



## IN NUMBERS



**2 million**  
people food insecure



**2.9 million**  
people internally displaced



**USD 74.5 million**  
needed to assist 1.39 million  
people in 2017

## KEY MESSAGES

- **With 2 million people food insecure, ongoing military conflicts, and winter approaching**, the plight of millions of Iraqis, many of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, might worsen.
- **Military operations and instability in places such as western Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Erbil and Ninewa have forced 2.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) to leave their homes.** While 2.6 million have returned, many others have abandoned their farms and agriculture-based livelihoods.
- **Insecurity, water shortages and the lack, or high cost, of agricultural inputs continue to negatively affect the performance of the agriculture sector.** Herders who are unable to feed their livestock are forced to abandon or sell them, noticeably decreasing their herd size.
- **Infrastructure such as water supplies for agricultural and domestic use has been damaged or destroyed.** Heavy contamination of retaken areas with unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices pose immediate and long-term risks.

## CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

**Military operations and internal instability in Iraq has left 2 million people food insecure, including those who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.**

**Some 2.9 million IDPs and another 2.6 million who have returned home remain vulnerable.** Despite a marked de-escalation in tensions, the security situation remains fluid.

**The Iraqi government's decision to suspend flights to Kurdish areas in the aftermath of the independence referendum has also hampered humanitarian access.**

Between the beginning of the year and 2 November, **almost 65 000 people have fled western Anbar**, an estimated 50 000 of whom were resident in Ka'im and Ru'ua before the onset of military operations. Although it is anticipated the majority of people will remain in their homes if it is safe, humanitarian workers estimate that 10 000 people will flee east towards Haditha and south towards Rutba; some could flee west into Syria.

**In newly retaken and accessible areas, families report limited livelihood opportunities**, which reduces their ability to purchase food and other necessities, and restricted access to the public distribution system – an important social safety net that entitles Iraqis to receive rations of flour, rice and cooking oil from the government.

## CHALLENGES FACING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**Violence continues to force people to abandon farms and agriculture-based livelihoods.** Insecurity, water shortages and the lack, or high cost, of agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizer, animal feed, fuel for irrigation pumps, etc.) continue to negatively affect the performance of the agriculture sector.

**Herders who are unable to feed their livestock are forced to abandon or sell them**, noticeably decreasing their herd size. According to the Ministry of Agriculture in Ninewa governorate, farmers reported a 60 percent reduction in the number of sheep and goats and a 45 percent reduction of cattle in the last six months. The protection of people's remaining animal assets is essential to enable herders to maintain productive livestock activities that will improve food security and self-reliance. Veterinary care is critical to contain and avoid outbreaks of livestock diseases.

**Infrastructure such as water supplies for agricultural and domestic use has been damaged or destroyed.** Heavy contamination of retaken areas with unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices poses immediate and long-term risks for the environment and the people, including herders and farmers.

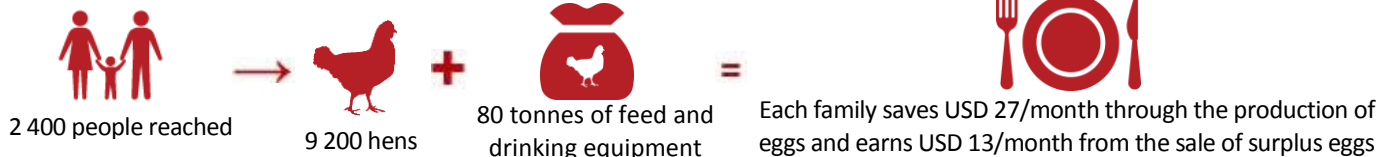
## FAO RESPONSE. TARGETS AND FUNDING

### 2017 RESPONSE TO DATE

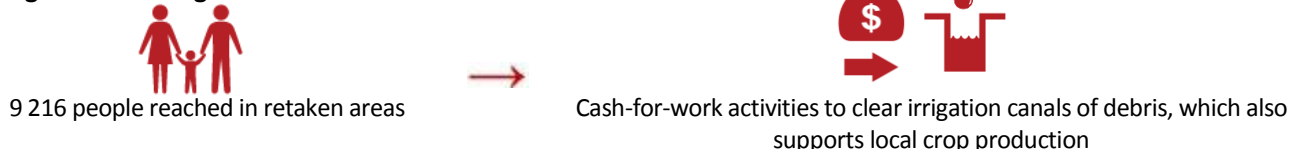


FAO has reached **14 616 people** by:

#### Increasing IDPs' and host communities' livestock assets



#### Providing income through cash-for-work activities



**Animal health campaign:** vaccinate 990 000 sheep, goats, cattle and buffalo with 2.6 million doses of vaccines and provide 1 500 tonnes of fodder to 60 000 animals. This campaign protects their herds – important assets for food and income – from diseases that could spread to other animals and humans.



**Livestock production and health:** increase the productivity (fertility and milk production) of 300 000 buffalo in seven governorates to support people's livelihoods through artificial insemination services. This intervention improves Iraqi buffalo breeds, increases milk and meat production, improves daily income of buffalo owner and reduces the incidence of infectious and zoonotic diseases



**Capacity building:** provide training on and tools for greenhouse vegetable production to support 3 000 Syrian refugees in camps, as well as training on and tools and equipment for bee-keeping for honey production and dairy and fruit processing to support 2 400 people (IDPs and host communities) in Erbil and Dohuk governorates.

### 2017 PRIORITIES

FAO's other priorities across Iraq include the support of **IDPs, those who have remained in or returned to their homes, host communities and Syrian refugees:**



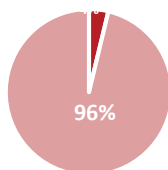
**Land and water management:** enable the cultivation of vegetables for the first time since 2014 in retaken areas of Ninewa governorate through the irrigation of 250 000 ha of farmland by pumping 40 cubic metres of water per second. This support will provide jobs for 200 000 casual labourers each season and restore the livelihoods of 30 000 returnees and remainees.

As part of a regional initiative with the governments of Kuwait and Iran, FAO is supporting the Government of Iraq with technical expertise to develop strategies to control the Red Palm Weevil, a threat to the production of date and coconut palms.

### COORDINATION

FAO works in partnership with other UN agencies and NGOs to provide support to the agricultural sector, setting up activities with line ministries in areas of food security monitoring and analysis, introduction and adoption of modern technology, livelihoods support, cash for works programming, providing agricultural inputs distribution and capacity building.

### FUNDING



■ Funding to-date to HRP: USD 2.8 million

■ Funding gap: USD 71.7 million

**Donors:** Belgium, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*, Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, the United Nations Development Programme

**FAO requires**  
USD 74.5 million

**To assist**  
1.39 million people

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