

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for more than two-thirds of the population.



# YEMEN

## Background

Yemen has suffered from internal conflicts and clashes for several years, resulting in severe disruptions of services, lack of security and a large number of IDPs. The outbreak of fighting in August 2009 in the north between Government forces and members of the opposition group, Houthi, in the Governorate of Sa'ada presented the most serious internal security threat to the country and triggered the displacement of over 320 000 people within Sa'ada and its neighbouring governorates.

Persons internally displaced by conflict in northern Yemen, as well as refugees from the Horn of Africa, continue to rely entirely on humanitarian agencies for survival. The dire situation is further compounded by climate change, water scarcity, population growth, gender disparities, widespread unemployment, low levels of education and general insecurity. These factors have resulted in a very vulnerable population with high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. According to the May 2010 WFP Comprehensive Food Security Survey (CFSS), 7.2 million Yemenis are food insecure.

## Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

While a large majority of Yemen's mostly rural population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods, less than 3 percent of the country is arable land. The small fraction of arable land is becoming rapidly depleted due to over-use, land erosion and human expansion, which puts additional pressure on already impoverished and vulnerable communities.

The rural population in Yemen accounts for about 85 percent of the total population, of which the vast majority earn their livelihood from agriculture, including both crop and livestock production. Although agriculture contributes to only 15 percent of the national GDP, it employs over half the labour force and is the main source of livelihood for more than two-thirds of the population. Activities such as beekeeping, petty trading, including selling of qat, or even the sale of pump water by land owners are some other sources of income for rural communities.

Agricultural communities have suffered hardships, which have severely affected rural livelihoods. In the conflict-affected areas of the north, damage and destruction of agricultural equipment and crops have significantly impacted on the income of farming households. Although Yemen has received a good amount of rainfall in the past months, this will not be sufficient to ensure full recovery of harvest potential.

Yemen relies heavily on imported food items, importing 90 percent of wheat requirements and 100 percent of rice. As 97 percent of poor rural households are net food buyers, high food prices are one of the determining factors of

household food insecurity; for they continue to erode the purchasing power of poor households and contribute to a vicious cycle of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. All the while, the Government's ability to provide basic services has been challenged by declining oil production and prices.

### **FAO response**

In 2011, FAO aims to protect livelihoods and reduce acute malnutrition by improving the food security status of refugees, IDPs and other vulnerable groups and communities whose food security has been adversely affected by shocks. Furthermore, emergency food and agricultural assistance will be provided to save essential agricultural assets and to maintain livelihoods, nutrition and food security in the rural communities.

Responding to these critical levels of food insecurity, the FAO co-led Food Security and Agriculture Cluster will provide emergency seasonal assistance to the more than 1.8 million severely food-insecure people in targeted districts in the 14 governorates where the CFSS highlights that over 10 percent of the population is suffering from severe food insecurity. In these areas, food assistance will supplement the Government's social safety net system.

With donor support, FAO will also provide emergency food and nutrition support and targeted seasonal food assistance to displaced populations, distribute seeds, fertilizers and agro-chemicals to crop farming families and ensure that emergency veterinary health care is provided to livestock-hosting families.



## PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

**Total funding requested: USD 5 626 315**

Emergency recovery and support to flood-affected farming households through provision of livestock feed, veterinary drugs and medicines	
Objectives:	To provide recovery support to help sustain the livelihoods of the affected rural farming households in Hadramout and to minimize dependency on food and other humanitarian assistance; and protect livestock from increased vulnerability to diseases and high mortality through the provision of primary veterinary services and supplementary animal feed and concentrates.
Activities:	Procure and distribute animal feed, concentrate feed (barley, wheat bran and salt) or feed blocks, necessary feed supplements, as well as veterinary drugs and medicine; and provide animal health care treatments, including internal and external parasite infection control and treatment of respiratory tract infection, digestive system diseases, scabies, <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> , smallpox, brucellosis, Old World screwworm.
Beneficiaries:	960 flood-affected vulnerable farming households (including 336 women and 288 children).
Implementing partners:	MoAI.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 770 000.

### Support to displaced families willing to return and conflict affected communities in the south-western districts of Sa'ada Governorate

Objectives:	To support the process of revitalizing agricultural production in the conflict-affected area and ensure food security and creation of income for both returning displaced families and resource-poor farming families, that could not or chose not to escape from the combat zones.
Activities:	Provide agricultural inputs; provide beehives and bees; and assist in the restoration of farming terraces and water-harvesting systems.
Beneficiaries:	2 000 returnee IDP households and 1 000 non-IDP native farmers (including 1 050 women and 900 children) and veterinary assistance to 200 000 head of livestock.
Implementing partners:	MoAI, SFR.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 727 220.

### Emergency and recovery support to flood-affected farming households through the provision of seeds and fertilizers

Objectives:	To mitigate the impact of floods in Hadramout Governorate; to support the recovery of the crop production cycle; and sustain the livelihoods of flood-affected rural farming households.
Activities:	Purchase and distribute cereal, locally produced vegetable seeds of suitable varieties and fertilizers to vulnerable farming households and in flood-affected areas of Hadramout Governorate.
Beneficiaries:	2 832 flood-affected vulnerable farming households (including 990 women and 850 children).
Implementing partners:	MoAI.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 795 000.

**Support to displaced livestock keeping families and their host communities in Hajjah Governorate to sustain food security and for facilitating the return process**

Objectives:	To improve food security and the creation of income for livestock-keeping IDPs and respective host communities; support the safeguarding of IDP's productive assets as a means to facilitate the return process.
Activities:	Provide and distribute animal feed; carry out preventive vaccination and treatments; provide shadow shelters to the most vulnerable IDPs, considering the high temperatures during summer in project locations due to their low elevation.
Beneficiaries:	2 000 most vulnerable IDPs and 1 000 host-community families owning livestock (including 1 050 women and 900 children) and veterinary assistance to 200 000 head of livestock.
Implementing partners:	MoAI, Directorate of Agriculture/Animal Health and Veterinary Services.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 900 630.

**Support to crop production and income generation for displaced families and their host communities in Hajjah Governorate to sustain food security and for facilitating the return process**

Objectives:	To enhance crop production and the income-generation capacity of IDPs and their host communities and strengthen household food security by providing emergency agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers and basic farm tools for crop production; and facilitate capacity of IDP families to return to their places of origin.
Activities:	Procure and distribute agricultural inputs and other production-related implements for 2 000 beneficiaries; procure and distribute honey beehives and bees (for 400 IDP and host farming households); and provide demonstrations on improved water-harvesting techniques for rainfed cropping.
Beneficiaries:	2 400 IDP households and host farming communities (including 840 women and 720 children).
Implementing partners:	MoAI, Department of Agriculture Hajjah.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 658 845.

**Support to conflict-affected and displaced livestock-keeping families in Amran Governorate to sustain food security and for facilitating the return process**

Objectives:	To improve food security and income generation for livestock-keeping IDPs and respective host communities; and safeguard the productive assets of IDPs in order to facilitate their return to their places of origin.
Activities:	Procure and distribute animal feed, necessary feed supplements as well as veterinary drugs, medicines and consumables for 2 500 livestock-owning households; and carry out preventive vaccination and treatments for 150 000 head of livestock.
Beneficiaries:	2 500 most vulnerable IDP livestock households in ten target districts (including 875 women and 750 children) and veterinary assistance to 150 000 head of livestock.
Implementing partners:	DAHQ.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 774 620.