






## 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:** 36 percent increase since 2014.
- **Food security is expected to deteriorate significantly with the escalation of conflict and insecurity**, unless the affected populations' access to food and income improves dramatically.
- **FAO seeks USD 19 million within the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 (Revision) 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 and rehabilitation of water infrastructure (e.g. wells, canals, cisterns and reservoirs).
  -  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.
- **FAO's appeal is 74 percent funded** thanks to contributions from Belgium, FAO, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United States of America and the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund.
- **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 2.3 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.

A Level-3 Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Response for Yemen was activated from 1 July until the end of December 2015. FAO declared its emergency operation in Yemen as an FAO Level 3 Emergency Response on 14 July. Prior to the escalations 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.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

### ❖ 36 percent rise in food insecurity levels since last year

Around 14.4 million people – over half of Yemen's population – are in urgent need of food 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 last year (IPC 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.

### ❖ Reduced food availability and access

Yemen imports 90-95 percent of its staple foods (including 85 percent of cereals), while local production accounts for around 20-25 percent of overall food availability. The conflict, import restrictions and fuel shortages 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.

## KEY FIGURES

**Total population:** 26 million

**Affected people:** 21.2 million

80%

**Food insecure:** 14.4 million

55%

**Internally displaced:** 2.3 million



**Targeted for assistance (2015):**

11.7 million

45%



