



IN NUMBERS



7 million

food insecure (projection 2017)



6.6 million

people displaced internally, 4.8 million refugees in neighbouring countries



732 918 people

reached by FAO in Syria in 2016



USD 119.4 million

needed by FAO within the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2017

KEY POINTS

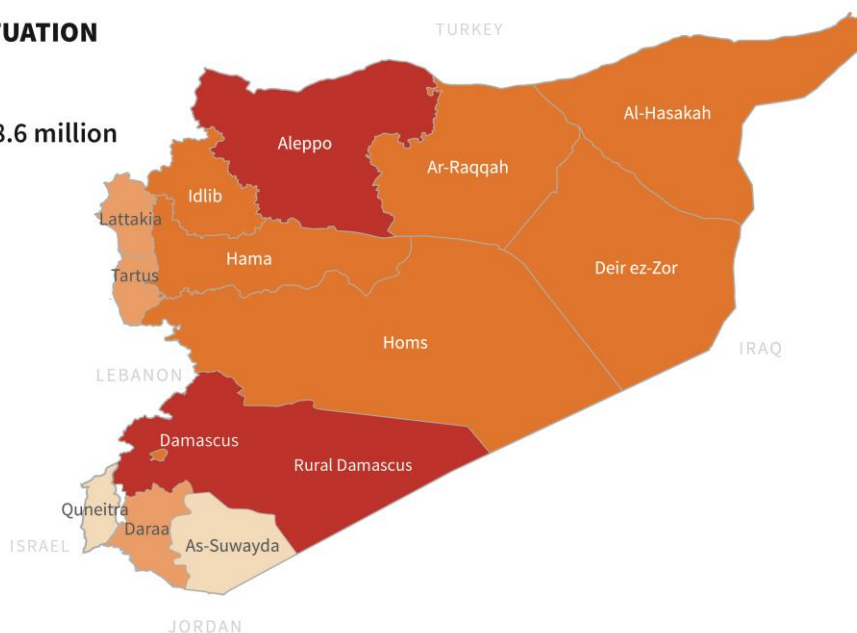
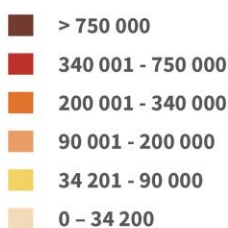
- **An estimated 7 million people will be food insecure in 2017 and a further 2 million are at risk of food insecurity.**
- **Food production in Syria has hit a record low.** The area planted to cereals in the 2015-16 cropping season is the smallest ever, according to the latest Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM). The wheat harvest is estimated at 1.5 million tonnes, approximately 55 percent lower than the pre-conflict average.
- **Livestock producers are equally feeling the effects of the crisis.** There are 30 percent fewer cattle, 40 percent fewer sheep and goats, and 60 percent less poultry.
- **Failure to provide adequate support to the agriculture sector will 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.

FOOD SECURITY

FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION (projection for 2017)

Country population: 18.6 million

People in need



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 December 2016.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Food production in Syria has hit a record low. Approximately 7 million people are projected to be food insecure in 2017 and a further 2 million are at risk of food insecurity. 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.

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. The area planted to cereals in the 2015-16 cropping season is the smallest ever, according to the latest Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM). According to the report, wheat production is estimated at 1.5 million tonnes, 55 percent less than the pre-conflict average of 3.4 million tonnes (2007-2011).

The livestock sector has suffered substantially since 2011 with reductions in terms of herd and flock numbers of over 30 percent for cattle and over 40 percent for sheep and goats, while poultry, the main and most affordable source of protein of animal origin, has shrunk by 60 percent mostly due to unavailability of poultry feed at affordable cost. Pasture availability and access have been affected by the lack of precipitation and widespread insecurity. 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 country's veterinary service is rapidly running out of veterinary vaccines and routine drugs, with the number of unreliable veterinary drugs sold on the open market increasing during the last year.

FAO

2016

In 2016, FAO has reached **763 518 people** with:



backyard food production inputs (poultry and vegetable packages, sheep restocking): 36 650 households have been able to supplement their diets with fresh vegetables



cereal crop production: 30 600 households from Damascus received cereal seeds



animal health inputs (feed integrators, treatments against parasites): **5.8 million animals were treated** against ecto- and endo-parasites

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



132 780 people through cross-border operations

2017



Support to staple food production

Cereal and legume seeds • training on improved cropping methods • rehabilitate infrastructure



Increased nutrition and income

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



Increasing/protecting livestock assets

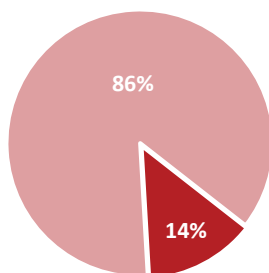
Animal feed • livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns • veterinary capacity • sheep distributions



Planned, collective response

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

FUNDING IN



■ **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.

In 2016, FAO's Syria response was only 14% funded. **In 2017, FAO is seeking USD 119.4 million. Timely support to agriculture-based livelihoods will be critical** going forward to help vulnerable families stay on their land, when it is safe to do so, as well as boost food production

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.

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