



### IN NUMBERS



**17 million**

people food insecure



**7 million**

people are at risk of famine



**USD 25 million**

funding gap for FAO's  
2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **17 million people are food insecure**, a staggering seven million of whom are at risk of famine.
- **Acute food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further** without continued, scaled up emergency food and livelihood assistance programmes. Air, sea, land blockade further exacerbating the availability and prices of fuel and basic food commodities.
- **Domestic food prices are high, volatile and** exacerbated by conflict and dwindling economic situation in the country. Prices of imported commodities have increased by 77 percent for diesel, 83 percent for petrol, 34 percent for wheat, 39 percent for wheat flour, 99 percent for rice, 59 percent for cooking oil and 46 percent for sugar, compared to the pre-crisis.
- **Water scarcity remains one of the main challenges in the agriculture sector.** The unavailability of water for agricultural practices is the most limiting factor for food security. The rainy season has been delayed and downfall so far has been less than expected. Furthermore, high fuel costs have sharply increases water transportation costs for most farmers, hampering the agriculture even more.
- **Fishing in coastal areas of Hajjah, Taiz and southern Hodeida governorate has stopped** due to destruction of the assets and landing sites, restricted access and the blockade of land, air and marine ports for fish exports and other socio-economic challenges.
- **The animal production, including poultry sector, is under huge stress.** Scarcity and soaring fuel and agriculture input prices forced farmers to abandon their production, resulting in the loss of livelihoods. Lack of veterinary drugs and vaccines for cattle and small ruminants will likely further result in the spread of endemic diseases such as PPR, sheep and goat pox, FMD.

### CURRENT SITUATION

**17 million people are still food insecure** while a staggering seven million people do not know where their next meal is coming from and are at risk of famine. Acute food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further if there is no immediate funding and scale up of emergency food and livelihood assistance programs. A delay in the start of the rainy season, compounded by insufficient rain compared to last year and even less so in comparison to the long-term average, has worsened the situation. Yemen's food security prospect is heavily dependent on factors affecting imports, transportation and distribution across the country. Lack of veterinary drugs and vaccines for cattle and small ruminants has already resulted in the spread of endemic diseases such as PPR, sheep and goat pox, FMD, and the loss will likely worsen. This would threaten the main livelihood assets of the most vulnerable rural groups.

**As of 8 November 2017, there were some 913 741 suspected cases of cholera and 2 196 deaths have been reported**, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health. Yemen's most vulnerable groups were among those worst affected (children and the elderly). Lack of income, poor purchasing power, fragile public health sector, and lack of water and sanitation services expose vulnerable groups to the cholera outbreak.

**Domestic food prices are high, volatile and likely to further increase** in the coming months, exacerbated by conflict and the dwindling economic situation in the country. The formal market systems are disconnected and commodity movements are disrupted resulting in scarcity and escalation of prices of essential food and non-food commodities. Prices of imported commodities have increased by 77 percent for diesel, 83 percent for petrol, 34 percent for wheat, 39 percent for wheat flour, 99 percent for rice, 59 percent for cooking oil and 46 percent for sugar, compared to the pre-crisis.

**The economic crisis and institutional structural problems continue to affect the most crucial services such as agricultural extension, domestic and transboundary livestock disease surveillances.** Although the agriculture sector has shown relative resilience compared with other economic sectors, providing employment opportunities to about half of the Yemeni population, challenges remain in accessing active conflict areas, such as restrictions of movement for humanitarian workers, which requires the transport of essential food commodities to local markets.

## CHALLENGES FACING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**Water scarcity remains one of the main challenges in the agriculture sector.** The unavailability of water for agricultural practices is the most limiting factor for food security. Water shortage is currently the most crucial issue in Yemen and the lack of proper sanitation has increased the risk of diseases.

**Yemen's fishery sector continues to equally suffer** blockade of land, air and marine ports for fish exports and other socio-economic challenges. Fishers in coastal areas of Hajjah, Taiz, and southern Hodeida have completely stopped fishing and the majority have already lost their livelihood opportunities in the sector. Fisheries is a key livelihood sector especially among the coastal communities in the Red and Arabian Seas, which currently supports the livelihoods of an estimated 83 367 small-scale fishers and 583 625 household members.

**The animal production, including poultry, sector is under huge stress.** Scarcity and soaring fuel and agriculture input prices have forced farmers to abandon their production and resulted in the loss of livelihoods. In addition, inflation in the dollar exchange rate has sharply increased prices of all livestock-related inputs (vaccines, live animals, poultry and poultry feed, animal feed, and beekeeping inputs). Further increases in poultry feed, forage and concentrate feed prices due to the crisis will also be reflected on the prices of animal products.

## FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

### 2017 RESPONSE TO-DATE



So far, FAO has reached **595 000 people** with a mixture of animal health, dairy, animal feed, crop and vegetable production, including:



**40 000 households** that benefited from livestock vaccinations and treatment  
**650 households** (200 women-headed households) received dairy equipment  
**500 households** received 2 500 multi-nutrient blocks  
**2 000 livestock raisers** received 200 tonnes of animal feed concentrate.



**16 200 households** received cereal and vegetable seeds and agricultural tools.

### 2017 PRIORITIES



#### Improve the agricultural and livestock production of vulnerable households

agricultural inputs • small-scale irrigation systems • vegetable production • vaccination and treatment of livestock • training of community animal health workers • animal feed



#### Diversify income and livelihoods

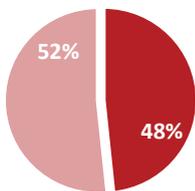
cash-for-work programmes • rehabilitation of water infrastructure • backyard poultry keeping • fishing activities • beekeeping



#### Strengthening coordination

rapid and thematic assessments • capacity building of cluster partners and food security and livelihoods-related topic • IPC

### FUNDING



■ **Funding to-date: USD 23.4 million**  
■ **Funding gap: USD 25 million**

**Donors:** European Union, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United States of America.

**FAO requires**  
USD 48.4 million

**To assist**  
3 million

### ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING

The Yemen Food Security Information Systems programme is carrying out several studies by engaging local experts in the field of livestock production, cereal production, poultry production, horticultural production and fishery production.

The IPC process has been delayed because of problems in collecting data as a result of the worsening conflict.

**Partnerships:** Ministry of planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Agricultural Research and Extension Authority, WUAs, Agriculture Cooperative Union and National and International NGOs.

## CONTACT

Salah Hajj Hassan | FAO Representative in Yemen | Sana'a, Yemen | [Salah.ElHajjHassan@fao.org](mailto:Salah.ElHajjHassan@fao.org)

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience |  
Rome, Italy | [TCE-Director@fao.org](mailto:TCE-Director@fao.org)