



### IN NUMBERS



**6.9 million**

people food insecure and  
3.1 million at risk



**2 in 5 people**

are on the move inside  
the country



**USD 111.36 million**

funding gap for FAO's 2017  
Humanitarian Response Plan

### KEY MESSAGES

- **Food security in parts of Syria has slightly improved, but the overall situation remains far worse than before the crisis.**
- **Approximately 6.9 million people are food insecure and a further 3.1 million are at risk of food insecurity, as asset depletion strategies are being adopted to meet consumption needs.**
- According to the latest Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted by FAO and WFP, **total wheat production is estimated at 1.8 million tonnes – 12 percent more than last year's record low but still much less than half of the pre-conflict ten-year average. Livestock herd sizes have stabilized, albeit at very low levels.**
- **Two in five people are on the move inside Syria, with 6.3 million internally displaced.** However, 440 000 people have returned to their home areas owing to the improved security situation in parts of the country.
- **Improved security within the country and reopening of supply routes led to the slow recovery of trade and functioning urban markets.** In parts of eastern Aleppo city, markets that were destroyed are slowly recovering. Food prices continue to be very high compared to 2-3 years ago, but have slightly decreased in parts of the country compared to the previous year.
- **Humanitarian access continues to be heavily constrained.** According to the CFSAM, improvements in humanitarian access have been reported compared with last year, however the situation in Ar-Raqqa remains critical.

### CURRENT SITUATION

**Approximately 6.9 million people are food insecure and a further 3.1 million are at risk of food insecurity, as asset depletion strategies are being adopted to meet consumption needs.** In a country with a population of 18.5 million people, only 3.5 million Syrians are reported to be food secure. Two in five people are on the move inside the country. Over half of Syria's population have fled their homes, including 6.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs). The improved security situation in parts of the country has allowed the return of 440 000 people. Still, the continuing crisis has led to new displacements, with seven out of 14 governorates encountering an increased number of IDPs compared with the start of the year. The most frequently reported reasons for displacement included the deterioration of security, exacerbated economic conditions and the absence of basic services as well as the need for better livelihood opportunities.

**Some 50 percent of households reduced the number of meals and more than 30 percent restrict adult consumption to prioritize children.** The food shortage in the country has pushed Syrians to exercise a high level of food coping strategies. A significant majority of households have depleted their assets and are unable to cope. Displaced households continue to engage in negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour and early drop-outs of school. While food insecurity is stabilizing in Government-controlled areas, households in hard-to-reach and besieged areas as well as IDPs report severe conditions, with over 30 percent of households having poor consumption behaviours (quality and quantity), most notably women-headed and large households.

**Humanitarian access continues to be heavily constrained.** According to the latest CFSAM, improvements in humanitarian access have been reported compared with last year. Nonetheless, access still remains to be worryingly constrained in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates. While the air-drops marginally improved the humanitarian situation in Deir-ez-Zor, the situation in Ar-Raqqa remains critical as the fighting and airstrikes continue. Shops have been destroyed and the price of a standard food basket has sharply increased by 42 percent in May–June 2017.

## CHALLENGES FACING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**Better rains have resulted in an increase in wheat and barley yields in 2017 and improved access to agricultural land in some areas.** According to the CFSAM, wheat production was estimated at 1.8 million tonnes – 12 percent more than last year's record but still more than 50 percent less than the pre-crisis ten-year average, as a result of high costs, lack of inputs and the impact of the crisis on infrastructure (e.g. irrigation).

**Herd sizes have stabilized albeit at low levels.** As a result of the high precipitation level, pasture quantity and quality has improved compared with last year. Due to restricted access to traditional grazing areas, pasture recovery was slow because of high livestock densities in localised areas, placing an upward pressure on fodder prices. Various ecto- and endo-parasites affecting cattle, sheep and goats were reported in northern governorates. Early signs of cattle emaciation were witnessed in Idleb, while varied types of diseases affecting sheep and goats were reported in Rural Damascus, mainly due to the shortage and high costs of vaccines. Widespread malnutrition of livestock, due to inaccessibility of pastures and limited availability of compound fodder, have worsened the impact of these infections.

**Improved security within the country and reopening of supply routes led to the slow recovery of trade and functioning urban markets.** Eastern Aleppo markets' are gradually recovering from its previous state of full destruction. Nevertheless, market prices continue to burden Syrians as food prices remain very high compared with previous years. The improvement in access and market functionality has slightly improved livelihood opportunities for Syrians in the formal and informal sectors. Casual labourers and pastoralists' have also reported the improvement in their purchasing power since December 2016.

## FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

### 2017 RESPONSE



In 2017, FAO has reached more than **432 000 people (72 000 households)**, including cross-border operations with:



**10 000+ Backyard food production inputs** including poultry production packages, vegetable kits and wheat seeds distributed to 100 000+ households to improve nutrition and food security, and access to fresh food in Aleppo, As-Sweida, Hama, Idleb, Lattakia, Rural Damascus.



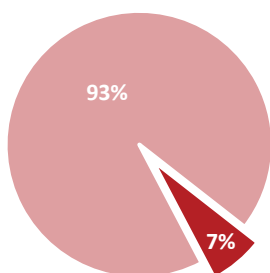
**1.3 million livestock treated** in ten governorates against endo- and ecto-parasites, benefiting more than 230 000 people in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus and Tartous.



#### School gardens

140 teachers trained on nutrition-sensitive agriculture which will benefit more than 2400 children in Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Lattakia and Tartous.

### FUNDING



■ Funding to-date:  
USD 8.04 million

■ Funding gap:  
USD 111.36 million

Donors: European Union, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America, UN OCHA.

FAO requires  
USD 119.4 million

To assist  
3.36 million people

### 2017 PRIORITIES



#### Support staple food production

wheat, barley and pulse seed • training on improved cropping methods • rehabilitate damaged irrigation infrastructure • technical training • improve the capacity of technicians and seed producers



#### Increased household nutrition and income

egg-laying hens • vegetable kits • poultry and rabbit distributions • conditional cash transfers • vouchers • technical training



#### Increasing/protecting livestock assets

animal feed • livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns and inputs • veterinary capacity • animal restocking • capacity development



#### Planned, collective response

coordination • drought early warning • needs assessment, monitoring • planning and strategy development • data collection, analysis and reporting • capacity building

### COORDINATION

FAO is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in setting up a national agriculture sector coordination mechanism, which ensures a proper flow of information among all actors involved in the agriculture sector and will lead to a more comprehensive planning while reducing duplication of efforts. This mechanism is supported by the seven Technical Working Groups on the various sub-sectors of agriculture, which provides technical support and follow-up for the recommendation of the coordination meeting.

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