"Emergency support to staple crop production in the Syrian Arab Republic"

Project code: OSRO/SYR/404/ITA

Donor: Italy

Contribution: USD 553 098

Implementation: 01/08/14 – 31/07/15

Target areas: Idleb governorate

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Objective:	To increase food access and consumption through the restoration of cereal production capacity in crisis-affected areas.
Key partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Agriculture.
Beneficiaries reached:	3 165 households (approximately 19 000 people).
Activities implemented:	• Distributed 475 tonnes of wheat seeds to 2 375 households (200 kg of seeds per household) for cultivation under irrigated and rainfed conditions.
	• Distributed 158 tonnes of barley seeds to 790 households (200 kg of seeds per household).
	• Conducted three training of trainer sessions for selected farmers, with those trained expected to share the knowledge with other beneficiaries. Topics covered included the removal of weeds and the use of crop residues, treatment of wheat rust and good practices in post-harvest, including marketing and storage.
Results:	• Crisis-affected households are expected to have cultivated at least 1 ha of land – harvesting enough to cover the cereal needs of an average rural family of six people for one year.
	• The expected harvest will enable beneficiaries to save 200–250 kg of seeds to plant in the next season and sell surplus produce to generate income.
	• Each farmer is also expected to have produced around 3 tonnes of fodder/straw, enabling them to feed their animals during winter.
	• The sale of surplus production allowed families to generate additional income (an estimated USD 150 from wheat and USD 401 from fodder/straw) to cover other household expenses and buy new agricultural inputs for the following season.