



IN NUMBERS



17.8 million
people food insecure



8.4 million
people are at risk of famine



USD 25 million
funding gap for FAO's
2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

HIGHLIGHTS

- **17.8 million people are food insecure, compared to 17 million in the first quarter of the year.** A staggering 8.4 million of whom are at risk of famine, 24 percent more than mentioned in the March IPC.
- **Despite monumental challenges, FAO programmes and activities reached 763 000 Yemenis in 2017,** providing range of services from restocking animals and massive vaccination of livestock to providing basis food assistance, equipment and training to address immediate food insecurity and malnutrition.
- **Acute food insecurity remains a serious concern.** While there has been a partial lifting of the air-sea-land blockade, access to basic food and nutrition will likely get worse without continued, scaled up emergency food and livelihood assistance programmes. **Domestic food prices are high and volatile.** The average price of locally produced cereals went up sharply in Abyan by 25.6 percent for sorghum, by 114.3 percent for maize in Taiz, compared to October. Similarly, the monthly price of millet increased in most targeted governorates. Overall prices are still much higher than the pre-crisis prices by 137.2 percent for maize in Hadramout, by 94.0 percent for sorghum in Taiz, 100.8 percent for maize, 74 percent for millet and 207.7 percent for barley in Hodeidah.
- **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. Rainfall so far has been less than expected but freezing weather in some areas has already damaged some crops.
- **The animal production, including poultry sector, is under huge stress.** The shortage of hard currency and the devaluation of the YER against the USD remains the most important challenge affecting the overall situation of the poultry sector. Farmers are faced with high cost of poultry input (feeds) and low prices of poultry products due to the low household purchasing power.

CURRENT SITUATION

17.8 million people are still food insecure while a staggering 8.4 million people do not know where their next meal is coming from and are at risk of famine. Continued security risk has further restricted humanitarian operations. The continuing air-sea-land blockade has seriously hampered food imports into a country which brings in nearly 90 percent of its needs. The blockade has also severely impacted operations and movements of humanitarian groups.

The economic crisis and institutional structural problems in the agriculture sector continue to affect the most crucial services such as agricultural extension, domestic and transboundary livestock disease surveillances.

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 national average monthly per capita cost of minimum food basket during November was 3 332YER, which is 8 percent higher than in October, and 41 percent higher than it was during the pre-crisis period (WFP –Market Bulletin Oct – Nov. 2017). Almost all monitored food commodities sharply increased. Compared to the pre-crisis prices, sugar and basmati rice in Taiz increased by 121.3 percent and 118 percent, more than 60 percent for sugar in Sana'a city and Dhamar and 100 percent for wheat flour in Hajjah.

Despite the hardships, FAO implemented a number of programmes and activities throughout the year - ranging from restocking animals and massive vaccination of livestock to providing basis food assistance, equipment and training to address immediate food insecurity and malnutrition - which have helped more the 763 000 Yemenis. The agriculture sector has shown relative resilience compared to other economic sectors, providing employment opportunities for about half of the Yemeni population, although conflict and lack of mobility have decreased that contribution.

As of 10 December 2017, there were some 982 295 suspected cases of cholera and 2 225 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.

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 forced farmers to abandon their production and resort to loss of livelihoods. In addition, the 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 **763 658 people** with a mixture of animal health, dairy, animal feed, crop and vegetable production, including:



74 634 households that benefited from livestock vaccinations and treatment

6 185 households (700 women-headed households) received dairy equipment

8 088 households received 31 937 multi-nutrient blocks for their livestock

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

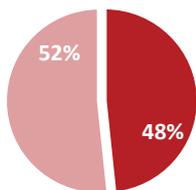
cash-for-work programmes • rehabilitation of water infrastructure • backyard poultry keeping • fishing activities • beekeeping



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 people

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 was 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.

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