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|  | منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة | 联合国 粮食及 农业组织 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture | Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций | Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura |
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FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Thirty-second Session

Rome, 24 – 28 February 2014

Priorities for FAO Activities in the Near East and North Africa

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013 approved the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19 as well as the Director-General's Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 (MTP/PWB).¹ The Strategic Framework includes FAO's Vision, the revised Global Goals, the five new Strategic Objectives, as well as a sixth objective on technical quality, knowledge and services and the cross-cutting themes of gender and governance (see Annex 1 for the main components of FAO's Results Framework). The MTP/PWB sets out the results framework with outcomes, outputs and measurable indicators of achievement. The FAO Conference emphasized that the five Strategic Objectives represented those areas of work on which FAO will focus its efforts in support of Member Nations and welcomed their cross-cutting nature which will enable the Organization to work in a multi-disciplinary and integrated manner.²

2. Priorities areas for FAO's work in the Near East and North Africa Region (NENA) have been informed by three major strategy streams:

- (i) FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework and new Medium-Term Plan, which contain the core elements of FAO's results framework for organizing the response to priorities in the Region.
- (ii) FAO regional priorities in the Near East and North Africa as outlined in the Regional Priority Framework (RPF) endorsed by the 30th Session of NERC, which puts into sharp focus the region-specific needs in the context of FAO's Strategic Objectives.
- (iii) FAO's Country Programming Frameworks, which inform the identification of Regional Priorities and constitute an important and dynamic pillar of the Organization's delivery mechanism.

¹ C 2013/7 and C 2013/3

² C 2013/REP paragraph 96



3. In 2013 the Organization piloted a set of six Regional Initiatives (one of which in NENA) as delivery mechanisms to enhance the focus and impact of its work, particularly at country level. Taking account of the pilot experience, additional Regional Initiatives are being put in place to focus delivery of results in 2014-15. These initiatives are intended to address key regional and country priority problems by delivery of relevant products and services at regional and country level contributing to achievement of the agreed outputs of the MTP/PWB.

4. FAO's results framework is underpinned by a new corporate monitoring and evaluation framework with a distinct set of indicators for three interlinked levels of results – Strategic Objectives, Organizational Outcomes and Outputs.³ This monitoring and evaluation framework will strengthen FAO's corporate reporting from 2014-15 biennium onwards. While the new monitoring and evaluation framework cannot be directly applied in the review of achievements for the biennium 2012-13 in this document (see Section II), it will inform the shaping of priorities areas of FAO's work in the Region.

5. This report is divided into three sections:

- Section II outlines how priorities and items requiring follow-up emanating from the previous Regional Conference have been addressed, bringing to the attention of the Members major achievements and aspects requiring further consideration. The section will also draw lessons from the implementation of the Regional Initiatives in 2013 and illustrate how these inform the new ways of working.
- Section III examines major recent developments and emerging issues and national priorities as reflected in country programming frameworks (CPFs) that have a bearing on FAO's activities in the region;
- Section IV introduces what FAO will focus on in the Region in 2014-15 (with an outlook for the medium-term 2016-17) and how these are situated within FAO's results framework.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2012 REGIONAL CONFERENCE: ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

6. At its Thirty-first Session in May 2012, the Near East Regional Conference (NERC) confirmed the five broad regional priority areas of action for FAO comprising: i) enhancing food security and nutrition; ii) fostering agricultural production and rural development for improved livelihoods; iii) sustainable natural resources management including fisheries and aquaculture; iv) responding to climate change impacts and developing adaptation strategies; and v) preparedness for and response to agriculture and food emergencies. Furthermore, the Regional Conference emphasized focus areas that require special attention within these broad priorities: water scarcity and its efficient use, reducing food losses and waste, soil degradation and desertification, transboundary animal diseases, fisheries and aquaculture sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation, conflicts and occupation, youth and women empowerment.

7. The 31st Session of NERC made several recommendations on programme, budget matters and decentralisation for the attention of the Council and on policy and regulatory matters for the attention of the Conference. Recommendations on policy and regulatory matters cover the areas of food losses, climate change and natural resources, food security and nutrition and regional commissions for land and water, fisheries, forestry and desert locust. The actions taken by FAO as a follow-up to these recommendations are reported in information note NERC/14/INF/5.

8. Within the framework of the regional priorities and guided by NERC recommendations, key areas of interventions for the period 2012-2013 were identified and implemented through advocacy and communication, technical assistance, capacity building, policy advice as well as regional networking and partnership under both regular and field programmes. During 2012-2013 FAO delivered USD 189 million of assistance to countries in the Region largely through a combination of FAO's Technical

³ CL 148/3 Adjustments to the PWB 2014-15 paragraphs 40-70 and Annex 5 Rev. 1 Results Framework

Cooperation Programme (TCP projects totalling USD 9.7 million) and projects funded through extra-budgetary contributions (USD 179.8 million). The assistance to countries covered both development and emergency activities and included 142 new projects and the fielding of over 140 missions from FAO's Sub-regional Offices, the Regional Office and headquarters. The bulk of the extra budgetary funds were raised in collaboration with donors from outside the Region and unilateral trust fund projects. There has been no funding from the Region to the Region (NENA-NENA cooperation) and the Regional trust fund endorsed by the NERC 31st was therefore not made operational. The major activities undertaken under the PWB 2012-13 are summarized by Strategic Objectives and are available in NERC webpage⁴.

9. The key FAO achievements in the Region during 2012-13 along the five regional priorities are summarized in Annex 2. The key lessons learned are:

- The recent political and economic crises in the Region, which have further exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition in many countries, have shown the crucial need for building resilience to threats and crises. The past improvements in livelihoods and the gains in national development in several countries in the Region, that have taken years to build, are compromised by adverse impacts of multiple shocks , including conflicts, instability, persistence of economic and financial crisis in Europe and in the world, high and volatile food prices, recurrence of droughts and of animal and pest diseases. Building resilience in the ecosystem, production and market systems, assessing vulnerabilities and managing comprehensively risks are core condition for achieving improved food security and sustainable development.
- Drawing from the experience in 2013, the modality of regional initiatives can help to focus FAO's work on key regional problems with impact at country level. With the regional initiatives being firmly rooted in the CPFs, they allow for thematic coordination of programmes at country level for more effective delivery and can serve as a tool to promote partnerships and mobilize resources.

III. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND EMERGING CHALLENGES: REVISED PRIORITIES FOR THE MEDIUM TERM

10. This section provides an insight into the rationale driving the identification of priority areas of work for the current and next biennium.

11. Countries in the Near East and North Africa Region differ widely in terms of their natural and human resources and economic development, but they face common challenges in their efforts to achieve inclusive agricultural development and improved food security and nutrition. The key challenges facing the Region as outlined in the Regional Priority Framework (RPF) and highlighted in the recent Sessions of NERC and regional commissions include: i) high population growth and growing urbanization; ii) limited economic growth and high rate of youth unemployment iii) limited and fragile natural resource base of land and water and high reliance on dry land agriculture; iv) high exposure to climate change threat; v) frequent incidents of conflicts and natural disasters; and vi) the resulting high dependence on food imports. More details on the trends and nature of these challenges are provided in document NERC/14/4.

12. In addition to the long standing structural challenges to food security, the Region is facing emerging challenges that are strongly affecting efforts to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition. Since 2011, several countries in the Region have had changes in the political environment which has had important economic and social repercussions. The slowing of economic activity in most countries of the region has led to an increase in national budget deficits and exacerbated the fiscal pressures which have rendered the financing of development and social programs increasingly difficult and delayed reforms in the agriculture and food security policies and institutions, thus undermining prospects for improved food security.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/030/MK067E.pdf> .

13. High and volatile international food prices is another major challenge facing the Region. The high import dependency in addition to the high annual variability in production continues to make the Region highly vulnerable to food price increases and volatility. Global food prices have come down from the levels of 2008 but they continue to be higher than pre-crisis levels. In most cases, it is food price volatility rather than the level of prices that is most threatening to food security. Despite reasonable economic growth over the last decades, income and non-income inequalities at the sub-national levels and growing unemployment, particularly among youth and women, continue to undermine development in the Region. These have been among the key factors that induced recent political and social instability in several countries in the Region.

14. Several other emerging issues of region-wide importance have been raised in the regional commissions and other high-level regional meetings. Key among these are the growing nutritional problems in the region including malnutrition and obesity; the growing number of countries in the region that are caught in protracted crisis; the increasing importance of aquaculture as a source of food and income in the region; the critical need to review existing food subsidies and social protection systems which have not sufficiently reach out to vulnerable farmers and rural populations.

15. The long term structural constraints and the emerging challenges facing agriculture and food security in the Region have been amply demonstrated in the country programming frameworks (CPFs).

Country priorities: evolution of country programming frameworks

16. As part of the strategic thinking process and the development of the reviewed FAO Strategic Framework, country programming frameworks (CPFs) have been developed or updated, at least in preliminary form, for 16 out of the 19 countries of the Near East and North Africa Region - out of 16 countries, ten CPFs have been endorsed by their respective government, six countries have CPFs in a preliminary draft form, while in 1 country the CPF formulation is ongoing.⁵ CPFs have been based on national development strategies and are integrated with the work programmes of other UN agencies through UNDAFs and aligned with other policy processes and programmes at the national level providing a roadmap for effective action at country level. While the CPFs address the long term structural challenges in these countries, they also reflect the emerging challenges and trends.

17. An analysis of the CPFs prepared so far indicates that the priorities set at country level reflect a large degree of commonality across the Region. CPFs outline countries' aims to eradicate hunger, reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, increase productivity of agriculture, and improve resilience of rural livelihoods to threats and crises. The mapping of activities carried out during the past biennium have shown that CPFs are aligned with FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework, and that the countries in the Region have clearly indicated the most crucial areas of potential FAO assistance in the Region through setting clear priorities and areas of cooperation.

18. The next step in the country programming is to speed up implementation, focusing on programmes, projects and activities, including those as part of the regional initiatives . During this phase resource mobilization and a focus on partnerships with the private sector and other non-state actors through increased south-south cooperation activities will be key to expanding the Region's field programme. A new Regional Resource Mobilization Strategy (RRMS) has been designed to achieve adequate, more predictable and sustainable voluntary contributions which will strengthen awareness among partners and member countries on FAO's comparative advantages through effective communication. Country offices will also capitalize on the in-country momentum created during the preparation of the CPFs to enhance contacts with stakeholders in order to move ahead on country work plans, prepare specific projects and programmes, and develop the resource mobilization plans.

19. Guided by the recommendations of the recent Sessions of NERC, drawing on the country priorities as reflected in the updated CPFs, taking into account the outcomes of recent high level meetings and regional commissions in the Region, and in light of the on-going discussions on post-2015 development agenda at the country and regional levels in NENA, the regional priorities as

⁵ See document NERC/14/3.

outlined in the RPF 2010 have been modified to reflect the emerging challenges and trends facing countries in the Region. The identified priority areas for regional action in NENA fall within the five new Strategic Objectives as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Regional priority: Enhancing food security and nutrition and strengthening capacity to address vulnerability

Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Regional priority: Protecting and managing scarce and fragile natural resources and adapting to climate change

Regional priority: Fostering sustainable and inclusive agricultural production

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty

Regional priority: Enhancing livelihoods of rural people, smallholders and vulnerable populations

Strategic Objective 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels

Regional priority: Developing efficient, sustainable and competitive food systems and reducing food losses and waste

Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Regional priority: Increasing resilience of livelihood systems of communities and ecosystems to threats and crises.

20. The regional priorities under Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 reflect priorities reported in all countries across the Region. However, regional priorities under Strategic Objectives 3 and 4 reflect priorities of a mix of several countries from the three sub-regions of North Africa, Oriental Near East and the GCC States and Yemen; while the regional priority under Strategic Objective 5 represent priorities that are predominantly expressed by LDCs and some middle income countries.

IV. FOCUS AREAS OF WORK FOR 2014-2015 AND BEYOND

21. The priorities identified at the country, sub-regional and regional levels have informed the formulation of the new Strategic Objectives and Organizational Outcomes in the reviewed Strategic Framework. These priorities were taken directly into account in formulating FAO's outputs in the MTP/PWB. Delivery of the Outputs is organized primarily through time bound corporate *Initiatives*⁶, or through on-going *Corporate Technical Activities* (e.g. statistics, technical committees and commissions, treaty bodies, etc.).

22. Based on the lessons learned with implementing initiatives during 2013 as a means to focus on identified priorities and achieve measurable impact at country level in a time bound manner, FAO will focus its work in NENA during 2014-17 on addressing three main regional problems: i) water scarcity, through the initiative launched in 2013; ii) building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition; and iii) sustainable small-scale agriculture and inclusive development. The specific work to address these problems with country impact, measured through FAO's results framework, will be organized and delivered through three regional initiatives.

23. The net budgetary appropriation allocation for 2014-2015 for the Near East Region amounts to USD 45.8 million, with an estimated requirements of voluntary contributions of USD 95.5 million (Annex 2). Based on the regional priorities and the three regional initiatives as tools for resource mobilisation, an aggressive strategy will be pursued to mobilise the required voluntary resources in support of the implementation of these initiatives.

The initiative on “water scarcity”

24. The NENA Region, while naturally exposed to chronic shortage of water, maybe be facing the most severe intensification of water scarcity in history. Per capita fresh water availability, which has already decreased by two-thirds over the last forty years, will probably decrease by another 50 % by 2050. Agriculture which consumes already more than 85 % of available fresh water resources in the region will most likely have to absorb the bulk of this shock, with possibly major consequences for food security and the rural economy. Countries in the region need to plan strategically their water resources allocation, review their water, their food security and their energy strategies to ensure that they are aligned with the imperative of making the best use of each single drop of water.

25. The water scarcity Initiative will support countries in the region in identifying and streamlining policies and best practices that can significantly improve agriculture productivity and food security in the region. The initiative will support the ongoing major policy processes in the region, including the “Arab Water Security Strategy 2010-2030” and the “Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region”. The WSI will focus on four main areas:

- i) Support countries in planning strategically their water resources: The initiative will support ‘evidence-based decision-making processes’ by providing adequate tools and approaches to quantify the ‘benefit’ and the ‘costs’ (economic and in terms of water resources) of alternative policy options addressing food security and the sustainable management of water resources.
- ii) Governance and Institutions: The WSI will support countries in reviewing institutional framework governing the Integrated Water Resources Management and allocation efficiency; building on best practices, the initiative will support innovative comprehensive and inclusive governance reforms aiming at improving efficiency and accountability of institutions, strengthening participatory approaches, including by empowering of water users and more generally farmers associations.

⁶ Initiatives are a way to deliver clusters of products/services from across the SO results framework (Outputs, Outcomes and SOs) in an integrated and coordinated manner, involving contributions from units across the Organization (headquarters, regional, sub-regional and country offices), structured around significant policy processes, Country Programming Frameworks, global public goods and/or thematic areas.

- iii) Improve agriculture water use efficiency and crop water productivity in both rainfed and irrigated agriculture, through technology research and transfer, reducing yield gaps, and integrated land/crop/livestock/water management. The initiative will support farmers field school approaches to accelerate adoption by farmers of new technologies.
- iv) Support action to enhance the supply-side of water budget, through the optimal use of unconventional water (brackish and wastewater use), promote adaptation strategies to climate change based on evidence and robust modelling, and support more solid groundwater governance conducive to higher levels of productivity coupled with sustainability of groundwater quantity and quality and with equitable access.
- v) The initiative will support benchmarking, monitoring and reporting mechanisms on progress towards the achievement of agreed national and regional target on water efficiency and productivity. It will promote effective synergies in innovation and learning, including through South-South Cooperation.

The initiative on “building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition in the Near East and North Africa”

26. The main objective of this initiative is to support countries in eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the Region through improved governance and coordination mechanisms and building resilient food security and nutrition institutions, markets and production systems. Given the nature of challenges faced, priorities of individual countries in the region reflect a shared need for coordination of the multi-sectoral aspects of food security and nutrition and for building resilience not only to cope with the vulnerabilities to which these countries are exposed but also to tap on opportunities to strengthen long term capabilities. Within this framework, five areas of direct relevance to the regional priorities are considered crucial for the focus of this initiative:

- (1) Improving capacities for developing policy frameworks and investment programme for food security and nutrition at the national and regional levels;
- (2) Developing efficient evidence-based food security information and knowledge exchange for effective decision support systems;
- (3) Promoting the development of efficient, sustainable and resilient food systems with specific attention to reducing food losses and waste;
- (4) Promoting sustainable access of households to safe, nutritious and diversified food;
- (5) Building the resilience of institutions, individuals, households, communities and agro-eco systems to anticipate, absorb and recover from the negative impacts of the man-made and natural shocks.

27. The approach of this initiative is to implement the five focus areas in a coordinated manner involving all concerned stakeholders. The initiative will target three categories of countries, with some differences between them in terms of emphasis placed on each of the five focus areas. The three country categories include: i) *Syria and Syria-crisis affected countries*, where the initiative will consider 3 countries (Syria and 2 of the most vulnerable neighbouring countries) and will focus on strengthening food security information systems and building resilience of communities to shocks; ii) *crisis-prone countries and countries in transition*, with special attention to the three LDCs in the region (Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen), West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS), Egypt and Tunisia; and iii) *other countries with high exposure to vulnerabilities of external food supplies*, where two countries will be selected on pilot basis and special attention will be given to reducing exposure to external market volatility, reducing food waste and addressing nutrition related problems.

28. The initiative addresses regional priorities under all the five Strategic Objectives, particularly Strategic Objectives 1 and 5. Two regional multi-stakeholder consultations on food security and nutrition in NENA, held in 2013, have contributed to the development of the concept of this initiative and expressed their support for it.

The initiative on “sustainable small-scale agriculture for inclusive development”

29. Agriculture employs one-third of the labour force in the Region, with a growing share of women, and farming systems are largely dominated by small scale producers (small-scale farmers, livestock

keepers, pastoralists, forest keepers, fishers and aquaculture farmers). The average farm size in the Region has been declining in the past 30 years, due high population growth rates and to complex institutional factors including legal and traditional factors governing land tenure.

30. Despite its enormous contribution to food security and to rural economy, small scale agriculture faces a number on intertwined constraints⁷ that are impeding its productivity, its profitability and its contribution to economic growth. These include a limited access to productive assets (land, water and capital), poor linkages to markets and the absence of an enabling environment and supportive policies.

31. This initiative will be developed as integral component of rural development targeting small scale producers and the rural poor and will cover three main components:

- *Evidence based policy and strategies* to improve and enhance the small-scale agricultural sector and the livelihoods of those involved, including the rural youth as well as improve targeting to reduce income disparities;
- *Sustainable improvement of productivity* of small-scale agriculture, through responsible natural resources management, access to improved seeds, to fertilizers, credit and insurance; technology transfer and dissemination to increase crop yields; diversification and value addition with activities aiming at youth inclusiveness in the agricultural sector;
- *Institutions and empowerment of small holders*, through the support to enabling environments for economically viable and sustainable development in small-scale agriculture, including securing land rights, promoting and supporting farmers organizations and incentives to link farmers with markets, building resilience to shocks (either natural or man-induced) and climate change impacts, empowering women.

32. The initiative primarily addresses regional priorities under Strategic Objectives 2, 3, and 4. The initiative will be implemented in consequent phases, with a pilot of 5 to 6 countries of the low and medium income countries in its first phase. It will start with the comprehensive analytical assessment of the small-scale agriculture sector and the promotion and establishment of ownership of the initiative and its components by targeting and actively engaging the participation of smallholder communities/stakeholders and national institutions in the pilot countries. FAO support under the initiative will focus on promoting and strengthening Farmer-Field-Schools and the development of community animal resources workers, fishers, producers and professional associations.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

33. The Conference is invited to:

- Take note of the major actions carried out by FAO to address regional priorities during 2012-2013, including actions undertaken in response to the recommendations of the previous Session;
- Endorse the priorities for FAO's work in the Region as outlined in paragraph 19;
- Support the three regional initiatives as means to further focus FAO's work for impact at country level within the MTP/PWB and for resource mobilization during 2014-2015.

⁷ HLPE report on “Investing in Small Holders” 2013

Annex 1: FAO Results Framework – Main Components (see p. 12 in C2013/3)**FAOs vision**

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The three Global Goals of Members:

- eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and
- sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Additional objective

Technical quality, knowledge and services

Cross-cutting themes

- Gender
- Governance

Core Functions

1. Facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and others
2. Assemble, analyze, monitor and improve access to data and information, in areas related to FAO's mandate
3. Facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels
4. Advise and support capacity development at country and regional level to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies, investments and programmes
5. Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate
6. Facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development, between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector
7. Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, in areas of FAO's mandate

Functional Objectives

- Outreach
- Information Technology
- FAO Governance, oversight and direction
- Efficient and effective administration

Annex 2: Key FAO achievements in the Near East Region during 2012-13

The key achievements in 2012-13 along the five regional priorities are summarized below.

- In view of the recent developments in the Region and the growing demand for assistance from member countries, priority area 1 (food security and nutrition) received special attention. Through the organisation of high level multi-stakeholder regional events and consultations, involving governments, CSOs, UN agencies and other development partners and strengthened collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS) and other sub-regional intergovernmental bodies on the post-2015 development agenda, FAO has played a leading role in, and contributed to, the increased and improved dialogue of Members in the Region on food security issues, including on food losses, nutrition, investment in agriculture, impact of Syria crisis and the agenda for action in countries with protracted crisis. The direct substantive technical assistance to several individual countries has also helped improve national policy and institutional frameworks for addressing food security and nutrition in these countries.
- In priority area 2 (agricultural production for improved livelihoods), small scale producers and their organisations in several countries gained some more knowledge, awareness and technology transfer of relevance to the development of efficient and sustainable small scale production systems. Particular attention was devoted to small producers of crops and horticultural products, fishers and aquaculture farmers, forest keepers, dairy producers, small ruminant owners and honey bee keepers.
- With the introduction of a new approach for FAO assistance to countries under priority areas 3 (natural resources management) and 4 (climate change), the 2012-13 biennium witnessed an increasing awareness among member countries and their partners of the importance of adopting a participatory multi-disciplinary approaches (at the national and regional level) for addressing the issues of scarce natural resources and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The launching of the FAO initiative on water scarcity, in its first phase of implementation in 2013, and the organisation of a regional event on “Land and Water Days”, in collaboration with governments, UN, CSOs and other partners has helped in forging buy-in to the proposed collaborative approach by many Member countries and a wide range of other stakeholders in the Region.
- In priority area 5, FAO interventions were focused on protecting the livelihoods of affected and vulnerable households to restore small farmers’ and herders’ agriculture activities and avoid depletion of assets as the first frontline for harnessing resilience. FAO’s actions contributed to the enhanced food and nutrition security, the recovery of small-scale crop and livestock production including the rehabilitation of the dairy sector, pest and animal disease outbreaks control and prevention, improved household-level food production, strengthened income generation, improved domestic food quality and nutrition, as well as reinforced evidence-based sectoral coordination, food and nutrition security related information management, including the integrated food security phase classification (IPC) aimed at providing decision makers with improved analysis for targeted interventions. Regional and national assessments were undertaken and response plans were developed to address the immediate and medium-term needs of vulnerable groups affected by the Syria crisis (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey). Main emergency operations included the Syria crisis, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yemen and Sudan.

Annex 3: 2014-15 Budget by Strategic/Functional Objective and Region (in USD Thousands)

| Chapter | Headquarters/ Global | | Africa | | Asia and Pacific | | Europe and Central Asia | | Latin America and the Caribbean | | Near East | | Total | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Net Approp | Extra- budgetary | Total |
| 1 | 42,663 | 32,059 | 19,586 | 33,543 | 7,054 | 32,470 | 5,358 | 3,350 | 11,401 | 45,843 | 8,555 | 5,494 | 94,617 | 152,759 | 247,376 |
| 2 | 103,948 | 86,857 | 39,139 | 52,037 | 18,546 | 66,080 | 6,010 | 8,107 | 19,929 | 31,679 | 11,109 | 26,399 | 198,681 | 271,160 | 469,841 |
| 3 | 39,730 | 10,332 | 7,107 | 17,317 | 5,186 | 11,796 | 2,926 | 5,229 | 5,426 | 9,415 | 1,768 | 362 | 62,142 | 54,450 | 116,592 |
| 4 | 78,849 | 52,195 | 15,571 | 29,524 | 8,055 | 21,490 | 2,174 | 1,954 | 5,917 | 25,490 | 4,650 | 193 | 115,217 | 130,846 | 246,063 |
| 5 | 20,330 | 38,540 | 6,785 | 378,015 | 3,583 | 240,756 | 1,309 | 19,133 | 3,237 | 63,001 | 2,662 | 55,842 | 37,905 | 795,287 | 833,192 |
| 6 | 52,284 | 92 | 631 | | 403 | | 421 | | 591 | | 416 | | 54,746 | 92 | 54,838 |
| 7 - TCP | 24,771 | | 43,698 | | 26,390 | | 11,159 | | 19,767 | | 8,936 | | 134,721 | | 134,721 |
| 8 | 52,734 | 1,039 | 725 | | 3,277 | 20 | 5,928 | 385 | 1,101 | | 947 | | 64,712 | 1,445 | 66,157 |
| 9 | 32,265 | 4 | 946 | | 387 | | 526 | | 766 | | 610 | | 35,501 | 4 | 35,505 |
| 10 | 64,194 | 5,744 | 3,357 | 8,222 | 3,839 | 2,419 | 2,010 | 1,689 | 2,467 | 537 | 4,346 | 5,250 | 80,213 | 23,861 | 104,074 |
| 11 | 52,531 | 4,675 | 3,795 | 638 | 6,212 | 18 | 12,528 | 647 | 4,793 | 1,301 | 1,833 | | 81,691 | 7,278 | 88,969 |
| 12 - Cont | 600 | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | | 600 | | 600 |
| 13 - CapEx | 21,886 | | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | | 21,886 | | 21,886 |
| 14 - Security | 23,017 | 181 | - | | - | | - | | - | | - | | 23,017 | 181 | 23,198 |
| Total | 609,802 | 231,719 | 141,341 | 519,295 | 82,931 | 375,049 | 50,347 | 40,495 | 75,394 | 177,265 | 45,831 | 93,539 | 1,005,648 | 1,437,363 | 2,443,012 |

Explanatory notes:

Net Approp = Net Appropriation budget distribution as approved by FAO Council in December 2013 (CL 148/3, Annex 3)

Extra-budgetary = Estimated requirements of voluntary contributions as presented to FAO Conference (C 2013/3, Annex III)