



# SYRIA CRISIS

## EXECUTIVE BRIEF

SYRIA LEBANON TURKEY JORDAN IRAQ EGYPT

# SYRIA CRISIS

April 2014



### SYRIA



**Violence**  
since 3/2011



**9.3 million in need**  
(44% current pop.)



**6.5 million IDPs**  
(37%↑ since 4/2013)



**6.3 million need food**  
& agriculture support



**Severe winter**  
2013/14



**Drought concerns**

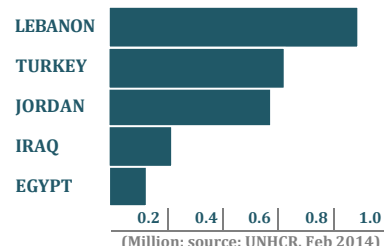
### NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



**2.6 million**  
**refugees**  
(registered)

**4.1 million anticipated by Dec 2014**

### REGISTERED REFUGEES



## CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

### SYRIA

**Food insecurity.** An estimated 6.3 million people are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and in critical need of food and agriculture support. The crisis has severely limited food production, marketing and imports. Livelihood loss, deepening poverty, inflation and steep depreciation of the Syrian pound have further eroded the capacity of families to meet basic needs and cope with the crisis. Many families report reducing their number of meals and opting for cheaper and less nutritious foods. The most vulnerable affected groups will remain unable to produce or access adequate food to meet basic needs this year, necessitating the continued and expanded provision of multiple forms of emergency food and agricultural assistance.

**Agricultural production downfalls.** Despite the potential of agriculture to address mounting food availability and access constraints, little has been invested to protect and support recovery of the sector – such as animal disease prevention and control particularly in border areas and supply of farming inputs to sustain staple food production. Latest assessments confirm low 2012/13 cereal production and anticipate low output for 2013/14 due to reduced areas under cultivation and adverse climatic conditions. These factors – coupled with the decreased capacity of rural farming populations to generate income and access food in highly affected areas – increasingly hinder food security.

**Livelihood constraints.** Agriculture-based livelihoods face severe constraints across the value chain – from production to market. Major constraints include: restricted access to land due to violence; internal population displacement; reduced availability and increased cost of farming inputs (e.g. equipment, seeds, fertilizer, labour); physical damage to land, farming equipment and infrastructure; increased cost of and reduced access to animal feed sources; and reduced veterinary supplies and services.

### NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

**Food availability, access and utilization.** The significant drop in food production in Syria and disruptions in trade have negatively affected food availability in neighbouring countries and heavily impacted small-scale producers and workers along the supply chain of most agricultural commodities. Food price increases and removal of government subsidies have reduced the real income and purchasing power of poor households, forcing a change in dietary consumption and increasing malnutrition levels in host communities. For most Syrian refugees, humanitarian assistance is the primary source of food (e.g. 70 percent of refugees in Lebanon and Egypt are food insecure). Furthermore, refugee camps and impoverished host communities are highly exposed to outbreaks of food- and water-borne diseases.

**Landless and smallholder farmers and farm workers.** In affected areas of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, marginal, small-scale farmers and livestock breeders have suffered major income losses. Causes include: limited ability to access and tend fields (due to hostilities in border areas); reduced availability of irrigation water; two- to five-fold increases in agricultural input prices; reduced marketing opportunities for traditional export crops; and a corresponding 20-40 percent net drop in farm-gate prices. With increasing availability of Syrian labour, farm wages for the family members of landless and marginal farmers have decreased by 25-30 percent.

**Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and plant diseases and pests.** There is severe threat of TADs, and crop diseases and pests due to: (i) the collapse of veterinary, sanitary, phytosanitary and plant protection services inside Syria; (ii) increasing uncontrolled movement of unvaccinated/untreated livestock, seed and planting materials from Syria into Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon; and (iii) weak veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary inspection services (i.e. surveillance and control) of those countries. Localized outbreaks of some significant diseases and zoonoses have been reported in all countries.

# FAO PRIORITIES – 2014 RESPONSE PLANS

## 2014 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP)



**PLANNED BENEFICIARIES**  
135 000 HOUSEHOLDS



**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**  
USD 43.6 MILLION

**FUNDING RECEIVED:**  
USD 1 675 000  
(Belgium- USA)

SYRIA

Priority areas of intervention	USD
1. Emergency support to household crop production (wheat and barley)	20 000 000
2. Emergency support to small-scale herders (feed, veterinary inputs, technical support)	10 000 000
3. Backyard food production (poultry and vegetable)	7 500 000
4. Cash-for-work (rehabilitation of damaged critical on-farm irrigation canals)	5 400 000
5. Coordination and leadership of the Food and Agriculture Sector	676 000

## 2014 Regional Response Plan (RRP 6)



**COUNTRIES: IRAQ, JORDAN**  
**LEBANON AND TURKEY**



**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**  
USD 28.5 MILLION

**FUNDING RECEIVED:**  
USD 0

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Interventions by country	USD
<b>IRAQ.</b> Improving food and nutrition security and income generation ■ Improving livelihood resilience (vulnerable Kurdish farming communities hosting Syrian refugees).	3 739 435
<b>JORDAN.</b> Emergency control of TADs ■ Livelihood resilience for vulnerable farming families hosting Syrian refugees (Irbid and Mafrq) ■ Emergency food security and nutrition interventions (Syrian refugees) ■ Support to food security and livelihood emergency programming.	6 500 000
<b>LEBANON.</b> Emergency vaccination and targeted feeding of livestock (grazing along Syria-Lebanon border) ■ Recovery of smallholder agricultural production (Lebanese returnees and host communities) and reinforcing farming community resilience to the crisis ■ Rehabilitation of dairy subsector to improve food and nutrition security.	11 767 500
<b>TURKEY.</b> Micro-gardening initiatives in selected refugee camps ■ Recovery of smallholder agricultural production and marketing in impoverished border areas.	6 500 000

\*\*\* The activities proposed above are aligned with FAO's 2014-2018 Subregional Strategy and Action Plan for ["Resilient Livelihoods for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security in Areas Affected by the Syria Crisis"](#).

**RESPONSE**  
**FAO 2013**

**Saving and protecting livelihoods. Supporting agricultural production. Increasing resilience.**

**Donors:** Belgium, CERF, Italy, South Africa, Sweden, UK, USA

SHARP 2013

### REACHING 47 700 FAMILIES.

**Cereal production (wheat or barley).** Anticipated cereal production is enough to feed families for a year and secure some much-needed income.

**Vegetable packages (e.g. tomato, okra, cucumber and squash).** Fresh, nutrient –rich foods more available at home and in communities.

**Backyard sheep/poultry production.** Quick, continual sources of animal protein/products to enhance nutrition (eggs, meat, dairy) and income.

**Animal feed.** Helping families maintain their livestock assets.

RRP 5

### REACHING 29 300 FAMILIES – LEBANON.

**Targeted livestock feeding.** Preserving livelihoods at risk in border areas.

**Emergency vaccination (750 000 sheep, goats and cattle).** Safeguarding livelihoods and reducing the risk for transboundary animal diseases to spread.

### 2013 ASSESSMENTS

[FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission \(May–June\)](#)

[FAO/WFP Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment \(Nov.\)](#)

[FAO Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis \(Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey\) \(Feb.–March\)](#)

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