



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## Syrian Arab Republic

Project update

Improving dairy production, preserving livestock assets, preventing malnutrition and increasing resilience of livelihoods



Targeted beneficiaries  
**1 000** smallholder  
dairy cattle breeders and  
**250** sheep herders



Funds received  
**USD 500 000** from  
the International Islamic  
Charity Organization



Implementation period  
**15 February 2021–  
14 August 2022**



Intervention area  
**Aleppo and Idleb  
governorates**



Project code  
**OSRO/SYR/002/IIC**

### Context

Ten years of conflict, insecurity and displacements in the Syrian Arab Republic have resulted in a continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Sixty percent of the Syrian population are food insecure and 26 percent of children under the age of five are chronically malnourished and suffer from stunting. In 2020, there were 4.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northwest Syrian Arab Republic. Many of these IDPs moved with their livestock. In early 2021, a livestock census, conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), reported that 42 percent of sheep herders, 36 percent of poultry keepers and 16 percent of cattle breeders in northwest Syrian Arab Republic were IDPs. Compared to 2019, ruminant livestock numbers in northwest Syrian Arab Republic have almost doubled. Since 2011, there has been an erosion of professional artificial insemination and fertility treatment services for milk producing ruminant livestock in northwest Syrian Arab Republic. As a result, services are absent and dairy animal productivity is in progressive decline.

## Rationale

Regular consumption of animal-sourced foods, including dairy products, is vital for reducing human malnutrition and stunting. The strategic focus of the intervention is to improve the livelihoods, food security and nutritional status of crisis-affected people in northwest Syrian Arab Republic through improved productivity of dairy animals. This will be achieved by providing artificial insemination and fertility treatment services to milk-producing livestock of smallholder dairy farmers and sheep herders.

## Project objectives

### To improve livelihoods and diets of crisis-affected vulnerable households

- To combat human malnutrition through increased availability of locally-produced milk and dairy products.
- To support the self-reliance of affected households by protecting and building productive livestock assets, thus securing income-generating opportunities.

## Planned response and expected results

The intervention will increase livelihood assets and improve households' skill sets, which will strengthen rural livelihoods and resilience in one of the most severely crisis-affected regions, with nutritional benefits for the community.

The project will improve the reproductive performance of 1 000 dairy cows and 1 000 sheep in order to increase the milk production capacity of 1 250 small-scale farmers and sheep herders through three outputs:

**Output 1.** 1 000 smallholder dairy farmers and 250 sheep herders have improved access to livestock services through provision of artificial insemination for cows and fertility treatments for their dairy animals.

**Output 2.** 1 000 smallholder dairy farmers and 250 sheep herders have enhanced knowledge on good livestock breeding practice.

**Output 3.** Local livestock service providers have improved proficiency and equipment for artificial insemination in dairy cows and for fertility treatments in cattle and sheep.



Providing artificial insemination and fertility treatment services to the livestock of smallholder dairy farmers and sheep herders will improve their livelihoods, food security and nutritional status.

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الهيئة الخيرية الإسلامية العالمية  
International Islamic Charity Organization

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