



IN NUMBERS



17 million
people food insecure



7 million
people are at risk of famine



USD 31.7 million
funding gap for FAO's
2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

HIGHLIGHTS

- **17 million people are food insecure** while a staggering seven million people do not know where their next meal is coming from and are at risk of famine.
- **Acute food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further** without an immediate scale up of emergency food and livelihood assistance programs.
- **Some 124 000 suspected cases of cholera and 923 deaths have been reported in 275 districts in 20 governorates from 27 April – 12 June**, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health.
- **Domestic food prices are high, volatile and likely to further increase**, exacerbated by conflict and dwindling economic situation in the country.
- **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.
- **Fishing in coastal areas of Hajjah, Taiz and southern Hodeida has stopped** due to access, security issues and the blockage of land, air and marine ports for fish exports and other socio-economic challenges.
- **The poultry sector is on brink of disintegration.** Given the high investment in this sector, its collapse will affect livelihoods of many in the country.
- **Prospect for the summer season production is precarious** due to poor rains combined with the deterioration of access to farmlands and extension services as well as high prices of inputs.

CURRENT SITUATION

Some 17 million people are still food insecure while a staggering seven million people do not know where their next meal is coming from and are at risk of famine. Acute food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further if no immediate funding and scale up of emergency food and livelihood assistance programs. A delay in the start of the rainy season compounded by insufficient rain was considerably less compared with last year and even less so than the long-term average. The conflict has further escalated the situation Taiz and Al Hudaydah – the most food insecure and famine risk governorates – putting livelihoods and humanitarian access at risk. Yemen's food security prospect is heavily dependent on factors affecting imports, transportation and distribution across the country.

Some 124 000 suspected cases of cholera and 923 deaths have been reported in 275 districts in 20 governorates from 27 April – 12 June, according to 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 exposes vulnerable groups to the cholera outbreak.

The domestic food prices are high, volatile and likely to further increase in the coming months exacerbated by conflict and dwindling economic situation in the country. The formal market systems are disconnected and commodity movements are disrupted resulting in scarcity and escalation of prices of essential food and non-food commodities. The governorates under active conflict such as Taiz, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Hajjah, Sa'ada, Shabawa and Al Jawf are the most affected by the escalation of prices. Prices of locally produced cereals are still higher than the pre-crisis prices by over 46 percent for both sorghum and millet, over 61 percent for maize and 82 percent for barley. Moreover, the prices of basic food commodities most likely increased due to the month of Ramadan, where the demand for food commodities typically increases substantially.

The economic crisis and institutional structural problems continues to affect the most crucial services such as agricultural extension, domestic and transboundary livestock disease surveillances. Although the agriculture sector has shown relative resilience compared with other economic sectors, providing employment opportunities to about half of the Yemeni population, access to active conflict areas remains challenging for agricultural activities, such as the restrictions imposed on humanitarian workers, thus requiring the transport of essential food commodities to local markets.

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 blockage 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 fishing 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 poultry sector is on the brink of disintegration. The deterioration of the population's purchasing power in 2017 led to huge losses in the sector. Most poultry farmers are selling their productive flocks to minimize further losses. In addition, around 50 percent of the hatching eggs are not going to the hatcheries. Losses are further exacerbated by the high cost of poultry inputs that are 100 percent imported. As the worst hit sector by the ongoing economic crisis, its collapse – in view of the high investment – will considerably affect livelihoods.

Prospect for the summer season production is precarious due to poor rains combined with the deterioration of access to farmlands and extension services as well as high prices of inputs. In turn, this will affect the overall planting season and fodder production, particularly in the main livestock breeding areas of Tihamah and eastern plateau. Households depending on fodder for their livestock and as a source of income will be affected, as the fodder market has shown an increase in prices due to unavailability and high demand (e.g. 5 kg of fodder is currently sold at 300 Yemeni rial, as supposed to 150). Internally displaced people trekking with their livestock are placing additional strain on host communities and exerting huge pressure on pastures within hosting areas. Animal movement could lead to the spread of diseases that highly affect livestock production. Livestock production and productivity will likely deteriorate further, as there is no support to the main public services, which significantly affected the veterinary disease surveillance and vaccination campaigns to protect livestock assets.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

2017 RESPONSE TO-DATE



So far, FAO has reached **450 000 people** with a mixture of animal health, dairy, animal feed, crop and vegetable production.

40 000 households benefited from livestock vaccinations and treatment

650 households (200 women-headed households) received dairy equipment

500 households received 2 500 multi-nutrient blocks

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

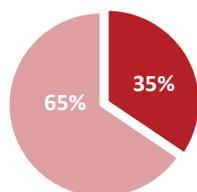
cash-for-work programmes • rehabilitation of water infrastructure • backyard poultry keeping • fishing activities • beekeeping



Strengthening coordination

rapid and thematic assessments • capacity building of cluster partners and food security and livelihoods-related topic • IPC

FUNDING



■ Funding to-date: USD 16.7 million

■ Funding gap: USD 31.7 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

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.

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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