IN NUMBERS

17 million people food insecure (IPC March 2017)

300,000 people reached by FAO in 2017

USD 36.4 million Funding gap for FAO’s 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

HIGHLIGHTS

- Severe food insecurity continues to threaten 17 million people, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.
- A total of 6.8 million people, about a quarter of the population, are living under ‘emergency’ levels (IPC Phase 4) of food insecurity. Another 10.2 million people are now in a state of ‘crisis’ (IPC Phase 3).
- Two governorates, Taiz and Al Hudaydah are particularly at risk of famine in the absence of urgent humanitarian and livelihood assistance. Pockets of famine may emerge if they are not prioritized for assistance.
- Almost 2 million households are in need of emergency agricultural support.

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

An estimated 17 million people – equivalent to 60 percent of the total population – are food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance to save lives and protect livelihoods. Food security in Yemen has deteriorated further since the last IPC analysis conducted in June 2016. Among those, approximately 10.2 million people are in a state of ‘crisis’ (IPC Phase 3) and 6.8 million people are living under ‘emergency’ levels (IPC Phase 4). Nationally, the population under Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) has increased by 20 percent compared to the results of June 2016.
CHALLENGES FACING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Around 2 million households engaged in agriculture lack access to agricultural inputs, according to the latest IPC. The agricultural sector is critically important to both overall economic performance and poverty alleviation in Yemen. Some 60 percent of households in Yemen practice agriculture (crop and livestock production) and consider it as their main source of income. Agricultural production in Yemen covers around 25–30 percent of the country’s annual food requirement. In addition, the agriculture sector employs more than 50 percent of the workforce in the country.

Cultivated area and production in 2016 decreased by average 38 percent compared to the pre-crisis period, affecting food availability and household stocks. Scarcity and high prices of fuel have resulted in high cost of irrigation, transportation, and marketing of agriculture products, in addition to increased prices and unavailability of agricultural inputs making the returns from sales lower than production costs. Most notably, imported wheat prices were 36.6 percent higher in February 2017, compared with pre-crisis process and imported rice prices were 60.84 percent higher.

Livestock production decreased by more than 35 percent in 2016 compared to the pre-crisis period. This is related to the number of constraints aggravated by the current conflict, such as limited access to animal feed (e.g. fodder, access to grazing, concentrate and mineral blocks, etc.) and disease control due to the collapse of the disease control services. In addition, livestock holders have been forced to sell their animals to cover family basic needs. In 2016, the poultry sub-sector – largely a private investment – experienced major challenges related to the availability of and access to inputs, in particular poultry feed and vaccines, which are 100 percent imported. Similarly, the majority of fishers lost their fishing assets (e.g. boats, nets and fishing gear) and essential fishing infrastructure has been damaged. Fishing areas are limited, constraining movement within the normal fishing zones. Moreover, the closure of land, air and marine ports for fish exports, resulted in loss or reduced employment and income for many traditional fishers.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2017 RESPONSE TO-DATE

In 2017, FAO has reached almost 300,000 people.

- 19,743 households benefitted from livestock de-worming in Taiz.
- 17,818 households in Al Hudaydah benefitted from livestock vaccinations and de-worming treatment.
- 22 veterinarians in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah governorates received training.
- 600 beneficiaries (including 94 women) in Al Hudaydah received dairy equipment.
- 700 households (included 154 female-headed households) in Sa'ada received vegetable kits (cucumber seeds and drip irrigation pipes).
- 579 women from six districts in Sana'a received training in water management.
- 2,500 households in Al Dhale’e governorate received emergency agriculture assistance (cereal seeds, vegetable seeds and farming hand tools).
- 21 households in Al Hudaydah governorate each received 100 multi-nutrient feed blocks.

2017 PRIORITIES

Emergency provision of agricultural livelihood kits

Agricultural inputs, vegetable kits and small-scale irrigation systems

Emergency protection of animals

Vaccination and treatment of livestock, animal feed and training of community animal health workers

Emergency support to improve and diversify income and livelihoods

Cash-for-work programmes, rehabilitation of water infrastructure, backyard poultry, fishing activities and beekeeping.

Strengthening coordination of food security and agriculture response

FAO will support the food security and agriculture cluster at multiple levels.

FUNDING

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

A ministerial-level pledging conference for the humanitarian response in Yemen for 2017 will take place in Geneva on 25 April. The United Nations Secretary-General will chair the event, co-hosted by Sweden and Switzerland.