



### HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO activated a Level 3 Emergency Response** in Yemen on 14 July 2015 given the urgent need to scale up its response to the large-scale impacts of the crisis on food security and nutrition. A Humanitarian System-Wide Level-3 Emergency has been active since 1 July 2015.
- **14.4 million people – more than 50 percent of the population – are food insecure:** [a 36 percent increase since September 2014.](#)
- **Food security is expected to further deteriorate with the escalation of conflict and insecurity**, unless the affected populations' access to food and income improves dramatically.
- An **Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment** covering 20 governorates – to be conducted by FAO, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme in close collaboration with relevant national institutions and ministries – is pending necessary clearances in order to be launched.
- **FAO seeks USD 25 million within the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 to:**
  -  [provide livelihood inputs](#) and support for crop production, backyard gardening, poultry raising, livestock production and health, and fisheries;
  -  [increase water supply](#) for farming purposes, including the distribution of solar water pumps, rehabilitation of water infrastructure (e.g. wells, canals, cisterns and reservoirs) and support to water users' associations;
  -  [implement cash and voucher transfer based activities](#) and support income-generating activities linked to the production of food with high nutritional value, with a focus on women's groups;
  -  [assess, monitor and control transboundary plant and animal diseases and pests](#), including desert locust.
- **FAO's appeal for 2016 is 20 percent funded** thanks to contributions from the European Union, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United States of America.
- **Increasing farming households' resilience to food security threats will contribute to saving many lives.** Emergency agricultural interventions are critical to preserving household food production – an increasingly vital lifeline, especially in hard to reach areas where aid access is limited – as well as income generation.

### BACKGROUND

The conflict in Yemen has escalated dramatically since mid-March 2015, with dire consequences for civilians. Thousands of Yemenis have been injured and killed, and approximately 2.5 million are internally displaced. Around 21.2 million people (nearly 82 percent of the population) need some form of humanitarian support – a 33 percent increase in needs since the conflict began. Access constraints remain high and affected families lack vital supplies and services, including water, food and medical care. Prior to the escalation in conflict, Yemen was already one of the world's poorest and most water scarce countries, with the second highest rate of chronic malnutrition among children.

A **Level-3 Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Response for Yemen was activated on 1 July 2015.** FAO declared its emergency operation in Yemen as an FAO Level 3 Emergency Response on 14 July 2015. An extension of the Level-3 Emergency Response is expected to be officially announced in the coming weeks.

### CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

#### ❖ **36 percent rise in food insecurity levels since 2014**

**Around 14.4 million people – over half of Yemen's population – are in urgent need of food security and livelihood assistance**, including 7.6 million people who are severely food insecure. This represents a 36 percent increase in food insecurity levels compared to September 2014, and a 12 percent increase since June 2015. Contributing factors include food shortages and poor access to markets, reduced access to healthcare and sanitation, reduced income options and disruption of livelihood opportunities. The scarcity of fuel, electricity, gas, water and other services and utilities is further exacerbating the situation. An Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) covering 20 governorates will be conducted as soon as the necessary clearances are granted. The next Integrated Food Security Phase Classification exercise – which will be conducted upon completion of the EFSNA – is expected to show an increasing number of people approaching emergency levels of food insecurity.

#### KEY FIGURES

**Total population:** 26 million

**Affected people:** 21.2 million

82%

**Food insecure:** 14.4 million

55%

**Internally displaced:**  
2.5 million



**Targeted for assistance (2016):**  
13.2 million

51%



## ❖ Reduced food availability and access

Prior to the current conflict, Yemen imported over 90 percent of its staple foods (including 85 percent of cereals), while local production accounted for around 20-25 percent of overall food availability. Import restrictions and fuel shortages as a result of the conflict have negatively affected agricultural production, food availability, market functioning, transport and distribution. As a result, prices have increased rapidly and significantly for imported staple foods and local produce. Staple food prices are up by 40-160 percent, with the greatest degree of scarcity and price rises in southwestern governorates.

## ❖ Agriculture and livelihoods severely disrupted

The crisis has severely disrupted livelihoods in the agriculture sector, which employs over 50 percent of Yemen's workforce and is the main source of livelihood for two-thirds of the population. The conflict has reduced field activities, disrupted exports and damaged greenhouses – a major source of vegetable production in the northwest. Power outages and lack of fuel are affecting the storage and transport of perishable produce. High fuel prices – up by nearly 200 percent since before the crisis – are also causing irrigation, transport and marketing costs to soar, leaving farmers with higher production costs than profits. The scarcity of animal feed, forage and veterinary drugs have caused livestock production to decline, threatening a key source of income for many rural families. Fishing is also highly affected by insecurity, lack of fuel and electricity which is causing spoilage, and market disruptions (internal and exports). Two cyclones in early November 2015 compounded the situation, causing significant damage in six coastal governorates that has impacted the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and fishers.

## ❖ Animal and plant pests and diseases a growing threat

Public services including veterinary disease surveillance, vaccinations and plant protection have been eroded by the conflict, exposing livestock and crops to great risks. Though some support has been provided with the help of international organizations in conflict-affected areas such as Hajjah, Hodeidah and Taiz, more consistent interventions are needed to prevent the situation from deteriorating. Without regular surveillance and monitoring, livelihoods and food security will be increasingly threatened.

## FAO RESPONSE

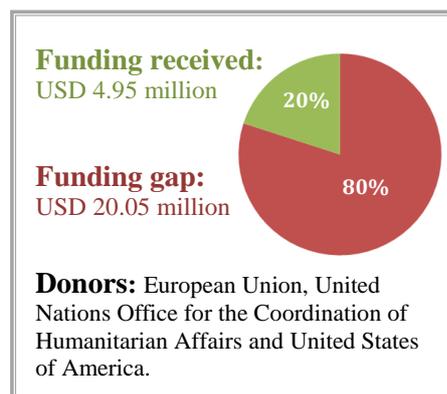
FAO seeks USD 25 million within the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2016<sup>1</sup> for emergency agricultural interventions that will preserve household food production and income generation, while building the resilience of families to withstand the effects of the crisis on their livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Increasing farming households' resilience will in turn contribute to saving many lives.

FAO's priority interventions in 2016 are to:

- provide livelihood inputs and support for crop production, backyard gardening, poultry raising, livestock production and health, and fisheries<sup>2</sup>;
- increase water supply for farming purposes, including the distribution of solar water pumps and rehabilitation of water infrastructure (e.g. wells, canals, cisterns, reservoirs) and support to water users' associations;
- implement cash and voucher transfer-based activities and support income-generating activities linked to the production of food with high nutritional value, focused on women's groups;
- assess, monitor and control transboundary plant and animal diseases and pests, including desert locust.

FAO has directly assisted over 65 000 people since the conflict escalation in March 2015, and aims to support more than 700 000 people by mid-2016 to strengthen or rebuild their livelihoods through:

-  restoration of staple crop production;
-  increased family nutrition and income sources (fisheries, livestock, vegetable, poultry);
-  increased water supply for farming;
-  protection of livestock (vaccination, building capacity of community animal health workers).



### CONTACT:

Salah Hajj Hassan | FAO Representative in Yemen  
Sana'a, Yemen | +967-1-432681 | Salah.ElHajjHassan@fao.org

Abdussalam Ould Ahmed | Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa  
Cairo, Egypt | +20 2 33382601 | Abdussalam.OuldAhmed@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader - Resilience  
Rome, Italy | Tel. +39 0657053803 | TCE-Director@fao.org

<sup>1</sup> The "funding received" figure to the right reflects resources mobilized for 2016 only. It therefore includes only the 2016 portion (USD 2.7 million) of a USD 8.5 million contribution from the European Union for a three-year "Enhanced rural resilience in Yemen" project. The remaining USD 5.8 million from this contribution will be allocated for 2017 and 2018.

<sup>2</sup> This includes support to fishers in coastal areas affected by cyclones Chapala and Megh which hit in November 2015, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities.