



SYRIA CRISIS

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

SYRIA LEBANON TURKEY JORDAN IRAQ EGYPT

SYRIA CRISIS

September 2014



SYRIA

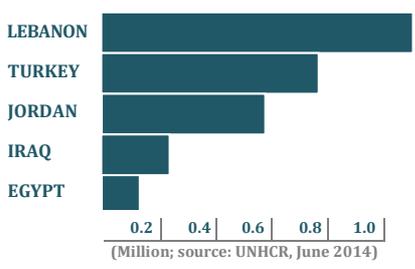
- Violence** since 3/2011
- 10.8 million in need** (49% current pop.)
- 6.45 million IDPs** (37%↑ since 4/2013)
- 6.3 million need food & agriculture support**
- Low rainfall** Jan-Feb 14
- Drought concerns**

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



3 million refugees (registered)

REGISTERED REFUGEES



CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

SYRIA

Food insecurity. An estimated 6.3 million people are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and in critical need of food and agriculture support. The crisis has severely limited food production, marketing and imports. With localized drought in much of the country, food production is expected to further decline. Livelihood loss, deepening poverty, inflation and steep depreciation of the Syrian pound have further eroded families' ability to meet basic needs and cope. Many report reducing the number of meals and opting for cheaper and less nutritious foods. The most vulnerable groups will remain unable to produce or access adequate food to meet basic needs this year, necessitating continued and expanded provision of multiple forms of emergency food and agricultural assistance.

Agricultural production downfalls exacerbated by low rainfall. Despite the potential of agriculture to address mounting food availability and access constraints, little has been invested to support recovery of the sector. Latest assessments confirm low 2012/13 cereal production and anticipate low output for 2013/14 (18 percent below last year's poor crop and around 52 percent below the 2001-2011 average) due to drought conditions in the main crop production areas, reduced areas under cultivation, limited access to farmland and inputs. These factors, coupled with decreased capacity of farming populations to generate income and access food in highly affected areas, increasingly hinder food security.

Livelihood constraints. Agriculture-based livelihoods face severe constraints across the value chain – from production to market. Major constraints include: restricted access to land due to violence; internal displacement; reduced availability and increased cost of farming inputs (seeds, fertilizers, animal feed, veterinary supplies, etc.); damage to land, farming equipment and infrastructure (including irrigation and storage), and market disruption.

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Food availability, access and utilization. The significant drop in food production in Syria and disruptions in trade have negatively affected food availability and heavily impacted small-scale producers and workers along the supply chain of most agricultural commodities. Food price increases and removal of government subsidies have reduced the real income and purchasing power of poor households, forcing a change in dietary consumption and increasing malnutrition levels in host communities. For most Syrian refugees, humanitarian assistance is the primary source of food (e.g. 70 percent of refugees in Lebanon and Egypt are food insecure). Furthermore, refugee camps and impoverished host communities are highly exposed to outbreaks of food- and water-borne diseases.

Landless and smallholder farmers and farm workers. In affected areas of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, marginal, small-scale farmers and livestock breeders have suffered major income losses. Causes include: limited ability to access and tend fields (due to hostilities in border areas); reduced availability of irrigation water; two to five fold increases in agricultural input prices; reduced marketing opportunities for traditional export crops; and a consequent 20-40 percent net drop in farm-gate prices. With increasing availability of Syrian labour, farm wages for the family members of landless and marginal farmers have decreased by 25-30 percent.

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and plant diseases and pests. There is severe threat of TADs, and crop diseases and pests due to: (i) the collapse of veterinary, sanitary, phytosanitary and plant protection services inside Syria; (ii) increasing uncontrolled movement of unvaccinated/untreated livestock, seed and planting materials from Syria into Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon; and (iii) weak veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary inspection services (i.e. surveillance and control) of those countries. Localized outbreaks of some significant diseases and zoonoses have been reported in all countries.

Data availability. A comprehensive analysis on food security and livelihoods across the region is needed to adequately project future needs and enable governments and humanitarian actors to adequately plan for them.

FAO PRIORITIES – 2014 RESPONSE PLANS

2014 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) - Revised



PLANNED BENEFICIARIES
128 500 HOUSEHOLDS



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
USD 43.6 MILLION

FUNDING RECEIVED
USD 7.6 million

SYRIA

Priority areas of intervention

USD

1.	Emergency support to household crop production (wheat and barley)	28 000 000
2.	Emergency support to small-scale herders (feed, veterinary inputs, technical support)	10 000 000
3.	Backyard food production (poultry and vegetable)	4 000 000
4.	Cash-for-work (rehabilitation of damaged critical on-farm irrigation canals)	900 000
5.	Coordination and leadership of the Food and Agriculture Sector	676 000

2014 Regional Response Plan (RRP 6)



COUNTRIES: IRAQ, JORDAN
LEBANON AND TURKEY



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
USD 20.8 MILLION

FUNDING RECEIVED:
USD 5.75 million

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Interventions by country

USD

IRAQ.	Improving food and nutrition security and income generation ▪ Improving livelihood resilience (vulnerable Kurdish farming communities hosting Syrian refugees).	3 739 435
JORDAN.	Emergency control of TADs ▪ Livelihood resilience for vulnerable farming families hosting Syrian refugees (Irbid and Mafrq) ▪ Emergency food security and nutrition interventions (Syrian refugees) ▪ Support to food security and livelihood emergency programming.	5 000 000
LEBANON.	Emergency vaccination and targeted feeding of livestock (grazing along Syria-Lebanon border) ▪ Recovery of smallholder agricultural production (Lebanese returnees and host communities) and reinforcing farming community resilience to the crisis ▪ Rehabilitation of dairy subsector to improve food and nutrition security.	8 767 500
TURKEY.	Micro-gardening initiatives in selected refugee camps ▪ Recovery of smallholder agricultural production and marketing in impoverished border areas.	3 250 000

** The activities proposed above are aligned with FAO's 2014-2018 Subregional Strategy and Action Plan for ["Resilient Livelihoods for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security in Areas Affected by the Syria Crisis"](#).

RESPONSE
FAO 2014

Safeguarding livelihoods. Supporting agricultural production. Increasing resilience.

Donors: Belgium, UK and USA

SHARP 2014

REACHING 65 500 FAMILIES IN SYRIA.

Cereal production (wheat or barley). Around 31 000 families will receive cereal seeds for the 2014/15 winter campaign. The expected production is enough to feed families for a year and secure some much-needed income.

Animal feed and veterinary service. Approximately 34 500 families will benefit from veterinary support, helping them to keep their animals healthy and productive.

RRP 6

REACHING 30 800 FAMILIES – LEBANON.

Targeted livestock feeding. Preserving livelihoods at risk in border areas.

Emergency vaccination and training of extension staff. Safeguarding livelihoods and reducing the risk for transboundary animal diseases to spread.

Farmer field schools. Strengthening dairy and poultry production.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD ASSESSMENT – JORDAN.

2013 ASSESSMENTS

[FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission \(May–June\)](#)

[FAO/WFP Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment \(Nov.\)](#)

[FAO Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis \(Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey\) \(Feb.–March\)](#)

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