



With the conflict now in its thirteenth year, the Syrian Arab Republic continues to face insecurity, economic crisis, drought-like conditions and severe agroclimatic fluctuations. **An estimated 12.1 million people are food insecure**, of which 49 percent live in rural areas. Without urgent support, an additional 2.9 million people are at risk of becoming food insecure. Humanitarian response to support farming and livestock-keeping families with restoring their production is critical. **Every USD 1** invested to help a farmer grow wheat **yields more than 4.5 times its value in staple food produced**, for that family, their local community and markets.



TO ASSIST  
**2.8 million people**






FAO REQUIRES  
**USD 122.6 million**

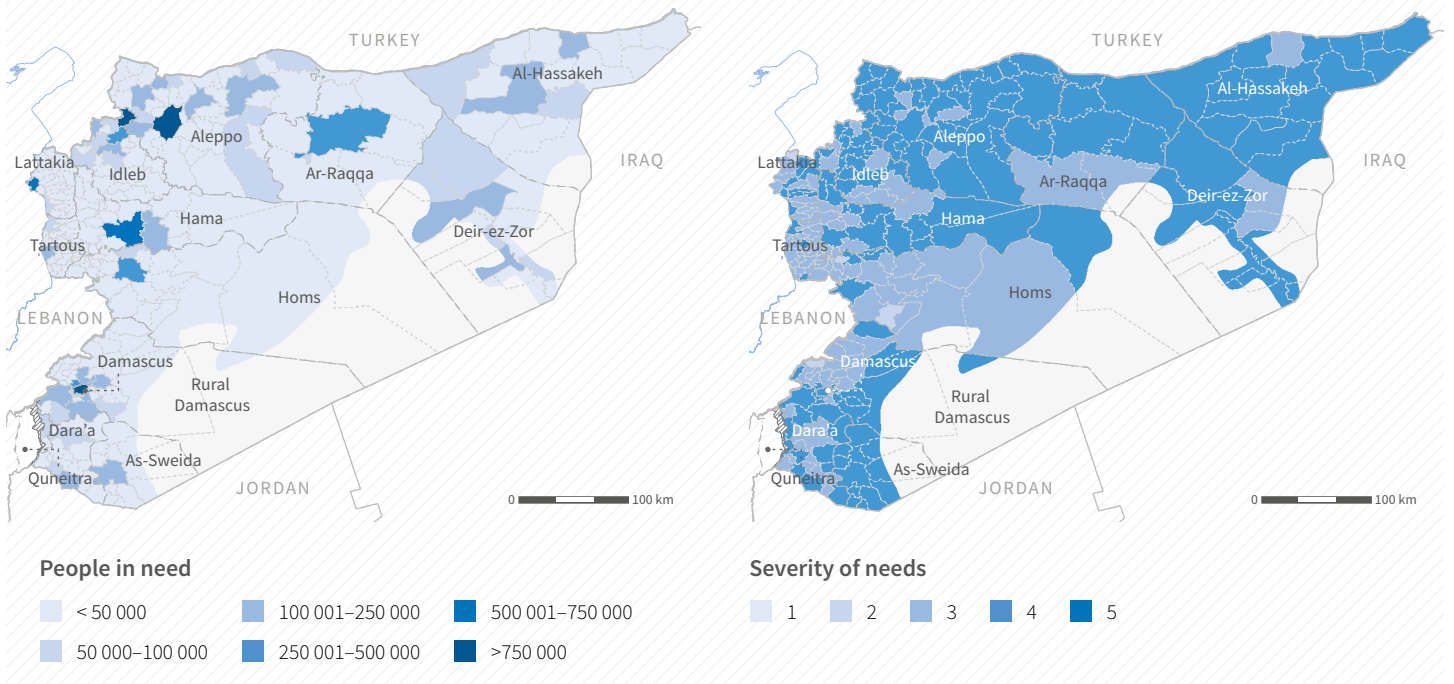


JANUARY–DECEMBER  
**2023**

**What investments in agriculture can achieve**

- USD 345** = With the seeds provided along with a cash grant for land preparation, a family can cultivate 1 ha of land and produce 2 tonnes of wheat, worth USD 1 600 on the local market. =  **Support a family of 6 to produce enough staple food for a year and earn extra income**
- USD 310** = Through cash for work, an average of 350 workers are employed to rehabilitate one irrigation infrastructure, which improves water access for 1 260 ha of land. =  **Support a family in meeting basic needs, while improving food production for the wider community**
- USD 8** = Vaccinating one sheep/goat protects a vital food asset that would cost USD 170 to replace if the animal died. A healthy milking goat provides a family with up to 2 litres of milk each day. =  **Keep productive animals alive and feeding families, especially milk for children**

## People in need of food security assistance



Source: OCHA, 2022. *Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*. New York, USA. <https://tinyurl.com/yz2292r2>

## Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

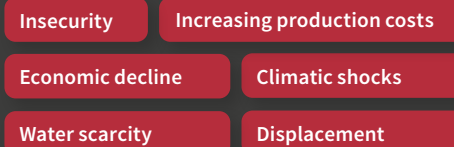
Factors driving humanitarian needs continue to increase in the Syrian Arab Republic. The economic crisis continues to deepen and food prices are climbing. In 2022, wheat production dropped over 75 percent from pre-crisis volumes. Many vulnerable families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms to survive – such as going into debt, selling productive assets and eating smaller and fewer meals. Even during the worst years of the conflict, families have never been under the economic pressures they are facing now. With nearly half of the population reliant on agriculture for their food security and income, there is an urgent need to support rural livelihoods. Investing in local food production by providing farming families with quality seeds and fertilizer, and livestock-keeping families with animal health support and fodder, reduces dependency on humanitarian aid and contributes to resilience.

## Coordination

As co-lead of the Food Security Sector, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme work closely with 132 local and international partners, in collaboration with national counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

In 2022, FAO reached 64 860 Syrian families with humanitarian agricultural assistance, protecting their livelihoods and helping meet their food needs. For example, 7 950 livestock-keeping families each received enough feed to maintain ten animals during the lean season and produce an estimated 900 litres of milk worth USD 1 045 at the local market. This is enough milk to meet the needs of a family of six for the year, while producing an excess of 520 litres to sell. An additional 25 638 families benefited from the rehabilitation of small-scale communal irrigation systems through cash for work. By engaging up to 350 workers per rehabilitation site, water access and production was improved on up to 1 260 ha of agricultural land.

## Drivers of food insecurity



## Key facts

Country population: **22.1 million**



**12.1 million** people in need of food security assistance, of whom **5.9 million** in rural areas



**6.8 million** internally displaced people, of whom **2.1 million** reside in camps of last resort



**USD 2.20 out of 100** in humanitarian assistance to food sectors went to support agriculture and livelihoods (2016–2021)

## FAO priorities

Priority	Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package	Cost per beneficiary household (USD)	Number of beneficiary households	Total cost (USD)	Funds needed by	Planned implementation period
Enable local food production and strengthen capacity	<b>Wheat package:</b> 200 kg wheat seed, grant for land preparation and training	345	25 000	8 625 000	September	November–December
	<b>Legume package:</b> 35 kg bean, chickpea, fava bean, lentil and pea seeds and training	345	37 754	13 025 130	July	September–November
	<b>Summer vegetable package:</b> 2.5 kg cucumber, eggplant, okra, tomato, zucchini seed and foliar fertilizer	345	30 000	10 350 000	February	March–December
	<b>Winter vegetable package:</b> 2.5 kg broccoli, cabbage, chard, garlic and spinach seed and foliar fertilizer					
Protect and restore livestock assets	Animal feed distribution (300 kg per family)	300	25 000	7 500 000	August	October–December
	Vaccination and treatment of approximately 32 animals against high mortality diseases	300	55 000	16 500 000	April	May–December
	Animal reproduction support	300	10 667	3 200 100	July	August–October
Improve livelihoods and nutrition through rural job opportunities and family farming	<b>Household poultry and vegetable production packages:</b> 15 laying hens, 45 kg poultry feed, 50 g cucumber, eggplant, okra, tomato and zucchini seeds, fertilizer, micro-irrigation kits and training	350	68 571	24 000 000	April	May–December
Enhance efficient use of irrigation	Cash for work to rehabilitate irrigation canals, public wells and modern irrigation systems; support to water users' associations; technical and water use management training	310	92 903	28 800 000		May–October
Strengthen farmers' capacity to cope with climate change	Farmer field schools and training of trainers on climate-smart agriculture approaches (conservation cultivation, water use efficiency, etc.)	75	128 000	9 600 000		April–December
Establish and strengthen capacity of essential services for local communities	Food and agriculture sector coordination and monitoring; early warning and disaster risk reduction systems; emergency response planning and implementation	-	-	1 000 000		Year-round

### REQUIRED CITATION

FAO. 2023. *Syrian Arab Republic: Humanitarian Response Plan 2023*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6364en>

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