



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ongoing conflict has affected more than 4 million people across Syria**, including 2 million internally displaced persons. A further 860 000 people have fled to neighbouring countries.
- **Agricultural damage and losses are estimated at USD 1.8 billion.**
- **4 million people are at risk of food insecurity** – indicating a 33 percent increase over the past six months.
- **Funding is urgently needed to help farmers and herders** sustain their livelihoods and food security base, particularly during winter.
- **FAO seeks USD 34.85 million within the 2013 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan** to help 59 200 severely affected farming and herding families safeguard their livelihoods and resume food production.
- **Priority FAO interventions include:** (i) provision of animal feed and veterinary supplies; (ii) seed provision; and (iii) income generation activities.

BACKGROUND

- **Beginning in March 2011, sustained and escalating violence in Syria has affected more than 4 million people** – half are internally displaced.
- **Some 860 000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries**, primarily in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.
- **Two Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessments (JRFSNAs)** were conducted by FAO and WFP in June and December 2012 to determine the severity and impact of the crisis on agriculture, food security and livelihoods.
- **The 2013 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP)** was launched on 19 December 2012 to assist displaced families and hosting communities worst affected by the crisis, for the period 1 January – 30 June 2013. Total funding requirements amount to USD 347.7 million.
- **Within the 2013 SHARP, FAO seeks USD 34.85 million** to help 59 200 severely affected farming and herding families sustain their livelihoods and food security base.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

- ❖ **More than 4 million people are at risk of food insecurity – a 33 percent rise since June 2012.**
 - Small-scale farmers and herders, casual labourers and IDP families are particularly at risk.
 - Food insecurity is worsening during winter, with the depletion of food stocks, loss of livelihoods and increased prices for essential items (e.g. food, fuel and electricity).
- ❖ **Agricultural damage and losses amount to USD 1.8 billion.**
 - Agricultural damage and losses include crops (e.g. cereals, pulses, fruit, vegetables and secondary crops), livestock (e.g. poultry, small and large ruminants) and agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation (e.g. canals and pumps).

❖ **Farmers and herders struggle to sustain their livelihoods – crop and livestock production are at increasing risk.**

- **Livestock.** Livestock (including poultry) production has decreased due to reduced availability of animal feed and fodder, animal losses and insufficient veterinary services.
- **Crops.** Farmlands have been abandoned due to insecurity, rising fuel costs, unavailability of labour, and disruption to input supply chains. Fuel availability and price increases have largely reduced irrigation capacity, affecting crop, vegetable and fruit production.

❖ **Families are experiencing decreased economic and physical access to food.**

- The ongoing crisis, rise in fuel prices, sanctions and suspension of trade with neighbouring countries have contributed to a dramatic rise in inflation, further eroding household purchasing power.
- The prices of basic food commodities – e.g. wheat flour, bread and sugar – have risen by over 100 percent in several governorates (particularly Aleppo and Damascus), while Government subsidies for bread have been reduced. Chicken meat and egg prices have doubled in most markets.

❖ **Funding is urgently needed to protect key livestock assets, restore crop production and support backyard food production. Delayed action will lead to greater food insecurity and longer-term dependence on external aid.**

2012 wheat production estimates

- **Wheat harvest:** approximately 2.28 million tonnes total (i.e. 63% of average yearly wheat production), of which around 1.95 million tonnes are available for human consumption.
- **Farmer-level:** only 53% of surveyed farmers were able to fully harvest wheat; the rest experienced either no harvest or varying degrees of losses (JRFNSA preliminary analysis, December 2012).

PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS – 2013 SHARP

- **FAO seeks USD 34.85 million within the framework of the 2013 Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP)** to provide immediate assistance to 59 200 households (476 300 people) in rural and peri-urban areas.

- **FAO proposed activities under the 2013 SHARP remain unfunded.**

• **Prioritized agricultural interventions include:**

1. **Protecting and rebuilding livestock assets:** provision of animal feed and veterinary support.
2. **Supporting agricultural production:** provision of pulses, cereal and vegetable seeds.
3. **Income generating activities:** create income opportunities for internally displaced people in rural, urban and peri-urban areas (with focus on women-headed households).

- **FAO is strengthening its presence in Syria and the region,** deploying additional staff to cover operations, programming, communication, information management, coordination and security matters. An impact assessment mission was undertaken in February to analyse the impact of the Syrian crisis on agriculture, livelihoods and food security in the region, and to identify the immediate and medium-term food security and livelihood needs of affected people and their host communities in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

FAO response –2012 SHARP

Donors: CERF, Sweden and Switzerland.

Beneficiaries: 20 500 families.

Activities: (i) seed provision (wheat, and barley); (ii) sheep and poultry restocking; (iii) animal feed provision (barley grains, wheat bran).

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