



IN NUMBERS



2.9 million

people food insecure



58 716 people

assisted by FAO in 2016



USD 89 million

needed to assist 526 000
people in 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 2.9 million Iraqis are food insecure – 77 percent are women, children or elderly.
- Agricultural production has declined by 40 per cent since 2014.
- A livestock vaccination and animal feeding program is needed to support farmers fleeing conflict with livestock, some of which are likely to carry diseases.
- In many retaken areas, infrastructure such as water supplies for agricultural and domestic use has been damaged or destroyed.
- FAO urgently needs USD 89 million in 2017 to support emergency crop and livestock production, restore agricultural assets, support the protection of child labour in agriculture, and coordinate an effective, needs-based response.

CURRENT SITUATION

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq remains one of the world's largest and most volatile. In the past year, more than 650 000 people in areas affected by conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) have been newly displaced, including 135 500 who have fled fighting in Mosul since 17 October. In total, 3.03 million Iraqis are displaced and around 1.37 million have returned to retaken areas since January 2014. In the coming year, 1.2 million additional civilians may be forced from their homes and 1.5 million people are expected to return to retaken areas.

Three years of continuous conflict and economic stagnation has increased poverty rates and unemployment. Agricultural production has declined by 40 per cent since 2014, undermining the country's food self-sufficiency. Some 2.9 million people – 77 percent of whom are women, children or elderly – are food insecure, forced to rely on negative and often irreversible coping strategies. During 2017, as many as 11 million Iraqis will require some form of humanitarian assistance.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Insecurity, water shortages and the lack, or high cost, of agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizer, animal feed, fuel for irrigation pumps etc.) continue to negatively affect the performance of the agricultural sector.

Violence continues to force people to abandon farms and agriculture-based livelihoods. Cropping cycles have been disrupted and herders who are unable to feed their livestock are forced to abandon or sell them. Infrastructure such as water supplies for agricultural and domestic use has been damaged or destroyed. Heavy contamination of retaken areas with unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices pose immediate and long-term risks for the environment and the people, including herders and farmers. The conflict has also affected the Public Distribution System, which is an important social safety net entitling Iraqi citizens to receive rations of flour, rice and cooking oil from the government.

Many rural families fleeing the current conflict in and around Mosul are travelling with important livestock assets, with no access to local pastures and fodder supplies. Most of the animals have not been vaccinated since ISIL took the area in 2014, and some may be carrying diseases that could spread to other herds and humans. This could have serious socio-economic and public health consequences, and threaten livestock farmers' livelihoods. There is an urgent need for an emergency livestock vaccination and animal feeding program.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2017 IRAQ HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN PRIORITIES



Support emergency food and livestock production

Vegetable and cereal seed; fertilizer; agricultural machinery and equipment; emergency livestock support; vaccination; animal feed; restocking; disease surveillance, diagnosis and reporting



Restore agricultural assets

Rehabilitate irrigation systems, water supply, productive assets and community infrastructure; cash-for-work activities; support local markets



Protection of child labour in agriculture

Awareness raising, education and advocacy; identification and promotion of labour-saving technologies (e.g. equipment, tools and machinery); farmer field school trainings and demonstrations



Coordinate an effective, needs-based response

Cluster coordination; food security, nutrition and livelihood status monitoring and analysis; food security, nutrition and livelihoods assessment; damage and loss assessment; market monitoring and surveillance; capacity building and technical assistance

FUNDING

In **2016**, FAO appealed for USD 45 million to assist 492 000 people. However, just USD 6 357 120 (14 percent of the appeal) has been received – representing a funding gap of USD 38 642 880 (86 percent of the appeal).

In **2017**, FAO is appealing for USD 89 million to assist 526 000 people.

Donors to the ongoing FAO emergency response programme in Iraq are: Belgium, the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, Funding Facility for Stabilization, the United Nations Development Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.

FAO RESPONSE IN 2016



Some 58 716 people assisted

In 2016, FAO activities aimed to rebuild livelihoods and increase vulnerable people's resilience to threats and crises. Achievements include:

- 2 646 people took part in cash-for-work programmes, providing vital income to benefit 15 876 people in conflict-affected communities in retaken areas.
- Some 2 140 farmers received 750 tonnes of fertilizer to increase the yield of their crops, benefitting 12 840 people.
- 72 kilometres of irrigation canals were demined and cleared of debris, to provide water for 5 000 farming families (30 000 people) and 250 000 ha of farmland, as well as employment for up to 200 000 labourers in 2017.
- Preparations were completed to provide animal feed and essential livestock vaccines to highly vulnerable herders in 2017.

ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING

- In February and December, FAO conducted damage and loss assessments in retaken areas to determine the impact of conflict on agricultural livelihoods, including crop production, livestock rearing, fishery/aquaculture production, accessibility to markets, storing and processing facilities and irrigation water. February's assessment included recommended activities to restore livelihoods and increase food security for the most vulnerable groups. December results will be published in February 2017. Assessment data guides policy, planning and programming across the food security sector.
- FAO is finalizing plans to establish a Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning System, in partnership with the World Food Programme, to promote stabilization through enhanced information on food security, coordinate agricultural activities and support national institutions.

CONTACT

Fadel El-Zubi | FAO Representative in Iraq | Baghdad, Iraq | Fadel.ElZubi@fao.org

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