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Briefing note

FAO's response in Yemen

Yemen is facing the world's largest food security crisis. Ongoing conflict, now entering its fourth year, has led to a severe economic decline and collapsed essential services, taking an enormous toll on the population and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. The expansion of the conflict has also led to large-scale displacement and high rates of malnutrition.

The agriculture sector is among the worst hit by the current crisis and local food production has been severely compromised. The absence of veterinary services, coupled with scarcity and the high cost of drugs and animal feed has contributed to poor production. The country's low food self-sufficiency has been worsened by the conflict, which has disrupted economic activities, led to the suspension of safety net programmes and the implementation of import restrictions.

Agriculture must be an integral part of the humanitarian response to prevent Yemen's dire food security situation from worsening. FAO's programmes in Yemen aim to save livelihoods through the provision of supplies, knowledge and training to support the most vulnerable Yemeni communities to enhance their resilience and improve their food security and nutrition.

To achieve lasting impact on food security and nutrition and to restore and strengthen the agricultural livelihoods of vulnerable families, FAO has developed two plans to guide its response over the next three years.

- **Plan of Action 2018–2020**
Over three years, FAO requires USD 228.5 million to improve the food security and nutrition of 9.1 million people (1.3 million households), and to safeguard, protect and restore Yemen's agriculture sector.
- **Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan 2018**
As part of the first pillar of the Plan of Action, in 2018, FAO requires USD 57.1 million to deliver emergency agricultural interventions for 5.7 million people (818 500 households) to improve their food security and nutrition.

In numbers



17.8 million people
food insecure,
of which **8.4 million**
severely food insecure –
24% increase compared with 2017



32% of all districts estimated to
be at risk of famine



2 million IDPs



1.8 million children
acutely malnourished



73% of the population relied on
agriculture and fisheries for their
livelihoods prior to the escalation
of violence

FAO assists people to strengthen their livelihoods to withstand crises, which reduces humanitarian needs and costs by a significant margin

FAO's 2018 activities and achievements

In collaboration with the World Bank and the European Union, FAO's comprehensive resilience building approach focuses on recovery and development, while meeting the humanitarian needs of more than 2 million resource-poor host and displaced populations across 16 governorates.

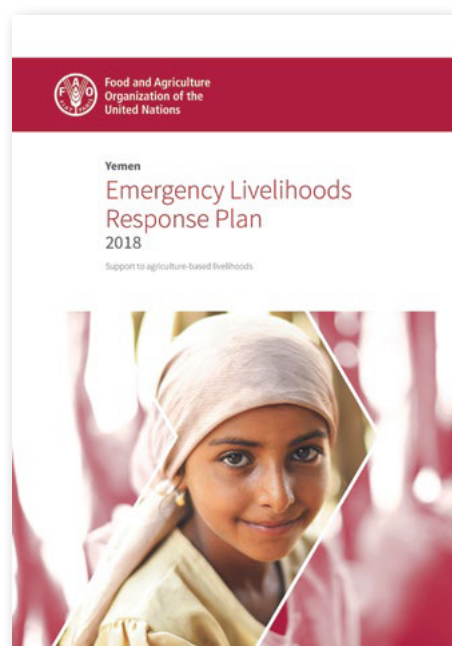
Ongoing activities

- Provide productive inputs and services to support the livelihoods of farmers, livestock owners and fishers.
- Conduct integrated nutrition sensitive activities for backyard vegetable production.
- Rehabilitate/construct small-scale water harvesting facilities, provide solar water pumps and establish water user associations to promote sustainable water resources management systems, irrigation management schemes and climate-smart agriculture practices.
- Strengthen institutional capacity on early warning systems and food security information systems for evidence-based decision making and response planning.
- Provide animal feed, cash crops, poultry and beekeeping equipment for income generation through milk processing and marketing, and horticulture production and post-harvest technologies.
- Rehabilitate community infrastructures through cash or voucher transfers to improve and diversify income.
- Provide training in farmer field schools methodology to strengthen capabilities and capacities.
- Strengthen sectoral planning, programming, implementation and coordination mechanisms for the efficient utilization of resources for a longer-term household and community resilience.

Achievements to date

19 147 households (134 028 people) received emergency livelihood support for livestock, crop and vegetable production:

- 12 722 households received 318 tonnes of molasses multivitamin blocks and animal feed concentrate in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah
- 1 820 households in Ibb, Hajjah and Taiz each received 20 kg of sorghum seeds
- 1 700 female-headed households in Taiz each received four sheep/goats, while 400 households each received five, as well as animal feed
- 1 200 female-headed households in Hajjah each received three sheep/goats and animal feed
- 600 households in Shabwa and Sa'ada each received 40 kg of wheat seeds
- 542 female-headed households supplied with dairy equipment
- 150 female-headed households trained on milk production and best hygiene practices
- 15 female extension workers trained on best practices related to nutrition and agriculture, who, in turn, trained 75 school graduates on the same topics to further promote the training in five districts in Al Hudaydah



For more information on
FAO's work in Yemen, please visit:
[www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/
yemen/en/](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/yemen/en/)

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