

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Recent figures:** 6.8 million people in need, including 4.25 million internally displaced; 1.7 million refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey; over 90 000 lives lost to violence in Syria.
- **Largest ever humanitarian appeal: USD 4.4 billion** (revised June 2013; duration Jan–Dec 2013):

Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP):	USD 1.4 billion
Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP5):	USD 3.0 billion
- **FAO: 5 critical areas of intervention within SHARP, requiring USD 41.7 million.**
 1. 2013 cereal planting campaign
 2. Emergency livestock support
 3. Backyard food production
 4. Irrigation repair (cash-for-work)
 5. Food security information (*collection, analysis, dissemination*)
- **FAO funding requirements met at 8 percent against the 2013 SHARP, with contributions from the Central Emergency Response Fund, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom.**
- **FAO urgent call for funds – 2013 cereal planting and livestock support.** Critical funding is needed to provide farmers with fertilizer & seeds to plant in autumn (funds required by August) and to safeguard livestock assets and health.

BACKGROUND

- **Since March 2011, violence in Syria has claimed over 90 000 lives and affected 6.8 million people** – 4.25 million are internally displaced. A further 1.7 million seek refuge in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.
- **The 2013 SHARP and RRP 5 – revised in June – form the largest humanitarian appeal in history.** USD 4.4 billion is sought to assist Syria (USD 1.4 billion) and countries hosting Syrian refugees (USD 3.0 billion).
- **Emergency support to agriculture and livelihoods are among top response priorities.**

CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY❖ **Means to produce food severely impaired**

Syria's food producers face high costs of production, reduced availability of inputs and labour, reduced government support mechanisms (e.g. input subsidies), damage to agricultural infrastructure and machinery, continual threat of violence and erosion of their resource base. Poverty is most concentrated in rural areas, where 80 percent of people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. **Vulnerable farmers and herders require urgent support to prevent further livelihood erosion.**

❖ **Severe depletion of the livestock sector**

Livestock production – which accounted for 35-40% of Syria's total agricultural production – is in serious jeopardy. Cattle and sheep numbers are down by up to 30 and 40%, respectively, while poultry production has halved since 2011. Animal feed is difficult to access and afford, costing triple in some areas (a situation hopefully eased by increased barley production this year). The risk of a regional animal health crisis is high due to the erosion of Syria's veterinary services, depleting vaccine stocks and standard veterinary drugs, and substantial cross-border selling of livestock from Syria into neighbouring countries. **Provision of feed and veterinary support is time-critical to avoid a serious regional outbreak of animal disease and a further depletion of livestock assets.**

❖ **Production of wheat – Syria's food security staple – and other vital crops continue to decline**

Despite favourable rainfall, especially in northern cereal production areas, wheat harvested in 2013 is estimated at 2.4 million tonnes: down 15% from 2012, and 40% below the ten-year average before the crisis (CFSAM). The area planted with horticultural and other strategic crops has fallen dramatically this year, including tomatoes (30%), sugarbeet (up to 50%) and cotton (up to 70%). Owing to the many challenges and increasing vulnerability faced by farmers (including a likely wheat seed shortage), wheat production may be much lower in the 2013/14 season. **To avoid severe impacts to national food security, farmers need wheat seeds and fertilizers for autumn planting.**

Recent assessments

[FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission \(CFSAM\)](#), June 2013.

[FAO Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis in Neighbouring Countries](#), March 2013.

❖ **Irrigation capacity significantly reduced**

Irrigated crop production – e.g. wheat, barley, cotton and horticultural crops – is severely compromised by damage to irrigation canals and pumps, lack of spare parts, power cuts and the high cost of diesel. The situation has forced many farmers to reduce irrigation or revert to rainfed production. Loss of irrigated crop production is especially serious considering, for example, yields of irrigated wheat in Syria are typically two to three times as high as those of rainfed wheat. **Irrigation and other productive infrastructure require critical repairs in order to restore food production.**



FAO PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS – 2013 SHARP

5 PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

USD 41.7 MILLION NEEDED

AIM: 768 000 BENEFICIARIES (96 000 FAMILIES)

1. Support 2013 wheat planting – a turning point for food security.

Vulnerable farmers urgently need wheat seeds and fertilizer to plant by October 2013 (funding required by August). Farmers who miss the planting season will be unable to harvest wheat again until mid-2015.

2. Safeguard livestock health and survival.

Herders urgently need animal feed and veterinary supplies to keep their animals – a crucial, continual source of food and income – alive and healthy.

3. Increase small-scale food production.

Increasing backyard food production (e.g. vegetables, poultry) is crucial to improve local food access and affordability, especially among IDPs and host communities.

4. Repair damaged rural infrastructure (cash-for-work).

Where security permits, infrastructure (e.g. irrigation canals, water troughs, market roads) require urgent repair to restore and expand food production.

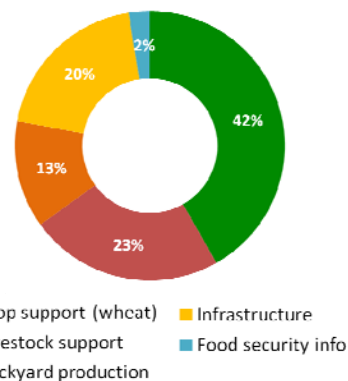
5. Strengthen food security information collection, analysis & sharing.

The size and scale of the humanitarian situation in Syria call for a strong food security information system. This evidence base is the foundation for an effective, rapid and coordinated response.

SHARP FUNDING NEEDS

Total funding
USD 1 409 812 466

FAO funding
USD 41 696 000



Food and Agriculture
Sector coordination co-led
by WFP and FAO.



Funding received: USD 3.3 million

Donors: Central Emergency Response Fund, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom

FAO RESPONSE

In 2013, FAO has delivered assistance to 68 000 people and is in the process of reaching 216 000 more with donor contributions received to date. Funds are still lacking to assist a further 680 000 people in need under the 2013 SHARP, especially in response to needs for the 2013 cereal planting season in autumn.

Ongoing activities:

- Provision of essential agricultural inputs, such as crop seeds and fertilizers.
- Provision of animal feed to preserve surviving flocks and herds.
- Support to backyard crop and poultry production to enhance food consumption and income generation.
- Support to the coordination of humanitarian assistance through continued data collection, analysis and information sharing.

FAO's outreach is focused on severely crisis-affected smallholder farmers, herders, IDPs and hosting families.

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