



### IN NUMBERS



**17.1 million**

people food insecure (EFSNA  
preliminary results February 2017)



**3 million**

people targeted by FAO in 2017



**USD 48.4 million**

appealed for by FAO under the  
2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for  
Yemen

### KEY POINTS

- **Yemen is facing the largest food security emergency in the world.** Without immediate action, the situation is likely to worsen in 2017.
- **An estimated 17.1 million people are food insecure and struggling to feed themselves** – an increase of 3 million in 7 months – according to preliminary results from the Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA). This includes 7.3 million people who are severely food insecure.
- **Yemen's agriculture production has severely declined in 2016 compared to pre-conflict levels**, which is devastating for **60 percent of Yemenis relying on agriculture for their livelihoods.**
- **Almost 1.3 million households are in need of emergency agricultural support** (EFSNA).
- **Current estimates indicate that existing supplies of wheat in the country will last until the end of March 2017. There is a serious risk of a disruption in wheat imports as companies struggle to obtain credit from banks.** If private imports cease, quick mitigation measures by local authorities and international actors will be critical.
- **FAO urgently needs USD 48.4 million to fund its emergency livelihoods response in Yemen in 2017.**

### CURRENT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

**Conflict is the primary driver of the largest food security emergency in the world** and has moved an already weak and impoverished country towards social, economic and institutional collapse. The initial results of the multi-agency EFSNA – conducted by FAO, UNICEF and WFP in cooperation with the Yemeni authorities – indicates that an estimated 17.1 million Yemenis are currently food insecure, including 7.3 million people who are severely food insecure. This represents a 3 million increase in the number of food insecure people in seven months. The EFSNA results also show that the total numbers of acutely malnourished children in Yemen remained at over 2 million. In four governorates – Al Hudaydah, Hadramaut, Taizz, and Abyan – malnutrition rates have passed the “critical” classification threshold. In seven governorates – Aden, Lahj, Al Mahwit, Shabwah, Hajjah, Al Jawf, and Al Dhale'e – rates exceed the “serious” threshold.

**Food prices have soared compared to pre-crisis levels.** Prices are 49 percent higher for sorghum, 45 percent higher for millet, 60 percent higher for maize and 69 percent higher for barley than pre-conflict prices in February 2015. The average prices of wheat, rice and vegetable oil increased by about 30 percent, 25 percent and 43 percent, respectively, compared to before the crisis.

As a result of higher food prices and decreasing incomes and livelihoods, negative consumption-related coping mechanisms are rife. More than 60 percent of households have adopted strategies such as reducing portions, eating less favoured foods or skipping meals altogether, according to the EFSNA results. **More than 80 percent of Yemenis are in debt, and more than 50 percent of households are buying food on credit.** In the absence of strong and well-coordinated support, food insecurity and malnutrition is likely to continue to worsen in 2017.

### CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The compounded effects of **internal displacement, migration and diminishing livelihood options brought on by the conflict have crippled Yemen's agriculture sector** – which is devastating for a country where 60 percent of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods and a further 10 percent are casual workers employed by the sector. According to the EFSNA, almost 1.5 million households engaged in agriculture lack access to critical agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds,

fertilizer, fuel for irrigation etc.). Of these, 860 000 households engaged in livestock production lack access to animal feed. Furthermore, over the past two years there has been a 50 percent reduction in the number of fishers.

There is **also a significant risk of a disruption in wheat imports**. The Central Bank of Yemen is no longer able to guarantee payments to major private wheat importers, severely impacting their ability to continue importing the staple crop into Yemen. Given that the country is dependent on imports for more than 90 percent of its wheat supplies, this would hasten the decline of food availability in local markets and drastically increase food insecurity in Yemen. If private imports cease, quick mitigation measures by local authorities and international actors will be critical.

Meanwhile, **breeding of desert locust continues** in several areas on the Red Sea coast and Gulf of Aden – which risks further eroding an already struggling agriculture sector. FAO will provide operational support to national teams monitoring the situation in secure areas of the country, along with treating infestations to reduce threats and losses to crops.

## FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

### FAO's 2017 PRIORITIES



#### Emergency provision of agricultural livelihood kits

Agricultural kits and tools, as well as vegetable kits and irrigation systems will be provided to 56 000 vulnerable households.



#### Emergency protection of animals

Vaccination of around 8.4 million animals and treatment of about 1 million animals belonging to 335 900 households.



#### Emergency support to improve and diversify income and livelihoods

Around 35 795 vulnerable households will benefit from cash-for-work programmes, poultry and bee keeping, and from support for fishing.



#### Strengthening coordination of food security and agriculture response

FAO will support the food security cluster at multiple levels.

### 2016 RESPONSE TO-DATE



In 2016, FAO reached about **673 000 people**. Some 906 100 sheep and goats were vaccinated or treated against transboundary diseases and anti-parasites, benefiting more than 45 305 households.

- 140 000 sheep and goats received animal feed, benefiting 8 770 households.
- 25 747 households received cereal seeds and fertilizers.
- 9 000 sets of fishing tools, equipment and materials (nets, boats, outboard engines, GPS units, life jackets) were distributed to 7 099 fishing households.
- 8 720 households received gardening kits (assorted vegetable seeds and farm tools).
- 250 households received animal fodder.
- 140 households benefitted from solar water pumps that were installed.
- 80 households benefitted from 400 beehives and 20 honey extractor machines.
- 30 households received water tanks.

### FUNDING

**In 2017, FAO Yemen is appealing for USD 48.4 million to assist 3 million people.**

The 2016 appeal for USD 25 million was just 28.6 percent funded, resulting in a significant gap in responding to food security needs.

**Resource partners to the FAO emergency response programme in Yemen include:** the European Union, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United States of America.

### ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING

The final results of the EFSNA report will be available in early March 2017. The EFSNA findings will also be used as part of the next IPC which is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2017.

FAO has finalized its 2017 Yemen Emergency Livelihood Response Plan. This document outlines FAO's main objectives and areas of intervention in response to the Yemen crisis from January to December 2017.

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