



## IN NUMBERS



**9.4 million**

people food insecure (more than half of the people remaining in Syria)



**6.6 million**

people displaced internally, 4.8 million refugees in neighbouring countries



**463 126 people**

reached by FAO in Syria so far in 2016



**USD 74.8 million**

still needed by FAO within the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2016

## KEY MESSAGES

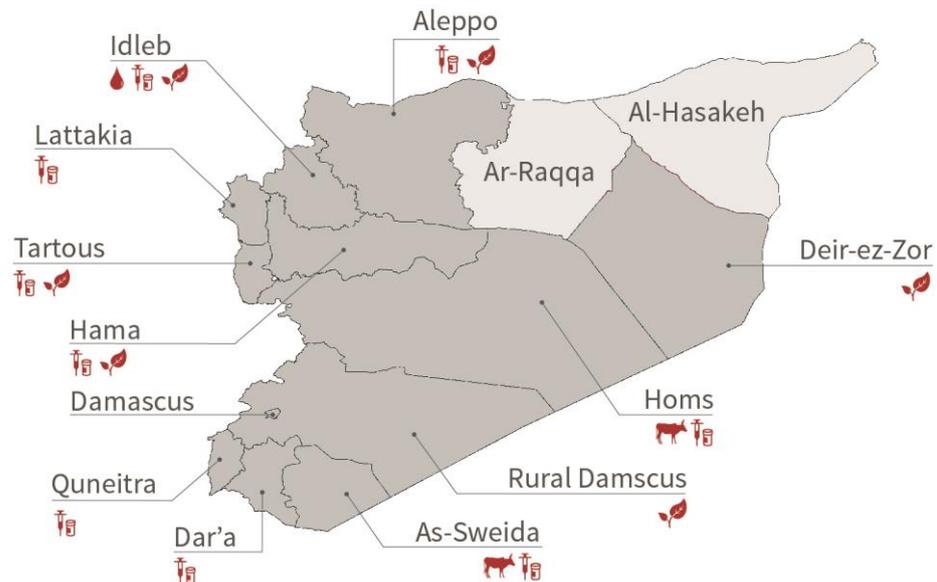
- **Almost 80 percent of households across the country are struggling to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food**, particularly in areas where income-generating opportunities are extremely limited, coupled with escalating market prices.
- **Though severely weakened, the agriculture sector still sustains 50 percent of the food supply in Syria** and provides a critical economic safety net for poor households in rural and peri-urban areas.
- **Failure to provide adequate support to the sector would exacerbate food insecurity and irreversibly affect agriculture-based livelihoods.** If productive farming areas are neglected, Syria will be in danger of emerging from the conflict as a country of subsistence farmers with most of its commercial agricultural base eroded.

## MAP

FAO interventions in Syria in 2016 (by Governorate)

### Activities

- Animal Feed
- Vegetable Packages
- Veterinary Service
- Solar-powered irrigation system



## BACKGROUND

**An estimated 13.5 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance.** A deep economic recession, fluctuating national currency, soaring food prices, disrupted markets and food insecurity have contributed to Syrians' extreme vulnerability. More than 11 million people – over half of Syria's population – have fled their homes, including 6.6 million who are internally displaced and 4.8 million who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries as of August 2016.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

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

**A total of 9.4 million people – more than half of the people remaining in Syria – are unable to meet their basic food needs.** This represents an increase of 8 percent from 8.7 million in September 2015 to 9.4 million in June 2016.

**Crop production has been adversely affected** by the scarcity and high prices of agricultural inputs and fuel, low-quality inputs, damaged irrigation infrastructure, shortages and high cost of farm labour, and loss of or damage to standing crops. FAO and WFP completed a Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) in June 2016 which provided an update on the agriculture sector performance and recommendations for action. According to preliminary findings of the Mission, the 2015/16 wheat and barley output is anticipated to sharply decrease from the previous season's levels and to be lower than the very poor 2013/14 harvest of 1.9 million tonnes of wheat and 600 000 tonnes of barley.

**Livestock numbers have fallen drastically since 2011.** Cattle and sheep numbers are down by 30 and 40 percent respectively, and poultry flocks – generally one of the main and most affordable sources of animal protein – have shrunk by 50 percent. Security concerns have limited access to grazing pastures, while the cost of animal feed increased by 168 percent in 2015. Over the last 12 months, livestock numbers are estimated to have further decreased, as livestock rearers had to slaughter more animals than usual to reduce the economic losses. The shortage of vaccines and routine veterinary drugs continues to severely affect livestock owners. As Syrian herders move with their livestock into neighbouring countries, transboundary animal diseases and zoonosis remain a viable threat.

## FAO

### 2016

So far in 2016, FAO has reached **463 126 people** with:



backyard food production inputs (poultry and vegetable packages, sheep restocking)



cereal crop production



animal health inputs (feed integrators, treatments against parasites)

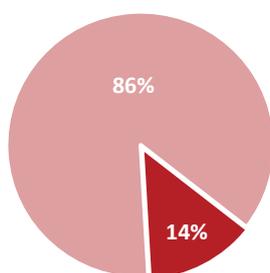
Through ongoing and pending programming, FAO plans to reach an additional:



**166 980** people through cross-border operations

**733 740** people through regular programming from Damascus

### FUNDING



**FAO requires**  
USD 86.5 million\*

**To assist**  
2.9 million people

\*Reflects the 2016 portion (USD 3.5 million) of USD 6.56 million contributed by the European Union for a two-year resilience project. The remainder will be allocated for 2017.

\*This is part of the overall Syria Plan of Action which calls for USD 152 million and for which USD 15.3 million has been received.

- **Funding to-date:**  
USD 11.7 million\*
- **Funding gap:**  
USD 74.8 million

**Donors:** European Union, Germany, Ireland, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United States of America.

### PRIORITIES



#### Support to staple food production

Cereal and legume seeds • training on improved cropping methods



#### Increased nutrition and income

Backyard vegetable gardening • poultry, small livestock raising • conditional cash assistance to rehabilitate infrastructure, productive assets



#### Increasing/protecting livestock assets

Animal feed • livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns • veterinary capacity • sheep distributions



#### Planned, collective response

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

### COORDINATION

FAO plays a leading role in coordinating food security activities, as well as collecting and analysing data. The Regional Food Security Analysis Network – funded by the United States of America and FAO, and jointly implemented by FAO and iMMAP – supports emergency food security interventions by providing timely information and working towards an enhanced early warning system. Together with WFP, FAO is coordinating and co-leading the Food and Agriculture Sector in Damascus and the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Gaziantep. Within the Whole of Syria framework, a Food Security and Agriculture Sector coordination mechanism was also established in Amman.

### CONTACT

Eriko Hibi | FAO Representative in Syria | Damascus, Syria | Tel. +963933212025 | Eriko.Hibi@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience | Rome, Italy | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org