their lives while the needs of another 10.9 million people are considered moderate.

The ongoing crisis has particularly affected the importation – and thus the availability – of essential food items. Fuel prices have risen by more than 150 percent compared to pre-crisis levels, which has dramatically increased pumping costs for irrigation, and transportation costs for essential food commodities and trucked water, which many farmers needed to boost agricultural production in the absence of expected rainfall in 2017.

Import prices in December increased by 34 percent for wheat, 37 percent for wheat flour, 83 percent for rice, 60 percent for cooking oil and 46 percent for sugar, compared with pre-crisis prices¹. As of November, the food stocks in the country were only sufficient to meet needs until the end of January 2018. However, commercial and humanitarian food imports increased following the opening of sea ports, which improved food stocks and availability in local markets.

The agriculture sector is among the worst hit by the current crisis and local food production has been severely compromised. As an example, thematic reports have shown considerable reductions in overall crop and livestock production, particularly for small ruminants (25 percent). The absence of veterinary services, coupled with scarcity and the high cost of drugs and animal feed, contributed to poor production.

Yemen is also one of the countries at risk of desert locust attacks and requires regular monitoring, surveillance and timely response and action. The unstable situation in the country and the sharp drop in the government's ability to provide financial support for many public services have had a dramatic effect on Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Centre field operations.

As of September 2017, **nearly 2 million people remained displaced within Yemen**. More than half of the currently internally displaced

¹ FAO Food Security Information System/Food Security Technical Secretariat Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin – December 2017



Photo: Villagers help to build a water storage facility in Sana'a.

people (IDPs) are sheltered in Hajjah, Taizz, Amanat Al Asimah and Amran governorates². After three years of conflict, displacement is becoming protracted for the vast majority of IDPs, further deepening vulnerabilities. IDPs and host communities are rapidly exhausting their reserves. The prolonged displacement continues to put additional pressure on already scarce basic services.

Instability and conflict have also devastated Yemen's economy.

Salaries of more than one million civil servants have not been paid regularly since 2016 and the Yemeni Rial to the USD exchange rate has shown unprecedented depreciations. In a country that imports 90 percent of its food, this has sharply increased commodity prices, making many essential staple food items out of reach for the vulnerable population.

² Task Force for Population Movement, Yemen – 16th Report, October 2017

Food security and nutrition

Yemen is a food-deficient country that produces only 10 percent of its cereal requirements and relies heavily on imports and food assistance. The country's low food self-sufficiency has been worsened by the conflict, which has disrupted economic activities, led to the suspension of safety net programmes and the implementation of import restrictions. FAO's programmes in Yemen aim to save livelihoods through the provision of supplies, knowledge and training to support the most vulnerable Yemeni communities to enhance their resilience and improve their food security and nutrition.

Since the conflict began in mid-March 2015, the food security situation has rapidly deteriorated. **The conflict has destroyed people's livelihoods and their ability to purchase food**, making it difficult for many Yemenis to meet minimum food needs. The food insecurity levels continue their upward trend with approximately 17.8 million Yemenis (61 percent of the population) struggling to feed themselves and their families. This dire situation represents a 5 percent increase in needs compared with the needs in 2017.³

Photo: A farmer cultivates land with a tiller.

³ FSAC Chapter, 2018 HNO



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Photo: Engineers train women in planting and preparing protected farms.

Incomes in Yemen have fallen sharply and many public sector workers have gone for more than a year without being paid. As a result, **80 percent of Yemenis are now in debt, and more than half of all households buy food on credit.** Most households – 60 percent – have resorted to negative coping mechanisms such as reducing their food portions or skipping meals.

Moreover, the livelihoods of a significant segment of the population dependent on agriculture have been disrupted. **Local food production has been severely compromised** with indications that the October/ November harvest will most likely not offset the local cereal production deficit. According to FAO, the cultivated land under rain-fed conditions decreased by 11 percent, irrigated land under cereals decreased by 40 percent, while production of small ruminants decreased by 25 percent for both sheep and goats, compared with the pre-crisis period. The decrease in irrigated land is mainly due to high diesel prices. The fishing activities on the Red Sea coast have significantly decreased, directly affecting 75 percent of fishers who have lost their livelihoods, income and household food security.

A total of 107 districts (32 percent of all districts) are currently estimated to be at **heightened risk of famine** – a 13 percent increase since mid-2017. The majority of the 10.4 million people living in these 107 districts are severely food insecure, lack access to safe water for drinking and basic sanitation and hygiene, require assistance to ensure adequate access to health care, and require nutrition assistance, particularly children under age five and pregnant women or lactating mothers. Large segments of the population in these districts face extreme and severe food deficits and have surpassed emergency malnutrition rates.

Millions of food insecure households face severe food consumption deficits that are life threatening and will need urgent emergency life-saving food assistance in the form of relief food, cash or voucher transfers. Additionally, their livelihood assets are at near collapse and coping strategies are almost exhausted, leading to spiralling extreme coping behaviours like sale of houses, land, productive assets and livestock, which is greatly compromising their household food security status. This necessitates emergency livelihoods assistance through agricultural, livestock and fisheries input support. To further arrest the downward spiralling of food security levels, households will also need longer-term assistance to recover, restore and rebuild their livelihoods through activities that will generate regular income. Community rehabilitation and resilience activities through asset transfers will also be employed in relevant districts.⁴

⁴ FSAC Chapter, 2018 HNO

Agriculture sector

Agriculture, which has traditionally been a source of income for more than half the population of Yemen and a main pillar of the country's economy, has been severely impacted. **FAO is increasing its efforts to support local food production, protect livelihoods and improve immediate household availability of and access to food** for the most vulnerable people in the country.



Photo: Agriculture has traditionally been a source of income for more than half of the population and a main pillar of Yemen's economy.

FAO is increasing its efforts to support local food production, protect the livelihoods of highly vulnerable rural populations and improve immediate household availability of and access to food for the most vulnerable people in the country

Prior to the conflict, agriculture contributed 18 to 27 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). This percentage is shrinking, however, as production and productivity in the sector decline. Some of the factors contributing to this include an emigrating workforce, limited public resources allocated to the sector, ineffective research and extension services, limited availability of and access to quality inputs and services, inefficient water management, climate change effects, inequitable access to arable land, and increased *qat* (*Catha edulis*) production (which reduces the amount of land available for food production and contributes to the depletion of the water table).

About 70 percent of the population live in rural areas, but almost half of those households own less than 1 ha of arable land, while 40 percent are landless⁵. The large households (an average of seven people per family), limited income-generating opportunities other than farming, and the current conflict all contribute to the increasing rise of rural poverty in Yemen.

The livelihoods of this critical segment of the population have been hit hard, with cereal and livestock production falling drastically compared with pre-crisis levels. According to a FAO cereal production thematic study conducted in seven governorates⁶, the cultivated land under rain-fed condition decreased by 11 percent, while irrigated land under cereals decreased by 40 percent compared with the pre-crisis period. A staggering 85 percent of households engaged in agriculture lack access to critical inputs (e.g. seeds, fertilizer and fuel for irrigation) and are in urgent need of emergency agricultural support. Another 54 percent of households are plagued by inadequate control of crop and livestock diseases and require emergency protection and safeguarding of assets.

Likewise, some 64 percent of agricultural households lack access to animal feed (e.g. fodder, concentrate and mineral blocks). Almost 50 percent have been forced to sell part of their herds to cater to other household needs.

The current conflict has also resulted in damage to infrastructure and is limiting or preventing access to agricultural value chains⁷, further contributing to substantial losses within the sector.

In response, FAO is working with partners in FSAC to support households experiencing food insecurity and malnutrition in order to protect and safeguard their agricultural livelihoods and improve food availability and access. Such cooperation and coordination helps to prevent the dire food security situation from deteriorating further.

⁵ The International Fund for Agricultural Development Rural Growth Programme (2013)

⁶ FAO–Food Security Information System thematic area studies in seven governorates of Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amran, Sana'a, Dhamar and Ibb in July 2017

⁷ The World Bank Group country engagement note for the Republic of Yemen for the period FY17–FY18 (June 2016)

Crops

Despite harsh climatic conditions and the limited availability of natural resources, including arable land and water supply, **agriculture remains a viable activity. Agriculture is in fact the main source of livelihoods for the majority of the rural population.**

A number of crops are grown in Yemen, including sorghum, millet, maize, wheat, barley, pulses, coffee, cotton, vegetables and *qat*. As per available statistics for 2015, cash crops account for 6.8 percent – excluding *qat*, which occupies 14.2 percent – fruit and vegetables for 13.7 percent, animal fodder for 11.7 percent, and pulses for 3.5 percent.

In recent years, crop production has declined due to drought, insufficient and erratic rainfall, declining soil quality, poor crop management, crop

Photo: A farmer works in a wheat field.



FAO is working to revitalize crop production so that the poorest and most vulnerable groups – displaced people, households headed by women, and children – have access to nutritious food and are better equipped to cope with future shocks

losses due to insect damage (especially locusts) and disease, limited investment, shortage of inputs and the disruption of markets. Other major obstacles to crop production exist in Yemen. These include dwindling and degraded arable land, fragmented landholdings, inequity in land tenancy, water scarcity, inefficient water management, limited application of modern agricultural technologies, and poorly developed infrastructure.

Yemen is also one of the countries at risk of desert locust attacks, which requires regular monitoring, surveillance and a timely response. The unstable situation in the country has led to serious deterioration of government financial support to the main public services, critically affecting the capacity of the Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Centre to conduct field operations to curb the spread of locusts and reduce their reproduction and breeding capacity. In turn, this has led to lost harvests.



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Livestock

The livestock sector is an integral component of rural and peri-urban livelihoods in Yemen, where households mainly keep sheep, goats, cattle, camels and poultry, and rely on the consumption and sale of their products. **The livestock sector improves livelihoods of countless Yemenis.** Revitalizing the livestock sector in the country is a main priority for FAO, as the sector helps the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the Yemeni population.

Livestock constitutes an important component of the national economy and is a main repository of wealth for at least one in every three livestock-owning households. The sale of animals accounts for a significant portion of household income and serves as a crucial fallback strategy when these households are faced with shocks. The total number of livestock in the country is estimated at 21 million, dominated by sheep (9.6 million) and goats (9.3 million), and followed by cattle (1.7 million) and camels (454 826).

Livestock production systems vary from traditional pastoralism to agropastoral systems and small-scale intensive animal production units. Pasture-fed livestock has traditionally been practiced and is a prominent feature of the rural economy and agricultural activities in many parts of the country.⁸ However, Yemen does not produce sufficient livestock products and imports a huge number of live animals, in addition to meat and dairy products. For example, 95 percent of the milk consumed in Yemen is imported. The productive capacity of the livestock sub-sector is held back by low levels of investment, limited access to livestock production and veterinary inputs and services, inadequate availability of and access to quality animal feed, epidemics and infectious diseases, inefficient management of resources, and the numerous effects of the current conflict.

Owing to these difficulties, **it is critical that the livestock assets of the most vulnerable households are safeguarded and protected.** Improved access to and consumption of milk (especially for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers), along with diversified income sources, will enhance the food security and nutrition status of vulnerable households. Once the situation normalizes, short-term protective measures will be followed by longer-term resilience-focused activities, which will help the vulnerable population to strengthen their animal husbandry practices.

The ongoing conflict continues to disrupt livelihoods, which has decimated livestock herds for many farmers, especially among displaced pastoral households. The quasi-majority (75 percent) of poor rural families rely on livestock for their living, where animals are their main or only assets. Unfortunately, lack of veterinary drugs and vaccines for livestock is causing the spread of endemic diseases such as *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), sheep and goat pox, and foot and mouth disease.

⁸ Country pasture/forage resource profiles (2006)



Photo: Women prepare raw milk to sell at the local market in Al Hudaydah.

The ELRP places special emphasis on safeguarding the livestock sector as it plays such an important role in nutrition and food security in Yemen, particularly for the most vulnerable

Recently, there has been an outbreak of lumpy skin disease – a highly contagious transboundary animal disease – in Yemen’s coastal Red Sea areas, where it is spreading fast and threatening livestock populations. Furthermore, the shortage and soaring prices of feed have resulted in poor livestock productivity with high levels of livestock deaths. Also, the industrial poultry sector – the major provider of protein (chicken and eggs) for poor families – is under serious threat as all vaccines and feed for poultry are imported.

Finally, the conflict and closure of major ports to humanitarian and commercial trade considerably deteriorated the livestock sector. This is threatening the main livelihood assets of the most vulnerable rural groups in Yemen, exacerbating food insecurity, which is already severe.



Photo: FAO is improving and diversifying livelihood opportunities for fishers, many of whom are isolated from regular humanitarian assistance.

Fisheries

Fishing is the third most important agricultural sub-sector, accounting for about 3 percent of Yemen's GDP.⁹ It is the major source of employment, income and food security in coastal areas. Support to fisheries is particularly important because these populations are isolated from regular humanitarian assistance. By providing the means to produce their own food we can help them rapidly improve their food security and nutrition. While the sub-sector's overall contribution to Yemen's economy might be small, the fisheries industry is the only source of income for many Yemenis. The sub-sector mainly consists of marine fishing along the 2 520 km long coastline, with diverse coastal habitats and rich marine resources, offering significant growth potential.

Fishing activities along the Red Sea coast have significantly decreased and production declined. The fisheries industry currently supports the livelihoods of an estimated 83 367 small-scale fishers and 583 625 of their household members. Out of this, around 18 652 employees and 130 000 families who rely on the fishery value chain are affected in the Red Sea coastal area.

Considerable efforts have been made over the years to develop the sub-sector. However, it has not been able to absorb a greater proportion of the workforce due to challenges that have slowed its development and raised sustainability issues. These include limited capacity along all steps of the fishing value chain including low productivity, low quality of products, inadequate access to lucrative international markets, unknown fisheries stock carrying capacity, declining stocks, and limited private sector development of the sub-sector. Furthermore, the situation worsened following two cyclones in November 2015, while the current conflict has heavily affected fishers due to restricted access to the sea, increased fuel prices, disruption of fish exports, destruction of fishing equipment and inadequate cold storage facilities.¹⁰

Under the ELRP, the FAO strategy will focus on improving and diversifying the income and livelihood opportunities available to fishers who no longer have fishing opportunities and supporting them to become productive by linking them to markets and actors along the value chain. Such support would include lobbying and advocacy for access and trade (domestic and foreign)

⁹ IFAD: Fisheries investment project for Yemen (2010)

¹⁰ The 2017 Yemen HNO

Natural resources

Climate change is causing increased periods of drought and unpredictable rainfall, while limiting the growth of sustainable, diversified and resilient rural livelihoods in Yemen

Yemen's natural resources are under pressure on account of demographic changes, weak and poorly managed institutions and governance, and instability and a deteriorating economic situation brought on by the current conflict and the impacts of climate change. Yemen's major environmental problems are related to water scarcity, soil erosion, land degradation and desertification, all of which are exacerbated by climate change.

The sector most vulnerable to the effects of the phenomenon is agriculture, which is considered to be in need of immediate and urgent adaptation interventions. Climate change is causing increased periods of drought and unpredictable rainfall, while limiting the growth of sustainable, diversified and resilient rural livelihoods in Yemen. The already dire situation in the country is expected to worsen, with incidents of drought and extreme rainfall patterns becoming more frequent as the climate continues to warm.

Photo: A farmer waters crops at a protected farm in Sana'a.



©FAO/Soliman Ahmed

Within the framework of the ELRP, FAO will apply mitigation measures such as the use of cash transfers to construct or rehabilitate water infrastructure.

Energy saving devices – such as solar pumps and drip irrigation systems – will also be promoted in line with FAO’s ‘save and grow’ approach towards sustainable production practices

In recent years, Yemen’s rainfall patterns have shown increasing extremes – both decreased rainfall (leading to losses in agriculture and water shortages) and flooding. Frequent droughts and flooding have affected livelihoods and income generation for a large percentage of the population, while many households are facing crop failure due to the effects of pests and diseases, sandstorms and desertification – all of which threaten their food security and nutrition.

The availability of water for a rapidly growing population is an increasing problem, as current availability is less than one-tenth of the threshold for water stress (defined as 1 700 m³ per capita per year). The per capita water availability in Yemen is 340 m³ compared to a regional average of 1 250 m³ and a world average of 7 600 m³.¹¹ It is anticipated that groundwater reserves are likely to be mostly depleted within 20 to 30 years, irrespective of climate change, reducing agricultural output by up to 40 percent.

It is estimated that agriculture uses 93 percent of available surface and groundwater in Yemen. This figure is high because of inefficient irrigation techniques and the expansion of *qat* cultivation, which alone accounts for more than 30 percent of water use. Furthermore, the rate of groundwater overdraft is currently twice the recharge rate, and is increasing, bringing depletion of water reserves, inequity and shortages, with negative socio-economic consequences.

The availability of water for food production is a serious challenge in Yemen, and will remain so until policies and actions are significantly changed. Better management practices, technological innovation and targeted education are important factors in addressing the issue of water availability in Yemen. In addition, forests and natural vegetation have been degraded due to overcutting for construction, fuel and fodder, to the point where they have almost disappeared. The concentration of IDPs in some locations is expected to further degrade and deplete the natural resources currently available.

¹¹ Yemen country strategic opportunities programme

Rationale

The provision of food assistance is essential but not sustainable and will in the long run lead to food aid dependency and the erosion of the population's coping mechanisms. Agriculture cannot be an afterthought and remains the main source of livelihoods for the bulk of Yemenis, especially for those living in rural and peri-rural areas.

Agriculture must be an integral part of the humanitarian response to prevent Yemen's dire food security situation from worsening.

Investing in agricultural livelihood interventions will help food insecure households to produce much-needed and life-saving food, and reduce their dependency on food assistance and food imports.

Photo: A farmer prepares seedlings for planting.



Currently, farming households lack access to inputs because of greatly reduced purchasing power and the disruption of markets in many areas. With backyard vegetable or poultry production kits, for example, conflict-affected families can produce nutritious food close to their homes and earn much-needed income with the surplus.

The FAO rationale for an emergency agricultural livelihoods response plan in 2018 has two underpinnings.

First, while the conflict and instability in the country, and restrictions associated with them, make many activities more difficult to implement, those very factors make it more incumbent to engage in short- and medium-term programmes that can alleviate immediate humanitarian needs while rebuilding the damaged agricultural infrastructure. As before, FAO has reached its priorities in consultation and coordination with relevant Yemeni authorities and stakeholders.

Second, the number of target beneficiaries under the ELRP 2018 is nearly twice that of 2017 – increased from 3 million people to 5.7 million people. FAO intends to reach its target by putting more emphasis on emergency livestock assistance and restoration. Included in that priority is emphasis on livestock vaccination and treatment, covering nearly 12 million animals in the country – and by association improving the livelihoods of 4.2 million livestock owners.

FAO's provision of animal feed and animal health services will ensure that products (especially milk) are available to the most vulnerable members of their families – especially children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Without scaling up agricultural livelihood support, farmers, herders and fishers will continue to depend on prolonged food assistance in 2018 and beyond.

Supporting market-based responses through cash transfers plays a critical role in response to crises or shocks when farmers and pastoralists no longer have the ability to purchase food, agricultural inputs or livestock because their assets have been damaged or depleted.

FAO interventions help vulnerable farmers in priority target areas to protect their livelihoods from future shocks (e.g. drought, illness and poor production), overcome cash shortages and improve their food security and nutrition.

Agriculture must be an integral part of the humanitarian response to prevent Yemen's dire food security situation from worsening

FAO's work in Yemen

FAO has been operating in Yemen since before the country's unification in 1990, when the country became a member of the Organization. Since then, it has been on the ground providing support to farmers, herders and fishers and contributing to the improvement of agricultural production and productivity in the country. FAO is also working with the Yemeni authorities in an effort to reach the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FAO has remained in Yemen throughout the escalation of the current conflict and co-leads FSAC with the World Food Programme. The Organization is ideally placed to work closely with all actors including the authorities, other United Nations (UN) agencies, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector in planning, identifying and addressing humanitarian needs related to food security and rural livelihoods.

Given its mandate, technical expertise and more than 25 years of experience operating in Yemen, FAO is well positioned to take the lead on issues related to agriculture (crops, livestock and fisheries). It is currently operating in 16 out of the country's 22 governorates.

Photo: FAO's objective is to improve the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable households in Yemen.



©FAO/Soliman Ahmed

Planned interventions

Objective

The overall objective of FAO's ELRP is to improve the food security and nutrition of 818 500 of the most vulnerable households (5.7 million people) in Yemen.



Outcome 1

Improved agricultural production and livelihoods security of the most vulnerable households through emergency provision of agricultural inputs, and protection and safeguarding livestock

Output 1

150 000 vulnerable households are provided with emergency agricultural livelihood kits to improve their food security and nutrition status

Key activities

- Provide inputs for cereal production to 80 000 households
- Support small-scale vegetable production for 70 000 households

Output 2

12 million livestock belonging to 600 000 vulnerable households protected and safeguarded against transboundary animal diseases

Key activity

- Vaccinate and treat 12 million livestock belonging to 600 000 households

Output 3

26 000 households supported with provision of animal feed, poultry and fishing equipment

Key activities

- Provide animal feed to save and protect livestock belonging to 10 000 households
- Support backyard poultry keeping for 10 000 households
- Support fishing activities for 6 000 households



Outcome 2

Restored and diversified agricultural-based livelihoods and income-generating opportunities

Output 1

42 500 food insecure vulnerable households (297 500 people) supported to improve and diversify their income and agricultural livelihoods

Key activities

- Provide cash to 20 000 vulnerable households for rehabilitation of shallow wells, ponds and other rain water harvesting structures, terraces, retaining walls and gabions – focusing on youth, women and able-bodied elderly people
- Support beekeeping activities for 3 000 households, focusing on women and youth
- Support 5 000 households with greenhouse activities, and provision of solar pumps to 7 000 households
- Provide 7 500 households with livestock for restocking
- Train and equip 250 CAHWs who will in turn assist 250 000 livestock owners



Outcome 3

Strengthened coordination in the fields of agriculture and food security for effective decision making

Output 1

Improved quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the food security and agriculture-related humanitarian response

Key activities

- Co-lead FSAC, at national and sub-national levels, including supporting humanitarian and technical coordination fora (Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism, Humanitarian Country Team, CMWG and others)
- Lead discussions for the review and production of key appeal documents, such as HNO and HRP
- Lead and coordinate various food security and agriculture-related surveys/assessments for an informed, evidence-based and strategic humanitarian response, including IPC, among others
- Develop capacity of stakeholders working in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food security and related fields, including institutional support on planning and programming for line ministries and other national stakeholders in the form of national strategic action plans

Implementation

The ELRP will be implemented within the framework of the Yemen humanitarian planning arrangements, in collaboration and partnership with relevant authorities, NGOs, community-based organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

FAO's capacity to access/deliver to the affected population

FAO Yemen has country representation based in Sana'a as well as sub-offices in other parts of the country to be closer to the people most in need. These offices continue to be strengthened as circumstances allow. FAO, in collaboration with partners, is able to reach all 22 governorates.

FAO Yemen operations also benefit from the expertise available at the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa in Cairo and FAO headquarters in Rome. FAO has developed resilience-based frameworks and action plans for a number of crisis-affected countries in the Near East and North Africa region and will provide important technical support in the various technical areas of the proposed action. FAO headquarters will support the proposed action as required, in particular through the Strategic Programme – Resilience, whose role is to provide technical assistance to country offices and share FAO's global knowledge in building livelihood resilience in the face of threats and crises.

Photo: Engineers train farmers on planting and preparing protected farms.



©FAO/Soliman Ahmed



Photo: A woman speaks with FAO staff.

Gender

FAO is committed to mainstreaming gender in all of its work, including in its programmes, strategies and plans. In conflict situations such as Yemen, the importance of gender mainstreaming cannot be neglected or ignored. Women, men, girls and boys are affected differently and face different risks, which have a bearing on their capacity to access food and agricultural livelihood opportunities. Identification of needs, planning, targeting and implementation of interventions will take into consideration the needs of the different vulnerable groups.

Accountability to affected populations

FAO will strive to ensure that the principles of accountability to affected populations are integrated into the various phases of the programme cycle, recognizing in particular opportunities to collaborate among agencies in order to ensure complementarity and coherence when engaging with communities. Good practices identified after operating in similar contexts will be taken into consideration. These include the use of beneficiary-sensitive distribution protocols, communicating with target beneficiaries in local languages, and inviting feedback (even if informally) on the quality and appropriateness of FAO's support.

FAO is committed to mainstreaming gender in all of its work

Coordination and partnership

Photo: Inefficient water management is a serious challenge for food production in Yemen. To address this, cash transfers will be provided to construct or rehabilitate water infrastructure.

Coordination of interventions will be done within the framework of the FSAC coordination arrangement. Planning will be conducted in close collaboration with the authorities in Yemen in order to facilitate clearances for movement of FAO personnel to and from locations where interventions are being implemented. FAO will implement its programme directly, unless access to certain areas requires partnership with NGOs (national or international).



The cluster brings together all stakeholders involved in a specific thematic area with the aim of improving predictability, leadership and accountability in humanitarian activities. In a complex Level 3 humanitarian operation with a magnitude like that in Yemen, coordination is essential – thus continued support to FSAC is vital.

For the past three years, FSAC has been able to provide stable and predictable leadership for all humanitarian agencies operating in the sector in Yemen. The cluster has provided an action-oriented forum for bringing together national and international humanitarian partners to improve the timeliness and impact of humanitarian assistance on the lives of the crisis-affected population in Yemen.

In particular, FSAC ensures coherent, coordinated and integrated humanitarian responses that are driven by the assessed food security and agriculture needs of the crisis-affected population. Maintaining regular cluster meetings at the national level, and all six humanitarian hubs through sub-clusters, has facilitated information sharing among partners and provided better coverage of response gaps, thus avoiding duplication or overlap of assistance. FSAC aims at enabling humanitarian actors to prioritize their interventions based on vulnerability and needs, adhere to minimum standards for assistance, and use resources in a more efficient and effective way through more coordinated actions.

The FSAC currently comprises 94 partners from international and national NGOs, UN and related agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, humanitarian donor agencies and other development partners, community-based organizations, and relevant government institutions, e.g. the Food Security Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Social Welfare Fund, and the Social Fund for Development.

For increased impact, these mainstay FSAC activities will be further integrated and synchronized with nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health cluster activities at household, community or health facility levels. It is envisaged that this approach will save lives and lessen the humanitarian caseload in the short term, while at the same time building the road towards recovery in the medium to long term.

Monitoring and reporting

FAO has a monitoring system that helps track all interventions implemented in the country and links them to the FAO Corporate Strategic Framework. FAO will collect information on the performance of the interventions and provide updates on a regular basis through FSAC. The resource partner community will be briefed and updated on progress of implementation of the plan as per the FAO briefing schedule.

Communications and outreach

The ELRP aims to strengthen and support efforts in advocacy, awareness raising, knowledge management and communication, as well as other initiatives that raise awareness of emergency interventions targeting agricultural livelihoods.

In particular, the strategy will focus on the following areas:

- Increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and visibility of the importance of emergency interventions targeting agricultural livelihoods in the fight against hunger.
- Advocate for greater commitment and financial investment in emergency agricultural livelihood activities from resource partners, humanitarian partners and authorities.
- Promote good practices that can be scaled up and institutionalized.

To maximize reach, various groups will be targeted, including local institutions, government agencies, project partners (including NGOs and community-based organizations), the humanitarian community, local and international media, resource partners and beneficiaries.

Photo: Engineers train women at a farmers' school.



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Annex

Logical framework

Impact



Reduced acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen

Objective



Improve food security and nutrition of **5.7 million people** (818 500 households)

Outcome 1



Improved agricultural production and livelihoods security of the most vulnerable households through emergency provision of agricultural inputs, and protection and safeguarding livestock

Indicators

- % of households with diversified diet
- Number of meals eaten per day

Output	Key activities	Indicators, targets	Assumptions
Output 1 150 000 vulnerable households are provided with emergency agricultural livelihood kits to improve their food security and nutrition status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide inputs for cereal production Wto 80 000 households • Support small-scale vegetable production for 70 000 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households provided with agricultural kits (150 000) • Quantity of inputs distributed (3 100 tonnes of cereal seed) • Estimated area planted under cereals (80 000 ha) • Estimated cereal production (100 000 tonnes) • Number of vegetable gardens established (70 000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in the security situation allowing more access to the affected governorates and access to land by target beneficiaries • Willingness of national and international NGOs to work with FAO in hard-to-reach areas
Output 2 12 million livestock belonging to 600 000 vulnerable households protected and safeguarded against transboundary animal diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinate and treat 12 million livestock belonging to 600 000 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of livestock vaccinated and treated (12 million) • Number of households supported with livestock vaccination/treatment (600 000) • Number of controlled outbreaks of livestock diseases (PPR, sheep/goat pox) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security situation permits movement of field staff, herders and livestock
Output 3 26 000 households supported with provision of animal feed, poultry and fishing equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide animal feed to save and protect livestock belonging to 10 000 households • Support backyard poultry keeping for 10 000 households • Support fishing activities for 6 000 households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households assisted with poultry, animal feed or fishing equipment (26 000 households) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely procurement of inputs • Security situation permits access to target areas and beneficiaries

Outcome 2



Restored and diversified agricultural-based livelihoods and income-generating opportunities.

Indicators

- % of households with increased income level
- % of households with diversified diets and livelihoods

Output	Key activities	Indicators, targets	Assumptions
Output 1 42 500 food insecure vulnerable households (297 500 people) supported to improve and diversify their income and agricultural livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide cash to 20 000 vulnerable households for rehabilitation of shallow wells, ponds and other rain water harvesting structures, terraces, retaining walls and gabions – focusing on youth, women and able-bodied elderly people • Support beekeeping activities for 3 000 households, focusing on women and youth • Support 5 000 households with greenhouse activities, and provision of solar pumps to 7 000 households • Provide 7 500 households with livestock for restocking • Train and equip 250 CAHWs who will in turn assist 250 000 livestock owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households supported through cash for work (42 500) • Total cash distributed (USD 957 200) • Number of households supported through beekeeping (3 000) • Number of wells, ponds, rain water harvesting structures rehabilitated (28 wells) • Area covered through rehabilitation of terraces (458 ha) • Number of CAHWs trained and equipped (250) • Number of households supported with greenhouse activities (5 000) • Number of households receiving solar pumps (7 000) • Number of households receiving livestock for restocking (7 500) • Number of livestock owners supported by CAHWs (250 000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in the security situation allowing more access to the affected governorates and access to land by target beneficiaries • Willingness of national and international NGOs to work with FAO in hard-to-reach areas • Timely procurement of material needed for distribution • Economic conditions being conducive enough for markets to function in Yemen so farmers and herders can sell their products

Outcome 3



Strengthened coordination in the fields of agriculture and food security for effective decision making

Indicators

- Effective and timely response to cluster partners and stakeholders' needs

Output	Key activities	Indicators, targets	Assumptions
Output 1 Improved quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the food security and agriculture-related humanitarian response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-lead FSAC, at national and sub-national levels, including supporting humanitarian and technical coordination fora (Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism, Humanitarian Country Team, CMWG and others) • Lead discussions for the review and production of key appeal documents, such as HNO and HRP • Lead and coordinate various food security and agriculture-related surveys/assessments for an informed, evidence-based and strategic humanitarian response, including IPC, among others • Develop capacity of stakeholders working in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food security and related fields, including institutional support on planning and programming for line ministries and other national stakeholders in the form of national strategic action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coverage of identified agricultural livelihoods needs • Well-informed programming and proper resource allocation within the cluster • Enhanced synergies and partnerships among cluster partners • Number of partners trained • Number of assessments carried out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in the security situation allowing more access to the affected governorates and access to land by target beneficiaries • Willingness of national and international NGOs to work with FAO in hard-to-reach areas



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I9019EN/1/03.18

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