

# SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN








**A Syrian farmer shows a photo of his tomato-producing field before the drought (June 2009)**

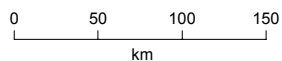
(Photo Paolo Scaliaroma, WFP / Surendra Beniwal, FAO)

**UNITED NATIONS**



### Legend

-  National capital
-  First administrative level capital
-  Populated place
-  International boundary
-  First administrative level boundary



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**Map data sources:** CGIAR, United Nations Cartographic Section, Europa Technologies, FAO, GEBCO.

### Elevation (meters)

- 5,000 and above
- 4,000 - 5,000
- 3,000 - 4,000
- 2,500 - 3,000
- 2,000 - 2,500
- 1,500 - 2,000
- 1,000 - 1,500
- 800 - 1,000
- 600 - 800
- 400 - 600
- 200 - 400
- 0 - 200
- Below sea level



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Table I: Summary of Requirements (grouped by sector) .....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Table II: Summary of Requirements (grouped by appealing organisation).....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Table III: Summary of Requirements (grouped by priority) .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>2. CONTEXT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 CONTEXT .....	4
2.1.1 Population in need.....	4
2.1.2 Response to-date by the Government of Syria and the United Nations .....	5
2.2 HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ANALYSIS .....	8
2.2.1 Household food security and nutrition .....	8
2.2.2 Education.....	9
2.2.3 Water and sanitation.....	10
2.2.4 Health .....	11
2.2.5 Agriculture and livelihoods .....	12
<b>3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4. PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA AND TIME-CRITICAL FUNDING REQUESTS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5. COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6. RESPONSE PLANS.....</b>	<b>19</b>
6.1 FOOD.....	19
6.2 WATER AND SANITATION.....	21
6.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION .....	23
6.4 EDUCATION .....	25
6.5 AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS.....	27
<b>7. STRATEGIC MONITORING MATRIX.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>ANNEX I.</b>	
<b>LETTERS RELATED TO THE DROUGHT AND SDRP FROM THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM, AND FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION FOR BADIA DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>ANNEX II. FULL PROJECT LIST AND FUNDING TABLES.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Table IV: List of Projects (grouped by sector).....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Table V: List of Projects (grouped by appealing organisation).....</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Table VI: Summary of Requirements (grouped by IASC standard sector).....</i>	<i>44</i>
<b>ANNEX III. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>45</b>





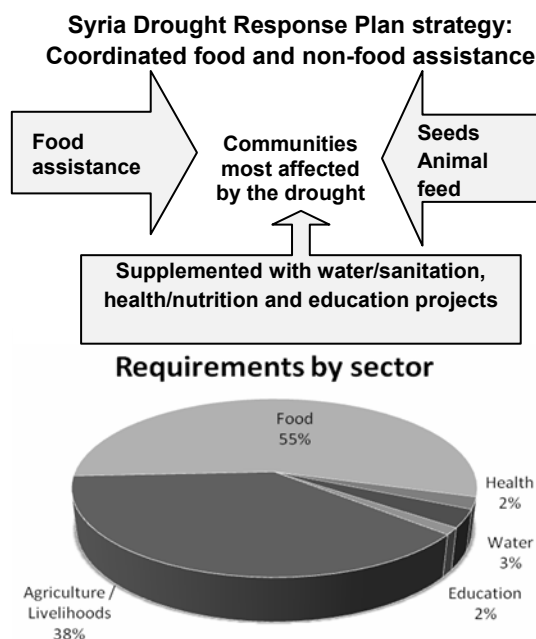
## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Syria has been affected by drought since 2006. While the 2007-2008 drought was very severe and had a wider geographical reach, the current drought has again affected a population that was already suffering from the impacts of previous drought spells. According to the Government of Syria and UN assessment missions<sup>1</sup>, some 1.3 million inhabitants of eastern Syria have been affected by this disaster, out of which 803,000 have lost almost all of their livelihoods and face extreme hardship. According to the UN Needs Assessment Mission, up to 80% of those severely affected live on a diet consisting of bread and sugared tea, which only covers on average some 50% of both caloric and protein requirements. These families are not able to sustain or restore their livelihood without emergency support including food aid, farming inputs, and animal feeds, supplemented by other types of assistance.

One of the most visible effects of the drought is a dramatic increase in the already substantial migration out of the affected areas during the last year, due to loss of livelihoods and lack of income to buy food. Migration figures range from 40,000 – 60,000 families. 36,000 families have reportedly migrated from Hassakeh Governorate alone. This dramatic move often does not save the families from destitution: even in the areas where they have temporarily settled, migrants still face hardship and poverty. Communities inhabiting the drought-affected areas suffer from an acute shortage of water as many wells and rivers have dried up. Poor nutrition, heat, and dust storms have a detrimental effect on their health status. Very high levels of school drop-outs have been registered in the area, as children have migrated with their families or are required to contribute to the family income by working.

The Government and the United Nations believe that a combination of actions – food and agriculture assistance, supplemented by water and health interventions, and measures aimed at increasing drought resilience – is required to allow affected populations to remain in their villages and re-start agriculture production in October 2009. Assistance will have to continue until mid-2010, by when new crops should help to improve food security. The Syria Drought Response Plan (SDRP) has thus been developed with the aim of supplementing and enhancing the assistance already put in place by the Syrian Government. All projects have been developed and will be implemented in close coordination with the concerned authorities and targeted communities.<sup>2</sup> Due to a small number of international NGOs working in Syria, the projects included in the SDRP have been presented by UN agencies, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Qatari Red Crescent Society, which implements its activities through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The Response Plan does not cover all needs of the most severely affected population, which receives assistance also from the Government, but focuses on the needs of 38,000 households (some 300,000 people) considered the most vulnerable.

Through the SDRP, seven agencies seek a total of **\$<sup>3</sup>52,938,616** to work with Governmental partners and targeted communities in addressing emergency humanitarian needs and mitigating further impacts of the drought of some 300,000 of the most vulnerable from the 1.3 million persons affected by the drought. Food, agriculture and livelihoods, including measures aimed at improving drought resilience, amount to 98% of the total requirements. Due to the timing of the agriculture season, with crops expected only in May-June 2010, this Response Plan has been prepared for a period of 12 months (August 2009 – July 2010).



<sup>1</sup> The Syria United Nations Country Team dispatched two inter-agency assessment missions in 2009 to the drought affected areas: a Pre-Harvest Assessment Mission in May 2009 and an UN Joint Needs Assessment Mission in June 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Please see two letters from the Government of Syria, summarizing their response to-date and assistance needs, annexed to this Response Plan.

<sup>3</sup> All dollar signs in this document denote United States dollars. Funding for this appeal should be reported to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS, [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int)), which will display its requirements and funding on the current appeals page.

## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

**Table I: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

Summary of Requirements (grouped by sector)  
as of 10 August 2009  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

non-standard sector	Original Requirements (US\$)
AGRICULTURE/LIVELIHOODS	20,374,916
EDUCATION	675,000
FOOD	28,928,100
HEALTH/NUTRITION	1,228,500
WATER/SANITATION	1,732,100
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,938,616</b>

The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).

**Table II: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

Summary of Requirements (grouped by appealing organisation)  
as of 10 August 2009  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Page 1 of 1

Appealing Organisation	Original Requirements (US\$)
FAO	13,284,583
IOM	4,757,000
Qatar Red Crescent	1,773,000
UNDP	3,435,433
UNICEF	1,825,000
WFP	27,275,100
WHO	588,500
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,938,616</b>

The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).

**Table III: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

Summary of Requirements (grouped by priority)  
as of 10 August 2009  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Priority	Original Requirements (\$)
Immediate assistance	5,288,600
Stabilization and resilience	7,985,866
Time-critical	39,664,150
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,938,616</b>

## 2. CONTEXT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

The SDRP is the second funding request launched in response to the protracted drought that has affected Syria since 2006. Although the drought in the 2007/2008 agricultural season was widely considered the worst in 40 years, this year's drought, the third consecutive year of failed rainfall in terms of its quantity and regularity, and poor crops, has affected an estimated 1.3 million persons in north-eastern Syria and Badia (Syrian Steppe) region. It has led to the near-depletion of the affected population's coping mechanisms causing decreased food intake, lack of capacity to restore/sustain livelihoods, large-scale school drop-outs, and mass migration towards urban centres.

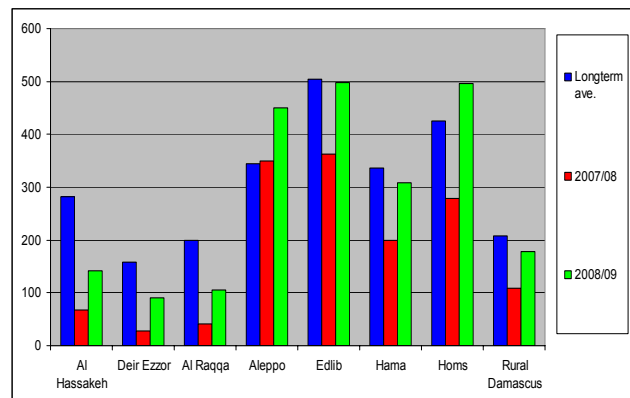


Chart 1: Rainfall received in different governorates in 2008/09, compared with 2007/08 season and the long-term average.

This Response Plan has been developed in consultation and coordination with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and is based on the results of two inter-agency UN missions that assessed the crops and humanitarian impact of the drought in May-June 2009. The missions were the Pre-Harvest Assessment Mission in May 2009, and a UN Joint Needs Assessment Mission in June 2009. The missions were led jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the participation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Development (MAAR).

### 2.1 Context

The drought of 2008/2009 follows the disastrous drought of 2007/2008, which left main crops down by over 50% and which saw the livestock sector suffer widespread damage. The drought led to drastic erosion of livelihoods and decreased food security for some 1.3 million inhabitants. The eastern governorates of Al Hassakeh, Dayr Az-Zawr, Ar Raqqa, and Hims have been already severely affected by the 2007/2008 drought that affected almost the entire population of this area, particularly small-scale farmers and herders. The effects of the recent waves of drought has resulted in many farmers having no crops for two consecutive years, while many medium and small-scale herders have lost over 80% of their flocks due to lack of pasture and fodder.

#### 2.1.1 Population in need

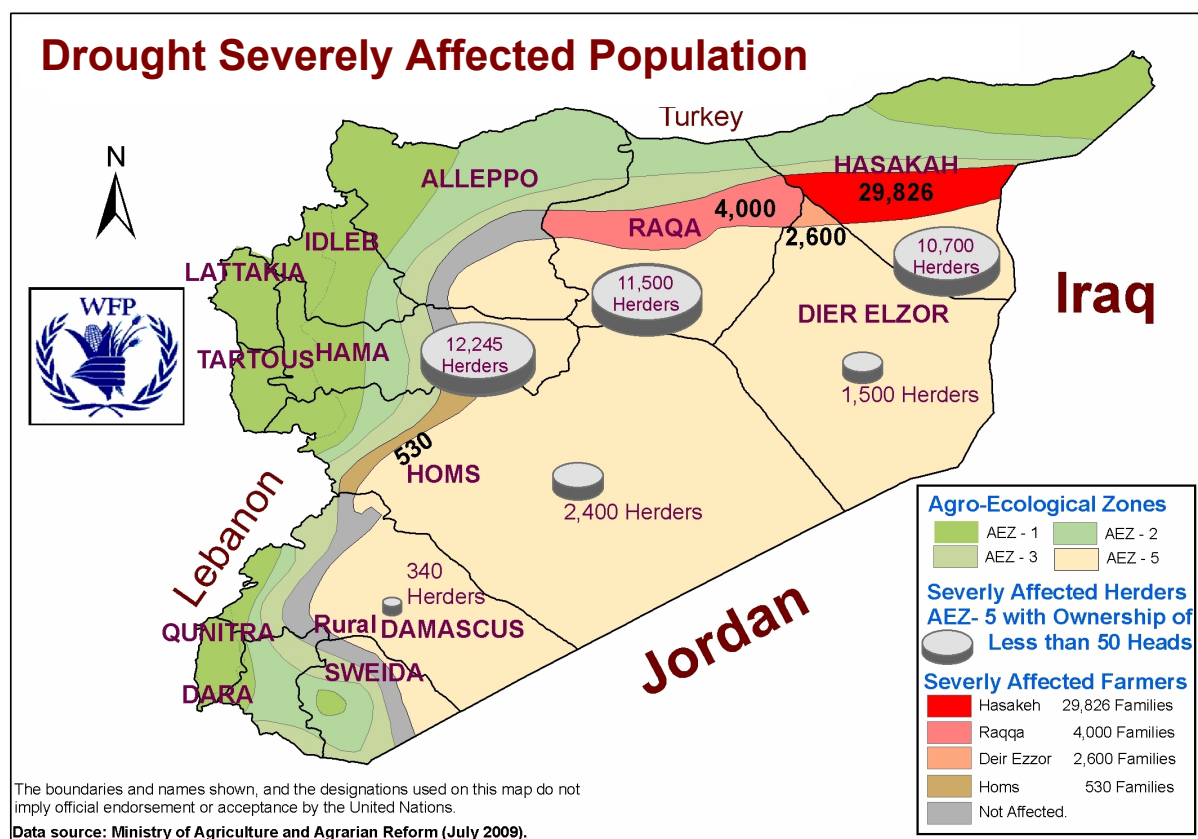
Out of a total of 1.3 million people affected by the drought, the MAAR and UN estimate that some 800,000, people corresponding to 75,641 households, have been severely affected. Over the past three years, their income has decreased by 90% and their assets and sources of livelihood have been severely compromised.

Governorate	Population	Severely affected
Rural Damascus	1,765,622	2,500
Hims	2,033,337	20,500
Hama	1,997,870	98,000
Ar-Raqqah	934,897	155,000
Dayr Az Zawr	1,566,691	41,000
Al-Hasakah	1,495,276	486,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,793,693</b>	<b>803,000</b>
<b>Total households</b>		<b>75,641</b>

Table 3. Affected populations in different governorates in zones 4 and 5. (source: MAAR, UN Needs Assessment Mission)

The UN needs assessment mission concluded that the severely affected population is largely below the extreme poverty line (\$1/person/day) with high vulnerability due to loss of assets, lack of future sources of livelihood, and degradation of fields and pastures.

Out of the severely affected population, approximately 20%, or **160,000** persons may be considered as **highly vulnerable**. This group, according to mission findings, consists of women headed households, pregnant women, the sick and handicapped, children (0–14 years), elderly persons, and families with large numbers of children.



The compounded impact of the drought – loss of income and livelihood, decreased food intake, water shortages experienced by hundreds of villages, increased malnutrition and associated health problems – has led to large-scale migration from the drought-affected areas. Approximately 40% of villages located in the agroclimatic zone 4 (see map on page 19) have seen substantial numbers of their inhabitants forced to leave. In some areas of agroclimatic zone 5, particularly Khabour Riverbed in Al Hassakeh governorate and settlements in Dayr Az-Zawr, 60-70% of villages have been left almost or entirely deserted. According to the Government, as of June 2009 an estimated 36,000 households originating from Hassakeh (200,000 – 300,000 persons) have migrated towards urban centres in western Syria, notably Damascus, Daraa, Hama, and Halab. This move further increases a strain on resources, public services and a limited job market, already affected by the presence of some one million Iraqi refugees.

In contrast to previous years, where seasonal migration was an annual occurrence, drought-related loss of livelihoods makes much of this migration permanent and involving entire families, which leads to the creation of spontaneous settlements in the outskirts of Damascus and other cities. Many of the migrants are forced to live in tents and suffer from precarious hygiene conditions; food is scarce and often inadequate in energy and protein content. Due to excess supply, migrant labour is often exploited at below-market rates, while competition for jobs leads to tension with the members of host communities. A UNICEF-sponsored assessment conducted in July 2009 in 25 tent settlements in Rural Damascus provided a gloomy picture of living conditions where poor hygiene and sanitation threaten the lives of children and other vulnerable groups already suffering from poor nutrition. Women and girls are preferably hired by farm owners as their salaries are lower than those of men. The priority of basic survival negates all other concerns for these populations.

## 2.1.2 Response to-date by the Government of Syria and the United Nations

The assistance requested in the September 2008 Syria Drought Appeal targeted 40,000 herding households with food assistance and up to 70,000 households with agriculture inputs but insufficient funding (27%) allowed provision of aid only to a fraction of this population. As is being planned for this year, the assistance provided by the UN in 2008 was supplementary to that provided by the Government. The table on the following pages summarizes the assistance provided by the Government and the UN in 2008-2009 agricultural season, and outlines the planned areas of assistance for the 2009-2010 agricultural season.



## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

### Response to 2008 Syria Drought Appeal

Sector	Original requirements (\$)	Revised requirements (\$)	Funding received (\$)	% Funded	Unmet requirements (\$)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>	14,175,000	14,175,000	1,788,158	13%	12,386,842
<b>COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	90,000	90,000	0	0%	90,000
<b>FOOD</b>	5,246,570	5,415,906	3,322,964	61%	2,092,942
<b>HEALTH</b>	128,500	128,500	0	0%	128,500
<b>WATER AND SANITATION</b>	588,500	588,500	303,595	52%	284,905
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>20,228,570</b>	<b>20,397,906</b>	<b>5,414,717</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>14,983,189</b>

Source: Financial Tracking Service as of 10 August

Despite considerable efforts undertaken by the Government to assist the drought-affected populations, the cost of providing continued food assistance and in-kind agricultural support to all the affected population is beyond the Government's financial ability. This assistance will be needed until May-June 2010, when the next crops are expected to mature. The current needs of farmers and herders are also beyond the assistance that has been provided to date, as the losses in crops and herds may not be fully offset by the next harvests. Their situation remains precarious and the situation of the drought-affected population is likely to deteriorate further over the coming months.

Therefore, humanitarian emergency contributions to the requirements expressed in this Response Plan, as well as bilateral assistance to the Government of Syria, are urgently needed to:

- support the Government's efforts to assist the most severely drought-affected people who have exhausted their coping mechanisms;
- halt or at least manage large-scale migration; and,
- enhance resilience of communities against new drought spells by encouraging the creation of non-agricultural jobs and introducing new agriculture technologies.

	<b>Response by the Government of Syria (2008-2009)</b>	<b>Response by the United Nations (2008 Syria Drought Appeal)</b>
<i>Food assistance</i>	Since 2008 until July 2009, the Government has provided assistance of a total of 5,600 metric tons (MTs) of food to about 96,600 severely affected households. <sup>4</sup> Food rations have varied in terms of quantities according to distribution periods but all have included wheat flour, lentils, oil, pasta, dates, and bulgur. In Al Hassakeh, the Government also has complemented 5,200 WFP families' food baskets with two litres of oil, two kgs of ghee and one kg of tea.	WFP provided six months food assistance to 14,000 families (out of 40,000 targeted), 25,000 school children and 5,000 illiterate women. An additional 11,000 families are being targeted as of mid-2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance provided was insufficient due to low funding and in comparison to the needs.</li> </ul>
<i>Support to farmers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of subsidized livestock feed, covering 13% of farmers' annual needs.</li> <li>Provision of free medicines and vaccines for livestock, opening access to protected pastures.</li> <li>Market interventions: increased purchase price of cereal crops, rescheduling payment of farmers' loans.</li> <li>Fuel support for irrigation, improved irrigation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of wheat and barley seeds to 10,000 affected farmers (out of 30,000 planned).</li> <li>Provision of animal feed to 1,000 herder families (two months duration), out of 10,000 planned.</li> <li>Assistance provided was insufficient due to low funding and in comparison to the needs.</li> </ul>
<i>Other measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relaxed lending policy by public lending institutions: provision of loans and cash grants, rescheduling payment of late loans (three to nine years).</li> <li>Micro-loans for women entrepreneurs.</li> <li>Hiring new teachers for the rural schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational training for 5,000 women.</li> <li>WFP provided food assistance for the period of the training.</li> <li>The Government provided micro-credit for women entrepreneurs to perform non-agricultural jobs.</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Food assistance provided by the Government of Syria was distributed in the following Governorates: Al Hassakeh (53,564 households), Al Raqqa (19,935 households), Homs (3,037 households), Dayr az Zawr (19,701 households) and Rural Damascus (385 households).

## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

	Planned activities by the Government of Syria for 2009-2010	Activities foreseen in the 2009-2010 SDRP
Planned new measures for 2009 – 2010	<p>Government plans to distribute every two months 150 kg of wheat flour, 25 kg sugar, 25 kg of bulgur and 10 kg of red split lentils, one litre oil, 2 kg ghee and 1 kg tea to households in Hassakeh which will be identified according to the needs.</p> <p>Other measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of seed to farmers;</li> <li>• provision of fodder to small-scale herders;</li> <li>• renegotiation of farmers loans over a ten-year period and one year grace;</li> <li>• new loans for farmers and herders;</li> <li>• rural development assistance funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);</li> <li>• licensing of 13,000 existing unlicensed wells;</li> <li>• plans for livelihood diversification, including feasibility studies for agro-industries and tourism development;</li> <li>• favourable investment environment (e.g. tax waivers);</li> <li>• study the needed structural and programmatic reformation for the agriculture and water sectors;</li> <li>• fund-raising measures to implement strategic projects (transferring water through tunnels from Dijla to Khabour River in Al Hassakeh (it is dried now) and building another dam on Euphrates River).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food assistance to 300,000 most vulnerable persons.</li> <li>• Improving water supply in villages.</li> <li>• Health assistance and monitoring.</li> <li>• Providing agricultural inputs to 18,000 small farmers and animal feed in support of 21,000 herders to preserve their livelihoods.</li> <li>• Enhancing drought resilience.</li> </ul>

A reverse osmosis water treatment plant is now installed in Hama Governorate and will be operative soon. The cost of the project is \$300,000 and is implemented with governmental partners from the State Planning Commission (SPC) and Ministry of Housing and Construction. It will provide and increase access to potable water for 25,000 people living in rural drought-affected Al-Salamiya district. The project outcome will also reduce water-related diseases, increase school attendance, and reduce drop-out. Beneficiaries include 3,135 children under-five (including 435 children under-one) and 3,900 women of child-bearing age.

### **United Nations assistance appreciated by the drought-affected population**

*The households and herders visited by the mission appreciated the food assistances provided by WFP and the seed inputs and animal feed provided by FAO. However, the beneficiaries repeatedly emphasized that all the inhabitants of the drought-affected areas are in dire need of food, animal feed and crop seeds because they are farmers and herders, and would like to continue be as such in future. They have exhausted all the coping strategies during the three consecutive years of drought. Many beneficiaries emphasized that the people who got the assistance were the vulnerable ones but would be requiring greater quantities and for longer duration to sustain themselves until the harvests of the next crop season. Due to the limited fund, food rations and agricultural assistance could not satisfy all the needy families and for a long period. Many people who were not listed as beneficiaries insisted that there was an urgent need for them to be included in the recipients list for this season. The beneficiaries also suggested that drought mitigation efforts should be speeded up, prolonged and integrated into longer term assistance.*

*(Source: Joint Needs Assessment final report, July 2009)*

## 2.2 Humanitarian Needs Analysis

People affected by drought since 2006 have since managed their resources to minimize the direct impact of the crisis on their livelihood and crops. However, after three years of consecutive drought, coping mechanisms and strategies traditionally employed during the drought<sup>5</sup> have been exhausted. Most farmers have lost all or most of their crops and affected herders have lost all or large numbers of their herds. Many have accumulated loans to the extent that there is no opportunity to pay them off in the near future or to apply for more. Large numbers of men have resorted to migrating to the western and southern parts of the country and abroad.

Furthermore, migration has expanded from being seasonal to semi-permanent in nature and, in many cases, now includes the entire family. Children have been withdrawn from schools due to migration, because the family can no longer afford the cost of education, or because they are needed to contribute to the family's income, and are sometimes even moved out of the country. Household food consumption is not meeting minimum daily requirements both in terms of diversity, quantity, and meal frequency. Household stocks of food and seeds have reached a minimum or have been entirely depleted. With exhausted coping mechanisms, it would be hard for the farmers or herders to meet their needs in the coming season, even in the event of good rainfall.

Based on the conclusions of the humanitarian needs assessment undertaken in the drought-affected areas in June 2009, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Syria identified the following priority needs:

<i>Immediate humanitarian aid</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food assistance to the most vulnerable families.</li> <li>2. Improving water supply in water-stressed communities.</li> <li>3. Supporting health assistance and nutrition monitoring.</li> <li>4. Providing agricultural inputs to farmers to allow them to preserve their livelihoods and re-start agricultural work.</li> </ol>
<i>Livelihood recovery</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Supporting activities in providing skills and income support to the most vulnerable community in the North Eastern Region to build community resilience to drought.</li> </ol>
<i>Improved resilience against new drought</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Decreasing dependency of the population on agricultural jobs by encouraging creation of other sources of employment.</li> <li>7. Implementing new agricultural solutions to enhance drought resilience.</li> <li>8. Building national capability to implement the national drought strategy.</li> <li>9. Developing a national early warning system (EWS).</li> </ol>

### 2.2.1 Household food security and nutrition

The protracted drought has had a devastating impact on the food security and livelihoods of the population. Over 80% of the families visited by the UN assessment mission have been relying exclusively on bread and sweetened tea for their food consumption over the last year. Only very few could access milk, meat or vegetables: most families have not consumed meat in months, and even the consumption of tomatoes, the cheapest local vegetable, has dropped to very low levels.

Hence, the very poor food consumption of the most affected households is macronutrient and micronutrient deficient, lacking proteins and vitamins. Their diet supplies less than 50% of daily energy and protein requirements and only 15% of fat necessary for a healthy life. Only 9% of the energy is supplied by proteins and 6% by fats. It has been recognized that this diet will lead to significant problems of malnutrition in all age groups of the affected population. The assessment has revealed that adults consume only one daily meal, the size of which is much smaller than what it used to be. The situation is worsened by poor-quality drinking water, leading to water-borne diseases, which will affect the utilization of food and ultimately further endanger the health of the poorest families.

#### Energy and protein content of the average diet of the drought-affected population

	Daily consumption g/person/day	Energy (kCal)	Protein (g)
White bread	300	783	23.1
Sugar	50	200	0
Total	350	983	23.1
% of requirements covered		47%	44%

<sup>5</sup> The coping mechanisms used by the affected farmers and herders are: 1) sale of household belongings; 2) increased borrowing; 3) reduce their food intake and quality; 4) take the children out of school; 5) migrate and desert their villages and land; and 6) postpone marriage.

While all strata of the drought affected population is at risk of increased prevalence of malnutrition, the UN Joint Needs Assessment Mission identified some highly vulnerable groups who might be most vulnerable to the drought and suffer from its negative impact on their nutritional status, which represent approximately 20% of the severely affected population (160,000 persons).

- Female-headed households
- Sick and handicapped persons
- Children, particularly under the age of five
- Elderly people
- Families with large numbers of young children

The consecutive severe droughts have hit a population already at high risk, as malnutrition has been a significant public health problem in northeast Syria as per the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2007. The table to the right shows the main nutrition indicators for children under five, comparing north-eastern governorates to the national average. Stunting in these areas has been as high as 35% and rates for underweight (reflecting acute malnutrition) were peaking at 23%. The nutritional status witnessed in 2007 has been further deteriorating with the severe drought as indicated by data gathered by Primary Health Care Centres in the affected areas.

**Malnutrition indicators in drought-affected areas**

Governorate	Underweight (low weight for age)	Stunted (low height for age)	Wasted (low weight for height)
<b>National average</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Dayr az Zawr	17.9	29.4	16.1
Hassakeh	11.0	17.1	10.8
Raqqah	22.7	35.4	12.2
Halab	10.2	36.0	8.0

Source: UNICEF MICS 2007

The recently established nutrition surveillance system based on information from sentinel sites indicates a high rate of anaemia (42%) for infants aged 6-12 months in the Raqqah Governorate. This is most probably lined to poor complementary feeding practices relying uniquely on bread and tea.

In order to improve the nutrition situation of the most vulnerable families, the Syria Drought Response Plan seeks donor support for emergency food assistance benefiting at least 20% of the most vulnerable population, particularly female-headed households and households with children. WFP has been present in the area since last year's drought supporting government efforts in preserving livelihoods, yet now it will shift its focus towards addressing important nutritional problems that have surfaced due to the deteriorating drought situation and its severe effects on livelihoods.

## 2.2.2 Education

Extended drought has depleted not only families' livelihoods, but also coping mechanisms to deal with the shortage of food and income. This has had a direct effect on school enrolment with very high drop-out rates in the past two years. According to UN needs assessment, enrolment in some schools in eastern Syria has decreased by up to 70-80%.<sup>6</sup> A government report on drought impact in Hassakeh states that 19 schools in the districts of Tel Tamer, Al Shadadi, Tal Hamis, Amuda, Kamishli, Ras Al Eim have been closed. In Hassakeh Governorate a total of 7,380 children have dropped out of school, whilst in Dayr Ez-Zawr Governorate (population 1.1 million), at least 13,250 students have dropped out over the past two years.

According to the heads of households interviewed by the UN assessment missions, the necessity to cover the daily needs of families had to be given priority on school attendance. Many drought-affected households cannot afford to send their children due to: a) financial hardship; b) increased cost of transportation and distance; c) migration of children with their families; and, d) employment of children to earn additional income for households, a priority which presently overrides all others because of the question of survival. In new, spontaneous settlements in western Syria, inhabited by migrants from drought-affected areas, children work with their parents in the fields and most of them not attend schools.

<sup>6</sup> Some children were taken out of school in April and may return in November/December if the situation improved. In the village of Al-Neriiah for example the UN assessment mission found that a school with a capacity of 100 students had only fifteen attending during the school year 2008/2009.

In order to limit school drop-outs, migration from the affected areas, and child malnutrition, the SDRP seeks donor support for food distribution through school feeding, improving teachers' skills and providing material assistance to schools and pupils to encourage school attendance.

## 2.2.3 Water and sanitation

For the population of the semi-arid steppe in eastern Syria, availability of water is of prime importance. In many areas water shortage has reached critical levels. The recurrent drought during the past three to four years has resulted in increasing the depth of the water level in wells from 90-100 metres to 120-150 metres in the best cases. As a result, wells have either dried up or require much more time and costs to pump out water.

In addition to water scarcity, its quality has also deteriorated. Well water has been increasingly contaminated with salts and nitrite, rendering it useless for human consumption. As a result, wells have been left neglected and gone out of use. In Ar Raqqa and Hassakeh Governorates, respectively, 47% and 7% of wells have gone out of service during the past four years. Inhabitants of many villages depend on water trucking by the government or through private contractors (at a charge). In many cases, however, the quality of water trucked privately is below acceptable standards.

Shortages of potable water and the great distances to the nearest available source are forcing many families to revert to unsafe water from wells or ponds for their daily use. In some areas, for example in Rural Damascus, herders reported that they had to travel 30-40 kms to find water for their herds, and had to travel even farther to obtain good quality potable water for their own use. As a result, Hassakeh and Dayr Az-Zawr Governorates saw an increase in water-related diseases by 25%, whilst in Ar-Raqqah Governorate the prevalence of these diseases increased almost six-fold.

The drought-affected governorates of eastern Syria face dramatic water shortage: more wells and some rivers may dry up in the next years. While large-scale development projects, including redirecting part of the waters from Euphrates and Tigris rivers, may be needed to address this situation in long term, in the short-term, the SDRP intends to focus on the provision of adapted water treatment devices to improve access to potable water in the most severely water-stressed communities.



Dry wells in many villages force many farmers and herders to get their water from unsafe sources. The Picture was taken close to Al.-Mabtooh Town, West of Al-Hassakeh. (June 2009)

(Photo: Wissam Abdo)

### Water security in the drought-affected areas

Syria receives water from three sources – rivers, underground water, and rainfall. In recent years, pressure on water resources has increased due to water scarcity caused by environmental changes, increased use of water in agricultural production, and increased urbanization. Although 90% of the total water in the country is consumed by the agriculture sector, zones 4 and 5 suffer from water shortage and have been most affected by the drought. The balance between used and renewable sources in underground water is presently negative and at a critical stage as a result of overexploitation. The groundwater table is 11-40 m down in some regions of zones 4 and 5. There has been a 40% reduction in some sub-basins during the last two years due to drought and overexploitation. It is reported that water storage capacity in the steppe is now only about 17% of the total capacity.

(Source: Joint Needs Assessment final report, July 2009)



## 2.2.4 Health

According to the UNICEF MICS malnutrition in Syria gradually decreased in the 1990s, but the most recent survey conducted in 2007 indicated an increase in all three malnutrition indicators (see graph to the right). This was driven mainly by the effects of the drought on north-eastern Syria, visible already at the time of the 2007 survey. Consecutive years of drought have deteriorated the health of the general population, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and women of child-bearing age.

Malnutrition is the main health problem resulting from the continued drought. Poor nutrition in turn is expected to weaken children's immunity, hence increasing their susceptibility to communicable diseases, and may lead to increased morbidity and mortality.<sup>7</sup> A recent study conducted by the Ministry of Health (MoH), Damascus University and UNICEF in 2008 showed that 50% of deaths among children under five year of age in Syria occur in the north-eastern governorates.

The data available on health in drought-affected areas indicated that there was a marked increase in the cases of diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and anaemia among under-five children in the Dayr Az-Zawr, Al Hassakeh, and Hims governorates. The affected areas were also exposed to waves of dusty storms in the last three years which aggravated the situation, all of which have led to increasing numbers of the population seeking medical care and assistance from primary health centres.

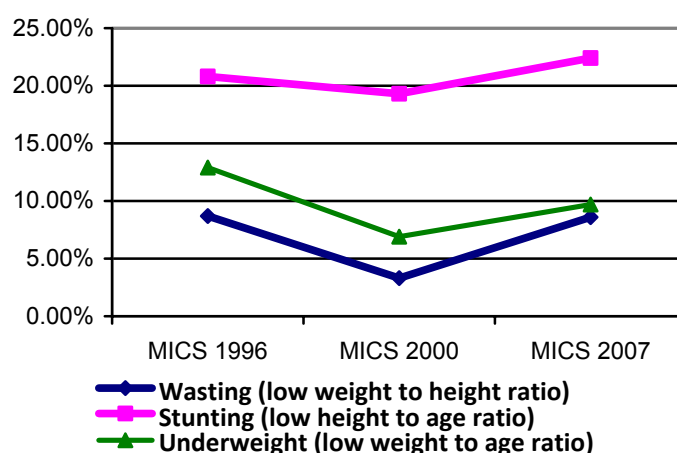
**Number of patients visiting health centres in Dayr Az-Zawr, Al Hassakeh and Hims**

Governorate	2006	2007	2008	2009 (First quarter)
Dayr Az-Zawr	643,577	831,620	804,707	89,224
Al Hassakeh	303,788	282,891	1,911,028	403,510
Hims	1,429,677	1,705,417	2,001,503	870,435

Source: MoH, Directorate of Statistics

Health programmes foreseen in the SDRP will focus on improving the health status of children under-five, pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable groups. In particular, children will be provided with Vitamin A supplements and women of child-bearing age with ferrous folic acid to treat anaemia. Healthcare staff will be trained on growth monitoring to monitor children's nutritional status and to support the installation of a quality nutrition surveillance system and response.

Trends in under-five malnutrition in Syria, based on MICS results 1996-2007. Effects of the 2007 drought are visible in considerable increase recorded that year.



Source: UNICEF MICS 1996-2007. Moderate and severe levels of malnutrition combined.

<sup>7</sup> Malnutrition is usually associated to 30-50% of death cases among children globally.

### 2.2.5 Agriculture and livelihoods

The third consecutive year of drought is affecting subsistence communities that have a limited adaptive capacity. The drought has also seriously affected the viability of some livelihoods unless effective measures are taken to protect and diversify them through adaptation. In a context where global climatic change suggests drought in Syria may become more frequent, variable and intense, it is critical that initiatives to increase the resilience of populations at the local level are made now.



Drought-affected fields in the Raqqah Governorate (June 2009)  
(Photo Paolo Scaliaroma, WFP / Surendra Beniwal, FAO)

One of the most visible impacts of the drought on livelihoods in eastern Syria is dramatic reduction or lack of harvests in the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 seasons among the farmers in the north-eastern and Badia regions. Two groups in particular are particularly affected:

- Farmers, as most of them had already lost their entire 2008 harvests;
- Herders as they cannot find feeds for their animals in drought-affected rangelands, and have to buy feeds from markets due to lack of resources. In a few cases, herders still have three to ten sheep surviving out of flocks of over 100.

According to the UN needs assessment mission, the affected population has lost, on average, over 90% of their income, assets and sources of livelihood over the past two years. The living conditions of affected farmers and herders are particularly compromised with the near-total loss of crops and livestock and degradation of rangelands, which forces them to adopt damaging coping strategies such as distress sale of household assets. The compounded effect of the drought has pushed many farmers and herders below extreme poverty line (income of less than \$1 per day). The UN needs assessment mission identified a high level of destitution and different degrees of poverty resulting from distress sale of livestock and household assets.

Visits to drought-affected households clearly showed that there were no opportunities for alternative sources of income for the suffering families: there were no micro-enterprises either agriculture- or non-agriculture-based. The only alternative source of income was to leave their households in search of work elsewhere, which could at least provide some support their families. The choice was either to migrate internally to areas in Syria which have not been affected by drought (preferred destinations were Tartus, Latakia, Damascus, or Daraa), or to emigrate abroad. Even in those areas of the country listed above, work opportunities are limited. Over 50% of the people interviewed, who had relatives seeking jobs in other promising areas in Syria or Lebanon, indicated that they failed to find a job

#### Low rainfall and dust storms damage crops in 2009

During the current planting season 2008/2009, the rainfall levels were better than last seasons, but still much below the annual average. In Al-Hasakahh, Dayr Az Zawr, Ar-Raqqah, Rural Damascus and the southern parts of Homs the rainfall reached only 35-55% of the annual average, as compared to 15-25% in 2007/2008 season. In contrast to the previous season, the temperature was relatively favourable, in the range of 27-32°C.

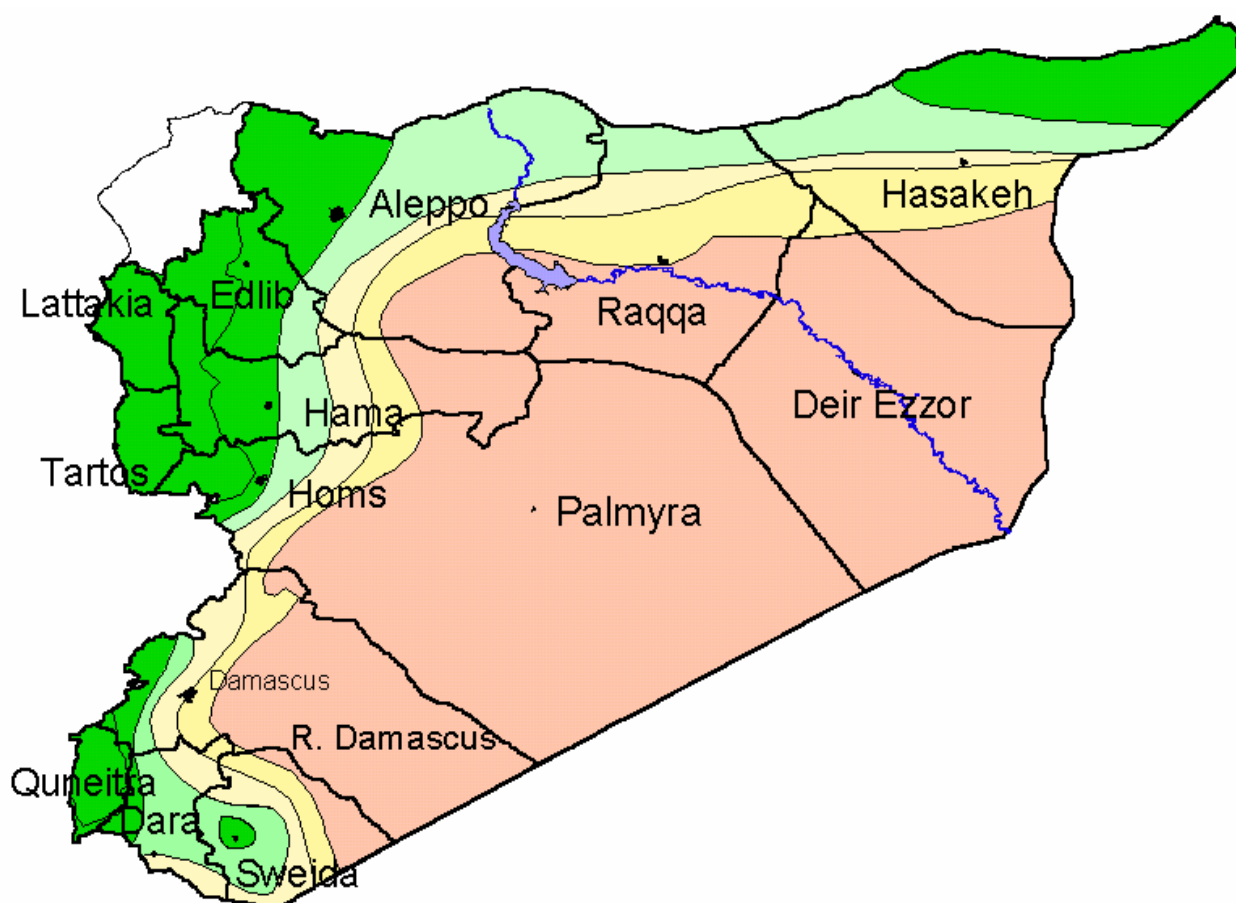
Crops were nevertheless damaged and decreased as a result of heat waves associated with dust storms and moving sand; sand waves blocked even some of the rural roads. During the 2008/2009 cropping season, dust through the eastern winds increased. Moreover, sand waves coming from the south were seen in many locations, blocking roads and access to social and agricultural service facilities and damaging crops before harvest. This was clearly observed in Dayr Ez-Zawr, Hasakahh and Rural Damascus.


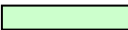
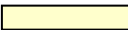
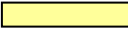

At the national level, the preliminary MAAR estimate for wheat production in 2009 was 3.31 million MTs (versus the planned 4.7 million MTs) and 0.951 million MTs for barley (versus the planned 1.5 million MTs).

(Source: Pre-Harvest Needs Assessment Mission, May 2009)

# AGROCLIMATIC ZONES OF SYRIA (STABILIZATION ZONES)

(Source: WFP)



Map Colour	Stabilization zones	Annual Rainfall (mm)	Area (hectares)	Cultivated Plants	Percent of the Total Country Area
	1	Over 350	2,701,000		14.6
	1a	Over 600		Field crops	
	1b	350 – 600		Wheat, legumes and summer crops	
	2	250 – 350	2,475,000	Barley, wheat, legumes and summer crops	13.3
	3	250	1,303,000	Barley and legumes	7.1
	4 (Marginal)	200 – 250	1,830,000	Barley	9.9
	5 (Desert and steppe)	Less than 200	10,209,000	Prohibited cropping	55.1

and had to return to their villages of origin. Moreover, migrants from the Badia are often exploited and paid wages which are well below market rates.

In order to build community resilience and adaptive capacities to drought, the SDRP seeks donor support for an effective response requiring a diversity of measures across different scales and timeframes as follows:

- Distribution of seeds and animal feeds to help the most destitute farmers and herders maintain their agricultural capacity and commence agriculture work from October 2009 onwards for farmers and from August onward for animal herders;
- Sustaining the remaining asset base of vulnerable small-scale herders through provision of animal feeds to the most destitute;
- Provision of five pregnant ewes for each of the most destitute herders, with focus on women-headed households;
- Support crop diversification and introduction of new agricultural technologies to increase drought-resilience of local farmers;
- Support of job creation in non-agricultural sectors in eastern Syria to increase drought-resilience of the local population;
- Assist in building Government capacity to implement the prepared drought mitigation strategy and early warning system.

### 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The SDRP has been developed in consultation with the Government of Syria, and is based on the results of two inter-Agency UN missions that assessed the crops and humanitarian impact of the drought in May-June 2009. Its main objective is to assist the drought-affected population with a view to supporting and expanding assistance measures already put in place by the Syrian authorities. As outlined on page 10, the Government of Syria provided assistance through various market interventions, subsidies, and in-kind assistance to the affected population, as well as through prioritizing development projects in the affected areas.

The Government has supported development of the SDRP and welcomes international assistance that may be provided to the drought-affected population both in cash and in kind, through multilateral channels, such as this SDRP, as well as through bilateral ones. To this end, a letter from the MAAR stated the Government's support to the SDRP and the assistance that could be provided by the international community. It also listed the most urgent sectors that donor countries may wish to consider for bilateral assistance. In a separate letter, the Director-General of the Badia Commission welcomed the international assistance provided to the drought-affected populations and technical assistance aimed at improving management of natural resources in the drought-affected areas. Copies of these letters constitute an annex to this Response Plan.

The SDRP is based on three main strategic priorities, identified by the UNCT in consultation with MAAR, the Badia Commission, and the SPC:

1. Provide humanitarian assistance to the severely drought-affected population in North-East and Badia, in support of measures undertaken by the Government of Syria;
2. Strengthen the resilience of the drought-affected communities to future drought, and provide immediate assistance in the return process of the drought-affected population, helping ensure their socio-economic stability;
3. Provide immediate assistance in the return process of the drought-affected population to their villages/places in the Hassake Governorate and others accompanied by stabilization measurements to avoid the reoccurrence of such movement and working to ensure sustainable solutions.

The SDRP includes predominantly humanitarian actions accompanied by projects focusing on ensuring sustainability of assistance and enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacities of the population against drought. The latter component is important in ensuring that in case of recurrent drought, the community will be less vulnerable than in 2007-2009 and the need for emergency assistance will be minimized.

The SDRP is aimed at supporting the measures benefiting the drought-affected population put in place by the Government, which is the leading and main provider of assistance and public services in this emergency. Projects put forward in this Response Plan are tuned to the implementation capacity of the UNCT in Syria, which will assist the Government in addressing the time-critical needs of the most vulnerable inhabitants of drought-affected areas. Given the very limited number of international NGOs engaged in Syria, the humanitarian projects included in this Response Plan will be implemented predominantly by the UN agencies, IOM, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and governmental counterparts. However, as a recognizable development, the Qatari Red Crescent Society designed its own response program and joined UN agencies in this Response Plan.

#### Syria Drought Response Plan: Key planning parameters

Duration: 12 months (August 2009 – July 2010),  
Next cropping season expected in May 2010

Focus area: Hassakah Governorate  
Ar-Raqqah Governorate  
Dayr Az-Zawr Governorate  
Hims (Homs) Governorate

Key sectors: Food  
Water/sanitation  
Health/nutrition  
Education  
Agriculture/livelihoods

Population in focus: 1.3 million drought-affected  
803,000 severely affected  
160,000 most vulnerable of the severely affected

This Response Plan has been prepared based on the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 46/182.



## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

### Lessons learned from the 2008 Syria Drought Appeal

- Prepared and launched by the United Nations in October 2008.
- Raised only limited donor support (as of August 2009 only 27% funded).

The Following measures aimed at improving drought response in Syria were integrated in the Syria Drought Response Plan 2009:

<i>Lessons learned from the 2008 Drought Appeal</i>	<i>Improvements made in the 2009 Response Plan</i>
<p>The targeting needed to be better coordinated among the UN agencies (WFP Emergency Operation [EMOP] targeted herders and FAO farmers).</p> <p>Food assistance and agricultural inputs were very effective when they reached the same beneficiaries, but less effective when they reached different households.</p>	<p>Food and agriculture assistance will be coordinated as much as possible. Top-priority will be given to selected communities.</p> <p>Ranking list of the severely affected communities will be established.</p>
<p>Appeal launched late in the year, when donor funds were limited.</p>	<p>2009 Response Plan has been prepared and disseminated among donors as soon as assessment data was available.</p> <p>Mid-term review of the 2009 Response Plan planned for December 2009.</p>
<p>Little awareness among donors about the humanitarian needs.</p>	<p>Donors are briefed regularly about the drought situation (two donor briefings were organized in May and July 2009)</p> <p>Donors were invited to participate in the needs assessment mission.</p> <p>Strong and credible data about the humanitarian impact of the drought collected in May-June 2009, including school drop-outs, levels of migration, and food security at the household level, improved data collection of malnutrition-related data.</p>
<p>Population continues to be vulnerable in case of recurrent drought.</p>	<p>Emphasis on crops and job diversification and other measures strengthening drought resilience.</p> <p>Technical assistance projects benefiting the Syrian authorities on limiting the effects of climate change</p>

### Provision of comprehensive assistance to most vulnerable communities

Based on the lessons learned from the 2008 Syria Drought Appeal, the United Nations will provide a package of **coordinated assistance** comprising food rations and agricultural inputs, supplemented with water/sanitation, health, and education measures, to the inhabitants of the most vulnerable communities in Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Hims and Dawr Ezawr Governorates. In particular, the WFP food assistance projects and FAO agriculture projects are expected to target the same groups of beneficiaries in order to maximize the effectiveness of the aid provided. Such combined assistance will help these families and communities to maintain proper nutrition during the coming months, restart their agriculture work and diversify their livelihoods. Also a combined action between IOM and other UN agencies can guarantee a more sustainable and spontaneous return of migrants to their villages. The activities put forward in the Response Plan are tied to the capacity of the main humanitarian actors in Syria, governmental, SARC, and non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners.

The communities targeted in this Response Plan will be selected based on a set of criteria, which will be developed jointly by UN and Government counterparts. Based on these criteria, a priority list of vulnerable communities will be built, which will allow using even limited funding to assist most destitute villages, with project expanding down the ranking list as more funding becomes available.

### Consequences of insufficient funding

The SDRP requests \$52.9 million in project funding, including \$39.6 million in time-critical funding required for provision of food assistance and key agricultural inputs. Should funding be insufficient for these time-critical and other key humanitarian actions, this could have following adverse results:

- Increased vulnerability of the severely-affected population. This population that has been facing drought over the last three years has depleted all its coping strategies and might now face an even harder time if assistance is not provided to it.

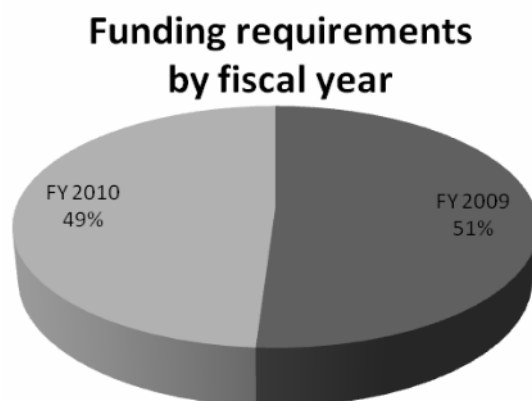
- Increased malnutrition among those severely impacted (803,000 persons), particularly children.
- Continued or even increased rates of migration from the drought-affected areas towards main urban centres of Syria, agricultural areas in southern and western Syria, as well as abroad. Similarly to the families who have migrated to-date, new migrants could face acute poverty and suffer from inadequate shelters and lack of financial ability to access public services.
- Thousands of affected small farmers would not be able to cultivate their farms in the upcoming season and hence rebuild their livelihoods.
- Affected livestock herds will lose the remainder of their reduced herds and hence their livelihood.
- Continued high rate of drop-outs from schools in eastern Syria due to lack of financial resources, migration, and necessity for children to work to support families' livelihoods.
- Increased abandonment of villages in eastern Syria unless access to new sources of water is supported.
- Continued high level of vulnerability of farmers, herders, and wider rural population of eastern Syria to the effects of drought unless resilience measures are funded and assist in diversification of crops and income sources.

#### 4. PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA AND TIME-CRITICAL FUNDING REQUESTS

In order to facilitate donor decision-making, projects included in this Response Plan were prioritized by the UNCT and divided into three tiers:

- **Time-critical** – projects that need to be funded at a given date, otherwise there is a high risk of either breaking the food pipeline or missing the commencement of agricultural season (for agricultural inputs). These time-critical projects include:
  - Provision of food assistance that should commence as soon as possible;
  - Provision of seeds – by October 2009 (planting season).
- **Immediate assistance** – projects that require adequate funding throughout their duration (usually August 2009 – July 2010);
- **Stabilization and resilience** – projects to be implemented predominantly in 2010 and aimed at ensuring the phase-out and sustainability of assistance, as well as enhancing resilience of the population against drought.

The SDRP requests approximately half of its funding in 2009 and the remainder in January 2010, or after. This requirement is linked to time-critical needs to provide food assistance and agriculture inputs to farmers in September-November 2009 to allow them re-start work in the fields and to herders over the coming seven to eight months. These need to be funded in 2009 and therefore are of highest priority for funding. Funding in 2009 is also needed to kick-start other assistance projects that can be completed in 2010. Projects focusing on recovery of livelihoods, sustainability of the assistance provided, and improved drought resilience is scheduled for implementation mainly in the first half of 2010.



#### 5. COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

This Response Plan has been produced by the UNCT in Syria in July 2009, in consultation and coordination with the main counterparts in the Government of Syria, notably the SPC, MAAR, and other related ministries/institutions at central and provincial levels and the targeted affected communities. Activities put forward in the SDRP will be coordinated at two levels:

- Policy level: Between the UNCT in Syria and the concerned ministries;
- Operational level: Regular coordination meetings between UN agencies, IOM, NGOs participating in the Response Plan and representatives of the concerned ministries.

Efficiency and applicability of the drought response activities put forward in this Response Plan will be evaluated in a Mid-Term Review, currently scheduled for December 2009. This review will establish whether the Response Plan needs revising or adjusting. During that time, the UNCT and partner NGOs will review their projects in order to fine-tune them to the developing needs, for the remaining period of the plan.

Experience has shown that security and stability can be undermined by large population movements. One of its serious consequences is creating chronic social problems such as unemployment or severe poverty in unauthorized urban settlements. Combined assistance provided by UN agencies will allow targeted populations to restart their work in their fields. Moreover, it will supplement governmental efforts and other UN projects to fight poverty and prevent expanding the existing unauthorized urban settlements. Finally, focusing UN assistance on north-eastern areas of Syria comes in line with governmental strategic priority, which is concentrating developmental efforts on that region.

Activities planned in the framework of this Response Plan are also in line with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Syria (2007-2011), which lists amongst its outcomes: “in the event of a disaster, an effective coordinated disaster response conducted through timely and adequate assessment, relief, and recovery activities.”<sup>8</sup>

In the same context FAO, in collaboration with MAAR, set up an early warning system and began implementing the national drought strategy. This will enable the Government to analyse the situation, forecast the country situation, and take timely necessary actions in response to future agriculture season/rainfall developments.

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<sup>8</sup> Syria UNDAF 2007-2011 Page 20.

## 6. RESPONSE PLANS

### 6.1 Food

**Lead:** WFP

**Implementing partners:** SPC; Badia Commission, MAAR, FAO, and NGOs

#### **Needs analysis**

The rural population of northeast Syria is suffering a third consecutive year of drought. After three years experiencing a series of heavy shocks, including the worst drought of the last four decades and a dramatic increase in the prices of basic food commodities and fuel, the affected population has almost exhausted all its coping strategies and has become extremely vulnerable. The number of severely drought-affected persons is rising, with the drought having a very severe impact on the livelihood of herders and farmers and, indirectly, on interdependent urban populations of these areas. The most vulnerable segment (20%) of this population is living under the extreme poverty line (income of less than \$1 per day), assessments have revealed their increased vulnerability due to the permanent loss of assets, lack of sustainable livelihood options, worsening environmental conditions and acute degradation of lands. Governorates with the highest numbers of severely affected persons are Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqah, and Dayr az Zawr.

The coping strategies adopted by the affected population are ranging from loans to distress migration. Food-based coping strategies, such as the reduction of food intake, are now being adopted on a daily basis. The severely affected population's daily diet consists of bread, tea, and sugar only – for adults as well as for children. Such a diet provides only 50% of daily energy and 45% of daily protein requirements. People have eliminated essential protein-rich foods from their diet such as meat and dairy products. Their diet is not only poor in macronutrients, but also void of essential micronutrients, leading to increased malnutrition. In addition to the poor diet, the quality of drinking water has been deteriorating: elevated rates of nitrates and nitrites were found in drinking water available in the affected areas. Malnutrition is rising. Women-headed households, children below and over two years, sick people, and elderly are at particular risk.

Extreme hardship is contributing to migration to major cities (25-40% of affected population), closure of schools, precarious health conditions, and increased child labour. Groups of migrants have established camps around Rural Damascus and in Dara'a. Due to the severe crisis, traditional migration patterns have significantly changed. While previously men were migrating in search of income-generating activities since last year, entire families have been migrating to the cities. These families live in extremely poor conditions and there is an absolute lack of basic services (health, education, water, toilets) in their settlement areas. Measures to address the needs of this migrant population should be designed in order to alleviate the precarious living conditions in migrant camps and facilitate their voluntary return.

In such a situation, and mostly in rural schools in the affected governorates, there has been a marked increase in the number of children dropping out of school, as well as a decline in the level of school enrolment, now down about 60-70%. Children are not attending school either because they are migrating with their families, or have to contribute to the family income by working.

Against this background, WFP Food-for-Education Project, implemented in the same areas affected by the drought, has had success in 145 schools where food assistance is provided to children who attend at least 80% of days during a month. Drop outs have decreased and enrolments have increased by an average of 8% during the 2008/2009 school year. When seen in this context, returning children to school was a positive coping strategy for those families who could afford to, as it meant their children received a family ration of wheat flour (25 kg per child per month) and on site feeding at school made up of fortified biscuits.

#### **Objective and expected outcomes**

The WFP intervention aims to complement the present diet and provide 55% of nutritional requirements to the most vulnerable households among the severely affected of Hassakeh, Dayr az Zawr, and Ar-Raqqah. Women headed of households, school children at risk of dropping-out of school and engaging in income-generating activities, elderly and sick people as well as herders and farmers who have lost most of their productive assets will have priority among the others. The specific objectives of WFP assistance are as follows:

- Provide food assistance (55% of nutritional requirements) to the most vulnerable households for a total of 300,000 beneficiaries;
- Prevent a further reduction in quality and quantity of food consumption levels;
- Prevent further migration to urban centres and encourage voluntary return;
- Prevent expansion of child labour and reduce drop-out rates of students.

### **A need-based strategy for food assistance**

WFP will provide food assistance to 300,000 beneficiaries on a **needs-based approach**, providing food assistance to the most vulnerable of the severely affected households for a period of 12 months and until the next crop season which will be in June 2010.

The food basket is calculated to match traditional consumption patterns. The WFP ration will complement and diversify the existing daily diet. The ration is meant to provide about half of the daily nutritional requirements and will consist of cereals, pulses, salt, and oil. Dates and canned fish will be distributed if and when donated. The basic ration will provide a total of 1,200 Kcal per day and it will cover 55% of energy, 55% of protein and 85% of fat requirements in addition of calcium, iodine, iron and other nutritional elements.

The low population density and high dispersion of settlements in the Badia and adjacent rural areas pose a serious challenge to reach beneficiaries. WFP will implement its operation through a community-targeting approach: food will be delivered to the community and distributed according to well-established criteria through locally elected committees; these committees will include representatives of all social groups, including women and vulnerable people. Local committees may become a key instrument for dealing with future emergencies and development projects. WFP is promoting a participatory approach and will concentrate on building capacities of the affected communities.

In parallel, and within the caseload of 300,000 beneficiaries, another strategy to reach households will be piloted. It consists of food distribution through schools. This pilot consists of “take-home rations” given to school children in 29 schools for a total of 30,000 beneficiaries in Dayr az Zawr, Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa. On top of providing food assistance to the selected beneficiaries, this strategy aims at preventing child labour, distressed migration of entire families, and further decline in school enrolment. It also aims at keeping drop-out rates stable. The possible options of scaling-up this modality will be evaluated by the end of December 2009.

To increase efficiency and performance in distribution, repacking will be minimized and rations will be distributed on a bi-monthly basis.

### **Expected impact**

The 12-month food assistance to severely affected households will contribute towards the following outcomes:

- Food requirements for targeted population are satisfied;
- Migration from the affected area is decreased and voluntary return increased;
- School drop-out rates have decreased or stabilized;
- Negative coping strategies are significantly reduced; and,
- Local capacities in coping with emergency issues at community level are being developed.

To measure impact, baseline studies will be required, on nutrition, health, education, and migration issues in the targeted areas.

### **Monitoring indicators**

- Number of beneficiary families receiving food assistance; caloric value of the ration distributed.
- Caloric value of an average diet of drought-affected population.
- Migration levels.
- Numbers of schools targeted with food assistance.
- Number of school children targeted with food assistance.



## **6.2 Water and Sanitation**

**Lead: UNICEF**

**Implementing Partners:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ministry of Housing and Construction (MoHC), Governorates Water and Waste Water Directorate, Ministry of Education at Central Level and at Technical Level in governorates, Ministry of Local Administration, Governors' offices represented by Technical Service Department.

### **Needs analysis**

Pressure on water resources in Syria has increased due to drought, increased use of water in agricultural production, and increased urbanization. Although 90% of the total water in the country is consumed by the agriculture sector, Zones 4 and 5 of agricultural areas and Badia, respectively, suffer from water shortage, and thus are most affected. The groundwater table is 11-40 m down in some regions of Zones 4 and 5, and there has been a 40% reduction in some sub-basins during the last two years. It is reported that water storage capacity in the steppe is now only about 17% of the total capacity. Water shortage has, in essence, reached critical levels. Regional analysis also suggests that these trends are likely being further exacerbated by global climate change.

The aggravated drought conditions in the past two years have had a significant impact on the sources of drinking water for the households. A number of wells, a regular source of drinking water for the village households in the eastern region, have either now dried (for example, 50% in Ar Raqqa) or their water table has been reduced (from 11 – 40m in Badia of Hims), thus making well water inaccessible and causing scarcity of drinking water in the households. In addition, the quality of water in the wells has deteriorated (more nitrates and salts) and become unfit for consumption, so it is neglected and gone out of use. In Al Hassakeh, most of the 850 wells are polluted and as a result 55 new wells had to be dug to supply drinking water.

People in the drought-affected rural areas are forced to buy drinking water supplied through private tankers. This water in most cases is not properly treated thus putting the consumers at risk. The drought has adversely affected children's education especially in the worst-hit areas, as seen in the increased numbers and rates of dropouts and enrolment levels from primary and secondary schools.

### **Objectives**

Sector activities aim to improve access in quality and quantity to potable water for the most vulnerable and severely affected populations of the northeast. Activities include:

1. improving provision of potable water among the affected population with a view to reducing migration;
2. improving the quality of supplied water and increasing the capacity of the water institutions for water quality management;
3. providing and increasing water amounts to schools with a view to reducing student drop-outs.

### **Strategy**

The proposed set of activities is designed as immediate remedial actions to overcome the lack of potable water. These measures are temporary in nature. They should complement a comprehensive Government-led water improvement plan in drought-affected areas, including immediate and longer term measures aiming at improving water supply as well as waste water management.

The focus areas are the Governorates of Hassakeh, Raqqa, Derezor, and Hims. As water is currently contaminated with salts and nitrates, treatment is imperative to produce potable water. It is also important to enhance the capacity of local institutions in charge of water management in sustaining quality of potable water supply.

The strategy also involves the improvement of water provision systems and infrastructure in schools as a way to provide children with a healthy and enabling environment to continue their education.

Envisaged activities are as follows:

- Installing six small-scale water treatment plants and support for chlorination in order to address the needs of an estimated 60,000 people in the most affected communities;
- Installation of Reverse Osmosis Units and rehabilitation of Roman wells to benefit additional 30,000 drought-affected population;

- Provision of water quality testing kits to MoHC Water and Waste Water Directorate at Governorate level, with practical training provided to the staff;
- Provision of water storage tanks for selected schools and health centres.

### **Expected Outputs**

- 90,000 people in most drought-affected communities are benefiting from improved potable water supply.
- Children enrolled in 100 schools and/ or patients of health centres are given access to water.
- Monitoring institutions with increased capacity to monitor and manage water supplies as well as prevent their pollution.

### **Monitoring indicators**

- Number of small water treatment plants and RO units installed.
- Number of Roman wells rehabilitated.
- Number of persons with improved access to water.
- Number of MoHC staff trained in using water quality test kits.
- Number of water storage tanks installed in schools.

### 6.3 Health and Nutrition

**Lead:** WHO

**Partner:** UNICEF

#### Needs analysis

Malnutrition is a public health problem in Syria, with disparities between governorates according to UNICEF MICS III 2007. The main nutrition indicators for children under-five in the north-eastern governorates that were affected by the drought are much worse than the national average:

- In Raqqah for example more than one third of children under-five are stunted (suffering chronic malnutrition) and more than 22% are underweight (reflecting acute malnutrition). This situation is aggravated by the drought as indicated by PHC centres in the affected areas;
- With the drought continuing, an increase in morbidity & mortality among children is to be expected, as malnutrition is usually associated with 30-50% of child deaths globally;
- Malnutrition also affects the immunity of children, increasing their susceptibility to communicable diseases;
- A study conducted by MoH, Damascus University and UNICEF in 2008 on the main causes of under-five mortality showed that 50% of child deaths occurred in the north-eastern governorates.

In the drought-affected areas of Al Hassakeh, Dayr Az-Zawr, and Ar Raqqah Governorates, marked increases in health problems have been reported by health authorities. A higher incidence of malnutrition, anaemia, and diarrhoea has been reported among under-five children and pregnant women visiting health centres. Moreover, higher incidence of acute respiratory infections (ARI) and eye irritations have been reported, due largely to waves of dust storms in the last three years which aggravated the situation and increased the rates of respiratory diseases. In 2006-2008, diarrhoea cases increased by 39.2% in Hasakah, while respiratory diseases increased by 100% in Hasakah, 70.5% in Raqqah, and 19% in Dayr Az-Zawr. The health situation of families who have migrated closer to urban centres is equally dire. They live in unsanitary conditions and do not access health centres thereby increasing their vulnerability to diseases.

Although the above figures reflect the health situation of children under-five who visited the public health centres and not all children in the three affected governorates, it shows the impact of polluted water on the increase of diarrhoea, the impact of the dusty storms on the increase of respiratory diseases, and the impact of the expanding poverty on the increase of malnutrition and anaemia.

So far, no action has been taken to mitigate the health implications of the drought. Lack of funding last year was the main reason for there not being any international humanitarian programmes in the affected area. This situation requires a stepped-up health sector response in providing needed preventive and curative services to the affected populations. Health services in rural and remote areas need stronger capacity for outreach and surveillance as the drought-affected areas are characterized by remote communities in small, scattered villages and nomadic people who can only be reached through mobile service teams. For example, there is a need to increase measles immunization coverage and distribution of vitamin A to prevent the spread of diseases associated with severe malnutrition.

#### Objectives

- Support pregnant and lactating women by providing them with ferrous folic acid tab and prevent anaemia.
- Conduct measles immunization campaigns, where necessary, especially in peri-urban migrant settlements and distribution of vitamin A.
- Strengthen the surveillance system for communicable diseases.
- Conduct health education and awareness campaigns and distribution of educational materials and hygiene supplies and materials.
- Extend and strengthen the nutrition surveillance, including training of health workers on proper growth monitoring.
- Support emergency departments in health centres and hospitals to manage cases of acute asthmatic attacks and respiratory infections.
- Conduct local survey to estimate the prevalence of anaemia among school children.

**Strategy**

WHO in cooperation with UNICEF will support the MoH in improving the health status of the vulnerable groups (pregnant women and children under-five). The MoH will be provided with two mobile clinics equipped with well trained teams to reach remote areas and preventive and curative services to the affected population including focus on prevention of anaemia in pregnant and lactating women (supplementary ferrous folic acid tablets and haematological detection tests).

The mobile teams and health workers in all health centres in the affected areas will be trained and provided with needed vaccines, vitamin A to be provided for children under-five and ferrous folic acid tab for pregnant and lactating women.

Well established nutrition surveillance mechanisms will be installed in all health centres in the affected area and health workers will be trained to practice the proper growth monitoring in addition to the team working in the mobile clinics. The proper forms will be distributed to all health centres and mobile clinics in the area. Surveillance officers for communicable diseases and the mobile team will be also trained on how to timely report on communicable diseases according to MoH regulations.

Well planned education campaigns aiming at increasing vaccination coverage and improving nutrition status for the target population will be launched in the affected area to raise awareness. Emergency departments in the hospitals and health centres will be provided with equipment and medicines to manage cases of acute asthmatic attacks and respiratory infections.

WHO and UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education (MoE) to estimate the prevalence rate of anaemia among students aged between 6-12 year old through local surveys to develop specific strategies to decrease the anaemia rate in this group.

**Expected output**

Reducing malnutrition-related mortality and morbidity among vulnerable groups in the drought-affected areas (north-eastern governorates and Badia).

**Indicators**

Quantitative:

- Percentage of pregnant women provided with ferrous folic acid;
- Measles immunization coverage;
- Number of health workers trained on proper growth monitoring;
- Number of centres providing timely reporting on communicable diseases;
- The prevalence rate of anaemia among children 6-12 years.

Qualitative:

- Availability of a quality nutrition surveillance system;
- Availability of quality emergency care for asthmatic patients and for those with respiratory infections.

## **6.4 Education**

**Lead: UNICEF**

**Implementing partners:** MoE, WFP, and NGOs

### **Needs analysis**

The extended drought has depleted not only families' livelihoods, but also coping mechanisms to deal with the shortage of food and income. This has had a direct effect on school enrolment with very high drop-outs rates in the past two years. According to UN needs assessments, enrolment in some schools in eastern Syria has decreased by up to 70-80%. Some children were taken out of school in April and may return in November/December if the situation improved.

In the village of Al-Neriiah for example the UN assessment mission found that a school with a capacity of 100 students had only 15 attending during the school year 2008/2009. A government report on drought impact in Hassakeh Governorate prepared in June 2009 states that 19 schools in the districts of Tel Tamer, Al Shadadi, Tal Hamis, Amuda, Kamishli, Ras Al Eim have been closed. In Hassakeh governorate a total of 7,380 children have dropped out from school. In Dayr Ez-Zawr Governorate (population 1.1 million), at least 13,250 students have dropped out of schools in the academic years of 2007/2008 and 2008/2009.

According to the heads of households interviewed by the UN assessment missions, the necessity to cover the daily needs of families had to be given priority ahead of school attendance. Many drought-affected households cannot afford to send their children due to: (a) financial hardship; (b) increased cost of transportation and distance; (c) migration of children with their families who left the villages to other areas in search of work; and, (d) employment of children to earn some additional income to the households which presently overrides all other priorities.

In new, spontaneous settlements in western Syria, inhabited by migrants from drought-affected areas, children work with their parents in agriculture fields to support their families. Many of them do not attend schools.

### **Objectives**

- Reduce high rates of drop-out.
- Build the capacity of teachers to cope with the teaching/learning process to improve quality of education.
- Enhance better parenting to participate in the management and support for educational initiatives.
- Build capacity of schools as institutions to handle additional number of drought-affected migrant children to attend schools.

### **Strategy**

Activities are planned to address drop-out, build the capacity of teachers through a one-time training on comprehensive child-friendly school (CFS) concepts and strategies for intervention including motivation of teachers. The children target group will mainly be from grades 6-9 and particularly those who are at a risk of dropping out of school in order to work. This category of children will be given school kits that consist of basic items for them to be able to attend school. The education kit supplied will target a population of 5,000 children in 50 schools located in the badly affected areas according to the needs identified among the affected population. For example a standard education kit should contain exercise books, pens pencils, rubber, ruler, school uniform, soaps for washing and bathing, science equipment<sup>^</sup>, and basic sports materials. It will also be important to have a joint sectoral awareness including health, education, child protection, and better parenting approach related to early education.

Children of families who migrated to the outskirts of large cities in search of employment will be approached from a different perspective. Schools located by identified settlements will be supported to develop individual school capacity to enrol the students coming from drought-affected areas. The approach would focus on education supplies and equipment that can be provided to these schools. This will include basic education supplies, water coolers and mainly focus on related classrooms, pupils and teachers supplies. These efforts will complement a school feeding programme and food support to families provided by WFP. Additional efforts by the government to encourage school enrolment and actual attendance will have to be developed for the medium and long term – as part of a comprehensive response to the drought and needs of the north-eastern governorates.

### **Expected output**

Reduce drop-out rates and improve teaching skills to provide quality education as well as increased school capacity to handle enrolment of those who migrated from the drought affected areas.

### **Indicators**

Quantitative:

- Number of students who received the education kits and attending schools in the drought affected areas;
- Number of teachers trained on pedagogy of CFS;
- Number of schools in areas of migration supplied with school supplies and equipment to enrol children from the drought-affected areas.

Qualitative:

- The availability of students in schools receiving education and teachers trained on the skills of teaching using CFS approach;
- Availability of school supplies and equipment in schools identified to enrol the children from drought-affected areas.

## 6.5 Agriculture and Livelihoods

**Lead:** FAO

**Partners:** UNDP, IOM, MAAR

### Needs analysis

The persistence of drought conditions during the 2008/2009 winter growing season following the drought of 2007/2008 has had a severe impact on the livelihoods and household food security of both small farmers and herders. Overall, the total wheat production was reduced by 22% over the long-term average. The situation was similar with regard to barley production; it was 20% less than 2006/2007 but 27% less than 2005/2006 production. The impact of the drought, however, has been particularly severe on rain-fed wheat and barley producers especially in the north-eastern region.

In Al Hassakeh, the production of rain-fed wheat and barley in 2008/2009 was severely affected by the drought, as no wheat was harvested from Zones 2-4 and productivity in Zone 1 was only 400 kg/ha. Similarly, no barley was harvested from Zone 3 and 4, whereas the productivity in Zone 1 and 2 was only 221 and 55 kg, respectively. The 2009 Inter-Agency Drought Assessment Mission estimates that up to 200,000 farming households have been adversely affected, with 150,000 households having very little or no crop production. Of these, 75,641 households have been severely impacted and are in a most vulnerable situation and need immediate emergency assistance.

The greatly reduced production and availability of barley and straw – vital components of animals' daily food requirements, as well as reduced crops residues and no pasture grazing opportunities in the Badia and a 75% increase in animal feed prices has had a drastic impact on Syrian livestock as well. As ewe and young stock mortality rate rose by up to 25-30% and mating rates decreased by up to 60%, herders increasingly slaughtered their livestock and sold them at 20% of pre-drought prices. The Drought Assessment Mission estimates that 39,685 herders of the 125,375 families working in sheep production are in a most vulnerable position and are in need of emergency assistance to sustain what is left of their herds reduced by drought.

Moreover, the impact of the drought extends beyond the farming and herding communities to other members of the general population, as the reduced supply of cereals in Syrian markets exerts upward pressure on the price of cereals and their derivatives. By May 2008, the Syrian Bread and Cereals Price Index had increased by 27% compared to January 2008 prices – nearly double the increase in global prices measured by the FAO Cereals Price Index. Rising food prices pose a significant threat to the household food security of many vulnerable groups such as landless rural daily wage earners and the urban poor.

These climate-induced changes, coupled with the increasing population of north-eastern Syria, will seriously affect the viability of livelihoods unless effective measures are taken to protect and diversify them through adaptation. Availability of arable land, water and income from agriculture are expected to be increasingly under pressure in the coming years. Therefore, it is necessary to support diversification of livelihoods and the local economy of the three affected governorates in order to allow small-scale farmers to obtain supplementary income from non-agriculture trades. Adaptation in this context should be seen as an adaptive and flexible process in order to address the locally specific and changing circumstances; it offers an opportunity to rethink our approach to longer-term risk and engage different discourses.

Effective responses require a diversity of measures across different scales and timeframes including direct/individual interventions (distribution of food, feed and seeds and micro-credit (schemes) as well as large development projects.

### Objectives

Build community resilience to drought, support the livelihoods and household food security of the most destitute drought-affected farmers and herders, and mitigate the associated rise in food prices through:

- ensuring access of farmers in rain-fed areas to seeds of local varieties of drought-tolerant wheat and barley and other potential crops for the 2009/2010 cropping season;
- sustaining the remaining asset base of vulnerable small-scale herders through provision of animal feed to most destitute ones;
- assist in crop diversification and water and soil appropriate management;

- supporting creation of new income sources for most vulnerable farmers and herders, which could be agriculture or non-agriculture base;
- assisting in building Government capacity to implement the prepared drought mitigation strategy and early warning system;
- assisting the migrants in re-starting their livelihoods in the areas of origin.

**Strategy**

FAO, in coordination with MAAR, other related government institutions, and other NGO partners will assist up to 18,000 destitute farmers in the most affected areas with special focus given to those in the north-eastern governorates of Al Hassakeh, Ar Raqqa and Dayr az Zawr. Each beneficiary farmer will receive 300 kg of high quality seeds of local varieties of wheat and barley plus smaller potential drought-tolerant crops, especially food legumes, thus enabling the cultivation of 54,000 ha of land (an average of three hectares per beneficiary farmer). The beneficiary farmers will be selected from those who have completely lost their harvests due to the drought in the three governorates and possess less than 10 ha. It is expected that the remaining affected farmers will be supported by the government/MAAR.

Accordingly, the provided seeds are expected to produce a total of 108,000 MTs of wheat and barley. The produced quantities are sufficient to cover the consumption needs of the beneficiary households of wheat (estimated at 170 kg and 35 kg per capita per annum for wheat and barley, respectively) and produce a surplus of 380 kg of wheat or barley per beneficiary household. The surplus could be sold on the market to generate a minimum of \$230 of supplementary income per beneficiary farmer. The sale of the surplus is also hoped to contribute to the stability of local food prices.

In addition, FAO will assist up to 20,000 herders in the Syrian Badia (agroclimatic zones 4 & 5) through the provision of 500 g/head/day of animal feed for the duration of two months, offering support for up to ten heads per beneficiary herder. The proposed ration is sufficient to maintain the herders' livestock until the rainy season starts and grazing pastures regenerate. Also, herders who have lost all their sheep and continued to stay in their villages will be provided with five sheep per herder with animal feed for six months (preference for women-headed households). This assistance will protect the fragile livelihoods of the targeted herders through protection of their vital asset base.

This comprehensive assistance will be complemented by UNDP project supporting creation of new jobs and alternative income sources to allow most vulnerable farmers and herders to diversify their livelihoods. This support is particularly important to small-scale, subsistence farmers and herders who have been worst affected by the current drought and whose livelihoods could be under repeated strain in case of a new rain failure. Livelihood diversification measures would include provision of micro-grants, in-kind support (tool kits) and vocational training, supporting setting-up of family-owned businesses in non-agriculture trades (small-scale production, trade, services), or in supporting on-farm food processing and marketing to increase farmers' and herders' income (cheese production, etc.). These measures will feed into larger poverty-eradication policies and strengthen resilience of the population of north-eastern Syria in case of new climate-related natural disasters.

**Activities**

- Build stronger and closer relationships between all relevant stakeholders, which include vulnerable communities, community structures and institutions, technical intermediaries, government institutions and other relevant stakeholders.
- Identify and evaluate options for development projects based on market demand and the comparative advantage of the area (agro-industries, textile, etc.).
- Mobilize additional partners at local, national and international levels, who could support the implementation of activities.
- Implement the project(s) that has been identified as supporting community resilience/adaptation and that address the communities' need to cope with the adverse impacts of drought.
- Monitor and evaluate to assess the changes and benefits achieved from project activities compared to the pre-project baseline and make the necessary adjustments.

**Expected Outputs**

- Distribution of 9,000 MTs of high quality local variety wheat and barley seeds to 18,000 vulnerable farming households on time for the 2009/2010 planting season.
- Distribution of 9,450 MTs of animal feed in support of 20,000 small-scale herders each will get quantity enough for up to ten animals per herder, for the duration of three months.



- Micro-grants each for the average amount of \$800/grant distributed to 5,000 most severely affected small-scale farmers and herders to implement non-agricultural activities.
- Business skills of the most vulnerable farmers and herders developed to support establishment of small enterprises, creation of new jobs in non-agriculture trades (small-scale production, trade, services); and on-farm food processing and marketing.
- Prepared National Drought Strategy implemented effectively.
- EWS coverage and efficiency enhanced.

### **Monitoring indicators**

- Amount of animal feed distributed.
- Number of beneficiary households.
- Timeframe of wheat and barley seeds distribution.
- Amount of animal feed distributed.
- Number of beneficiary households.
- Number of animals per household.
- Duration of the animal feed ration.
- Average amount of micro-grants.
- Number of beneficiary households receiving micro-grants.
- Number of persons benefiting from business skills training/development.
- National Drought Strategy implemented effectively.
- EWS coverage and efficiency enhanced.
- Number of migrants who received assistance upon return.

## 7. STRATEGIC MONITORING MATRIX

Project activities undertaken within the framework of this SDRP will be monitored at three levels:

- Project-level monitoring: achievement of project's results;
- Sector-level monitoring: achievement of targets, set out by the sector;
- Country-level monitoring: broad impact of the Response Plan on the situation of drought-affected areas.

First results of the SDRP will be assessed by the time of the Mid-Term Review, scheduled currently for December 2009. This mid-term review will enable the participating agencies to evaluate their projects and response plans against the developing needs and weather situation in north-eastern Syria. The following indicators have been tentatively selected to follow-up on the broader impact of the SDRP on the situation of the drought-affected population:

SDRP objective	Relevant indicators
1. Provide humanitarian assistance to the severely drought-affected population in North-East and Badia, in support of the measures undertaken by the Government of Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of beneficiary families and school children receiving assistance by distributing agency</li> <li>• Caloric value of an average diet of drought-affected population</li> <li>• Number of persons with improved access to water</li> <li>• Number of water interventions, by type</li> <li>• Number of health workers trained on proper growth monitoring</li> <li>• School drop-out rate in the targeted schools</li> </ul>
2. Strengthen the resilience of the drought-affected communities to future drought and climate change, provide immediate assistance in the return process of the drought-affected population and ensure their socio-economic stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of beneficiary households by intervention type (seeds, animal feeds, micro-grants)</li> <li>• Drought EWS put in place</li> <li>• Number of migrants who received assistance upon return</li> <li>• Number of schools supplies with school supplies and equipment to enrol those immigrant children from the drought-affected areas</li> </ul>

## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

	Objective	Indicator	Target	Data source
Food	Provide food assistance (55% of nutritional requirements) to the most vulnerable households for a total of 300,000 beneficiaries	Number of beneficiary families receiving assistance by distributing agency	300,000 persons – WFP 50,000 families – QRC	WFP, QRC
		Caloric value of the ration distributed	1,200kcal/day	WFP
	Prevent a further reduction in quality and quantity of food consumption levels	Caloric value of an average diet of drought-affected population (based on a diet consisting of bread and tea with sugar)	980 cal/day (calculated by WFP)	WFP
	Prevent further migration to urban centres and encourage voluntary return	Migration levels	(target to be identified)	Government of Syria
	Prevent expansion of child labour and reduce drop-out rates of students	Numbers of schools targeted	29	WFP
		Number of beneficiaries	30,000	WFP
Water and sanitation	Improving provision of potable water among the affected population with a view of reducing out-migration	Number of small scale water treatment plants and RO units installed	six and two, respectively	UNICEF, UNDP
		Number of Roman wells rehabilitated	30	UNDP
		Number of persons with improved access to water	120,000	UNICEF, UNDP
	Improving the quality of supplied water and increasing the capacity of the water institutions for water quality management	Number of MoHC staff trained in using water quality test kits	(target to be identified)	UNICEF
	Providing and increasing water amounts to schools with a view of reducing student drop-outs	Number of water storage tanks installed in schools	75	UNICEF
Health and Nutrition	Support pregnant and lactating women by providing them with ferrous folic acid tab and prevent anaemia	Percentage of pregnant women provided with ferrous folic acid	100%	UNICEF, WHO
	Conduct measles immunization campaigns, where necessary, especially in peri-urban migrant settlements and distribution of vitamin A.	Measles immunization coverage	95% of under-five children in the drought-affected areas	MoH / EPI data
	Strengthen the surveillance system for communicable diseases	Number of centres providing timely reporting on communicable diseases	100%	MoH / surveillance data
	Conduct health education and awareness campaigns and distribution of educational materials and hygiene supplies and materials.	(indicator to be identified)	(target to be identified)	
	Extend and strengthen the nutrition surveillance, including training of health workers on proper growth monitoring.	Number of health workers trained on proper growth monitoring	100%	Data from PHCCs and hospitals
	Support emergency departments in health centres and hospitals to manage cases of acute asthmatic attacks and respiratory infections.	(indicator to be identified)	(target to be identified)	UNICEF, WHO
	Conduct local survey to estimate the prevalence of anaemia among school children	% of Iron Deficiency Anaemia in children 6-12 years	10%	

## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

	Objective	Indicator	Target	Data source
Education	Reduce high rates of drop out of school children	School drop-out rate in the targeted schools	(target to be identified)	UNICEF
	Build the capacity of teachers to cope with the teaching/learning process to improve quality of education	Number of teachers trained on pedagogy of CFS	(target to be identified)	UNICEF
	Enhance better parenting to participate in the management and support for educational initiatives	(indicator to be identified)	(target to be identified)	UNICEF
	Build capacity of schools as institutions to handle additional number of drought affected migrant children to attend schools	Number of students who received the education kits and attending schools in the drought affected areas	(target to be identified)	UNICEF
		Number of schools supplies with school supplies and equipment to enrol those immigrant children from the drought-affected areas	(target to be identified)	UNICEF
Agriculture and Livelihoods	Ensuring access of farmers in rain-fed areas to seeds of local varieties of drought-tolerant wheat and barley and other potential crops for the 2009/2010 cropping season	Amount of animal feed distributed	9,000 MTs	FAO
		Number of beneficiary households	18,000	FAO
		Timeframe of wheat and barley seeds distribution	In time for 2009/2010 planting season	FAO
	Sustaining the remaining asset base of vulnerable small-scale herders through provision of animal feed to most destitute ones	Amount of animal feeds distributed	9,450 MTs	FAO
		Number of beneficiary households	20,000	FAO
		Number of animals per household	10	FAO
		Duration of the animal feed ration	Three months	FAO
	Assist in crop diversification and water and soil appropriate management	(indicator to be identified)	(target to be identified)	FAO
	Supporting creation of new income sources for most vulnerable farmers and herders, which could be agriculture or non-agriculture base	Average amount of micro-grants	\$800	UNDP
		Number of beneficiary households receiving micro-grants	5,000	UNDP
		Number of persons benefiting from business skills training/development	(target to be identified)	UNDP
	Assist in building Government capacity to implement the prepared drought mitigation strategy and EWS	National Drought Strategy implemented effectively	National Drought Strategy implemented	FAO
		EWS coverage and efficiency enhanced	(target to be identified)	FAO
	Assist the migrants in re-starting their livelihoods in the areas of origin	Number of migrants who received assistance upon return	40,000	IOM

**ANNEX I. Letters related to the drought and SDRP from the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, and from the Director-General of the General Commission for Badia Development and Management (*unofficial translations follow each letter*)**

14/07 2009 09:30 FAX 44674481

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الغذاء ومدخلات الإنتاج الزراعي والمياه للمجتمعات الأكثر تضرراً والتي من خلالها ترفد الجهود التي تبذلها الحكومة السورية .  
وبالإضافة إلى دعم البرنامج الوارد في الخطة ، فإن حكومة الجمهورية العربية السورية تعبر أيضاً عن تقديرها للمساعدة التي يمكن تقديمها من خلال القنوات الثنائية ومتعددة الجهات لتطوير وإعادة تأهيل المناطق المتضررة بالجفاف من خلال مشاريع :

- \* رفع كفاءة الإنتاج من الزراعة البعلية .
- \* المساعدة الفنية لتوسيع قاعدة مصادر الدخل لتلك المجتمعات .
- \* رفع كفاءة حصاد مياه الأمطار وتطوير تقنيات الري .
- \* تطوير المراعي وطرق إدارتها .
- \* المساعدة الفنية في تنفيذ استراتيجيات الجفاف والإنذار المبكر .
- \* دعم الخدمات التعليمية والصحية في المناطق المتضررة .

وختاماً نود أن نعبر عن شكرنا للدول والمنظمات التي قدمت وستقدم المساعدة للسكان المتضررين بالجفاف في المنطقة الشرقية من خلال القنوات الثنائية أو برامج أو مشاريع إنمائية أو إنسانية من خلال الأمم المتحدة لمواجهة تأثيرات الجفاف والشكر موصول لمنظمات الأمم المتحدة لتعاونها المثمر مع الحكومة السورية في الحد من آثار الجفاف ومعالجة أضراره .

آملين استمرار التعاون فيما بيننا .

مع فائق التحية والتقدير .

وزير الزراعة والإصلاح الزراعي  
المركب عادل سفر

14/07 2009 09:29 FAX 44674481

001

**Syrian Arab Republic**  
Ministry of Agriculture And Agrarian Reform  
Directorate of International Cooperation



الجمهورية العربية السورية  
وزارة الزراعة والإصلاح الزراعي  
مديرية التعاون الدولي

Ref :

Date :

الرقم: ٧٥ / ٨٢٢

التاريخ: ٢٠٠٩ / ٧ / ١٢

السيد إسماعيل ولاد الشيخ المحترم

الممثل المقيم لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي بدمشق

تهدي وزارة الزراعة والإصلاح الزراعي أطيب تحياتها إليكم ، وتود الإشارة إلى موجة الجفاف الحادة التي تعرضت لها سورية خلال السنوات الأربعة الماضية حيث أدى انخفاض الهطول المطري وضعف إنتاج المحاصيل وخسارة جزء كبير من الثروة الحيوانية إلى آثار كبيرة على حياة مئات الآلاف من المواطنين السوريين القاطنين في المنطقة الشرقية والشمالية الشرقية ، حيث استنزفت الكثير من الأسر في المناطق المتضررة من الجفاف خلال السنوات الأربعة الماضية كل إمكانياتها في تأمين سبل المعيشة ومصادر الدخل . وبالتالي فقد دفعت موجة الجفاف تلك بالكثير من الأسر إلى الحد من استهلاكها الغذائي مما أدى إلى زيادة مشكلات سوء التغذية واضطرت أكثر من ٣٠.٠٠٠/ أسرة إلى الهجرة إلى خارج المناطق المتضررة بحثاً عن فرص عمل ، بينما اضطرت الآلاف من تلاميذ المدارس إلى التوقف عن متابعة الدراسة ، كما أن هناك أعداد كبيرة من صغار المزارعين ومربي الماشية لن يستطيعوا مزاولة الزراعة في الموسم القادم أو الحفاظ على ما تبقى من قطعانهم ما لم يحصلوا على مساعدات عاجلة .

وفي هذا الإطار قدمت الحكومة السورية على مدى تلك الأزمة كل المساعدة الممكنة للمتضررين من الجفاف وعلى وجه الخصوص فقد سعت الحكومة إلى مساعدة المزارعين ومربي الماشية من خلال تأجيل الديون المستحقة وإلغاء فوائد الديون وكذلك تزويدهم بمدخلات الإنتاج والأعلاف الحيوانية بسعر مدعوم من قبل الدولة ، كما استفادت أكثر من ١٠.٠٠٠/ أسرة من أسر المزارعين ومربي الثروة الحيوانية الأكثر تضرراً من المساعدات الغذائية المقدمة . ومن المقرر اتخاذ المزيد من إجراءات المساعدة خلال الأشهر القادمة وذلك من خلال تقديم مساعدات غذائية وبذار وأعلاف حيوانية وكذلك المساهمة في حل مشكلة مياه الشرب في تلك المناطق المتضررة . كما تساهم حكومة الجمهورية العربية السورية في تدخلات الأمم المتحدة في المناطق المتضررة من الجفاف من خلال توفير خدمات النقل والمستلزمات الزراعية المدعومة والخدمات الأخرى.

وبالرغم من تلك المساعدة ونتيجة لحجم الاحتياجات الكبير ، فإن حكومة الجمهورية العربية السورية تعرب عن الحاجة إلى المساعدة النقدية والعينية التي يمكن تقديمها للمناطق المتضررة بالجفاف وبالتالي فإننا نرحب ونؤيد خطة الاستجابة الإنسانية للجفاف التي تقودها الأمم المتحدة في سورية والتي تهدف إلى توفير

Baramekha - Damascus  
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البرامكة - دمشق  
هاتف : ٤٤٦٧٤٤٨٠  
فاكس : ٤٤٦٧٤٤٨١

**Unofficial English translation provided by UNDP Damascus**

Syrian Arab Republic  
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
Directorate of International Cooperation

13 July 2009

His Excellency Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed,  
UNDP Resident Representative

Your Excellency,

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform extends its best greetings and would like to refer to the severe drought wave that has affected Syria for the past four years. Thus, the decline of rainfall, poor crop production and the loss of a large portion of livestock have resulted in significant impacts on the lives of hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens who reside in the eastern and north-eastern regions. Many families in the areas affected by drought during the past four years have suffered from depletion of resources in their attempt to secure their livelihoods and sources of income. Consequently, the drought wave has forced many families to reduce their food consumption which resulted in increased malnutrition problems. In fact, more than 30,000 families were forced to migrate out of the affected regions in search of job opportunities, whereas thousands of school pupils were forced to stop pursuing their education. Moreover, a large number of small farmers and livestock breeders will not be able to practice farming in the next season or to preserve the remainder of their herds unless they are provided with urgent aids.

In this context, the Syrian government has provided throughout that crisis all assistance possible to those affected by the drought. In particular, the Government has sought to assist farmers and livestock breeders by deferring due debts and abrogating debt interest as well as providing them with production inputs and animal feed at a price subsidized by the state. In addition, more than 10,000 farmers' and livestock breeders' families, who were most affected, have benefited from the food aid provided. It has also been decided to take further assistance measures during the coming months by providing food aid, seeds, and animal feed, as well as contributing to solving the potable water problem in those affected regions. Furthermore, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is contributing to the interventions of the United Nations in the area affected by drought by providing transportation services, subsidized farming inputs, and other services.

Despite that assistance and as a result of huge needs, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to express the need for technical and in-kind assistance that may be provided to the regions affected by drought. Consequently, we would welcome and support the plan for humanitarian response to drought, which is led by the UN in Syria, which aims at providing food, agricultural production inputs and water for the most affected communities because such efforts will complement those of the Syrian Government.

In addition to the support for the program, which is provided for in the Plan, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic expresses its appreciation for the assistance that could be provided through bilateral and multilateral channels to develop and rehabilitate the areas affected by drought through the following projects:

- Increasing efficiency of productivity in rain-fed crops.
- Technical assistance for diversifying sources of income of those communities.
- Increasing efficiency of water harvesting and developing irrigation techniques.
- Developing pastures and their management methods.
- Technical assistance in implementing the drought strategy and early warning.
- Supporting educational and health services in the affected areas.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for the states and organizations that have provided and will provide assistance to the residents affected by drought in the Eastern Region, through bilateral channels, or UN development or humanitarian programs or projects to address the effects of drought. We would also like to thank UN agencies for their fruitful cooperation with the Syrian Government in mitigating the impact of drought and addressing its damages.

Looking forward to continued cooperation between us.

Truly yours,

Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

Dr. Adel Safar



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إن تقدم يد العون لعملية هامة كهذه إنما تهدف إلى استعادة الاستدامة في إدارة الموارد الطبيعية للبادية ، وستكون أمراً هاماً للغاية لقضايا الأمن الغذائي للسكان المحليين على المدى الطويل .  
إن المساعدة التقنية من قبل خبير مختص في تحسين السياسات التي تبني النهج التشاركي وإدارة الموارد الطبيعية في المناطق الجافة ، من شأنه أن يساعدنا في إتمام المراجعة لفترة قد تصل إلى ستة أشهر .  
وأخيراً لا يعني إلا أن أغتنم الفرصة لأشكركم مرة أخرى وأتطلع للاجتماع معكم قريباً .

المدير العام

المهندس علي حمود



دمشق - سورية - ص.ب ١٢٩٧٩ هاتف / ٣١٢٨٣٨٦ - ٣١٢٨٤٧٤ فاكس ٣١٢٨٥٤٤ / ١١ - ٩٦٣+  
تدمر - سورية - ص.ب ٧٩ هاتف / ٥٩١٥٠٠٠ - ٥٩١٥٦٧٠ فاكس ٥٩١٥٦٧٥ / ٣١ - ٩٦٣+  
البريد الإلكتروني [badiasy@badiasy.com](mailto:badiasy@badiasy.com) الموقع الرسمي على الانترنت [www.badiasy.com](http://www.badiasy.com)



الجمهورية العربية السورية

رئاسة مجلس الوزراء

الهيئة العامة لإدارة وتنمية البادية

الرقم : ٤٤٤ / هـ.ع.ب / ك

التاريخ : ٧ / ٧ / ٢٠٠٩

السيد إسماعيل ولد شيخ أحمد المحترم

المنسق المقيم للأنشطة التنموية

في الجمهورية العربية السورية

الممثل المقيم لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي

تحية طيبة وبعد :

نظراً للتأثير السلبي الشديد الذي أحدثته موجات الجفاف الأخيرة على البادية السورية خلال الأعوام / ٢٠٠٦ - ٢٠٠٩ / فقد تم تكليف الهيئة العامة لإدارة وتنمية البادية ( GBCPM ) بوضع إطار عمل جديد للسياسات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لتحقيق التنمية في البادية .

إن الاستغلال المفرط للموارد الطبيعية في البادية يعد من الأسباب الرئيسية الكامنة وراء ازدياد هشاشة أوضاع السكان خلال حالات الجفاف المتكررة .

لذا كان من الضرورة بمكان القيام بمراجعة للسياسات النازمة لمنطقة البادية كإجراء حيوي ينبغي تنفيذه على نحو عاجل من أجل تجنب الآثار السلبية للجفاف على حياة ومعيشة سكان البادية .

كما أن التغيرات المناخية أدت إلى تعطل الأحوال الجوية من جهة والأممذج المطري المعهود من جهة أخرى والذي اعتاد عليها سكان مناطق البادية وبنوا حياتهم فيها على مر مئات السنين .

وحيث أن التغيرات في درجات الحرارة وهطول الأمطار في البادية لها أكر الأثر على نمو النباتات وبالتالي على الأمن الغذائي للسكان مباشرة ( الزراعة ) وعلى ( الثروة الحيوانية ) بصورة غير مباشرة لذلك ستكون الآثار الخطيرة لتغيرات المناخ على مر السنين القادمة ملموسة أكثر في منطقة البادية والقطاعات الأخرى ما لم يتم الأخذ بعين الاعتبار إجراء مراجعة شاملة لتدابير السياسة العامة .

وفي ضوء ما تقدم ، أود أن التمس منكم التفضل بالدعم لتقدم المساعد، التقنية والتصدي لمهمة السياسات الصعبة ، سيتم وضع تفاصيل المساعدة المطلوبة ومنظورها مع اللمسات الأخيرة الخاصة ١٤ ضمن ورقة ( فكرة مشروع ) والتي سزودكم بها في أقرب وقت ممكن .

**Unofficial English translation provided by UNDP Damascus**

Syrian Arab Republic  
Presidency of the Council of Ministers  
General Commission for Badia Development and Management

27 July 2009

His Excellency Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed,  
Resident Coordinator of Development Activities in the Syrian Arab Republic  
UNDP Resident Representative

Your Excellency,

Due to the adverse negative impact of recent waves of drought on the Syrian Badia during the period 2006-2009, the General Commission for Badia Development and Management (GCBDM), has been tasked to develop a new framework for socio-economic policies to achieve development in Badia.

The excessive exploitation of natural resources in Badia is one of the major reasons for increased vulnerability of the population during recurrent droughts.

Therefore, it has become very necessary to revise the policies governing the Badia region as a vital procedure to be urgently implemented in order to avoid the negative impacts of drought on the lives and livelihood of the Badia residents.

Moreover, climatic changes have led to irregularity in both weather, on the one hand, and the usual rainfall pattern, on the other hand, to which the residents of the Badia and Bayno regions have been used and have been leading their lives according to for hundreds of years.

Whereas changes in temperature and rainfall in Badia have the most significant impact on the growth of plants, and, consequently, a direct impact on the food security of the residents (agriculture) as well as an indirect impact on livestock, the adverse impacts of climatic changes will be felt more over the coming years in the Badia region and other sectors, unless undertaking a comprehensive revision of the public policy procedures is taken into account.

In view of the above, I would kindly ask your Excellency to extend support by providing technical assistance and to undertake the task of difficult policies. The details of the required assistance and its perspective will be finalized in a paper called (Project Idea) which we shall provide you with as soon as possible.

The aim of extending a helpful hand for such an important process is to recover sustainability of the management of Badia natural resources and it will be extremely important for the issues of food security for local residents in the long run.

The technical assistance by an expert, who is specialized in the improvement of policies that are based on a participatory approach and the management of natural resources in dry areas, would help us complete the revision within a period up to six months.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Your Excellency again and look forward to meeting you soon.

Director General,

Engineer Ali Hammoud

# ANNEX II. FULL PROJECT LIST AND FUNDING TABLES

**Table IV: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

List of Projects (grouped by sector)  
as of 10 August 2009  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Page 1 of 2

Project Code	Appealing Organisation	Project Title	Original Requirements (US\$)
<b>AGRICULTURE/LIVELIHOODS</b>			
<a href="#">SYR-09/A/25688/123</a>	FAO	Emergency Response to Support Livelihoods and Food Security of the Destitute Farmers in the North Eastern Governorates in Syria	4,989,050
<a href="#">SYR-09/A/25689/123</a>	FAO	Emergency Response to Support Food Security and Life Sustaining of the Destitute Small Herders in the North Eastern Governorates and the Badia	7,400,000
<a href="#">SYR-09/A/25691/123</a>	FAO	Capacity building for implementation of the National Drought Strategy	462,200
<a href="#">SYR-09/A/25692/123</a>	FAO	Development of a Drought Early Warning System	433,333
<a href="#">SYR-09/A/25694/298</a>	IOM	Assisted Voluntary Return to Drought Affected Areas	4,757,000
<a href="#">SYR-09/ER/25693/776</a>	UNDP	Livelihoods Support for the Most Vulnerable Communities in the North Eastern Region	2,333,333
<b>Subtotal for AGRICULTURE/LIVELIHOODS</b>			<b>20,374,916</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
<a href="#">SYR-09/E/25696/124</a>	UNICEF	Education support to Drought Affected People in NE Syria	675,000
<b>Subtotal for EDUCATION</b>			<b>675,000</b>
<b>FOOD</b>			
<a href="#">SYR-09/F/25695/561</a>	WFP	Drought Relief Emergency Food Assistance	27,275,100
<a href="#">SYR-09/F/25697/6443</a>	Qatar Red Crescent	Provision of dry food ration to the most vulnerable families	1,653,000
<b>Subtotal for FOOD</b>			<b>28,928,100</b>
<b>HEALTH/NUTRITION</b>			
<a href="#">SYR-09/H/25698/6443</a>	Qatar Red Crescent	Operation of three mobile clinics in Dayr Ezzor	120,000
<a href="#">SYR-09/H/25699/122</a>	WHO	Reducing the morbidity and mortality of U5 children due to measles and of the general population due to communicable and respiratory diseases in the drought affected areas	588,500
<a href="#">SYR-09/H/25700/124</a>	UNICEF	Monitoring the nutrition status of U5 children in drought area in North eastern governorates, and in drought migrants' settlements	520,000
<b>Subtotal for HEALTH/NUTRITION</b>			<b>1,228,500</b>
<b>WATER/SANITATION</b>			
<a href="#">SYR-09/WS/25701/124</a>	UNICEF	Providing access for improved quality and quantity of clean water for affected population at NE Region	630,000
<a href="#">SYR-09/WS/25702/776</a>	UNDP	Provision of Reverse Osmosis units to secure sustainable access to clean drinking water to 15,000 people in drought affected areas	502,900
<a href="#">SYR-09/WS/25703/776</a>	UNDP	Rehabilitation of Roman wells to secure sustainable access to clean drinking water to 45,000 people in drought affected areas	599,200
<b>Subtotal for WATER/SANITATION</b>			<b>1,732,100</b>

The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).

**Table IV: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

List of Projects (grouped by sector)  
as of 10 August 2009  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Page 2 of 2

Project Code	Appealing Organisation	Project Title	Original Requirements (US\$)
Grand Total			52,938,616

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The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).

**Table V: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

List of Projects (grouped by appealing organisation)

as of 10 August 2009

<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Page 1 of 2

Project Code	Sector Name	Project Title	Original Requirements (US\$)
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**FAO**

SYR-09/A/25688/123	AGRICULTURE	Emergency Response to Support Livelihoods and Food Security of the Destitute Farmers in the North Eastern Governorates in Syria	4,989,050
SYR-09/A/25689/123	AGRICULTURE	Emergency Response to Support Food Security and Life Sustaining of the Destitute Small Herders in the North Eastern Governorates and the Badia	7,400,000
SYR-09/A/25691/123	AGRICULTURE	Capacity building for implementation of the National Drought Strategy	462,200
SYR-09/A/25692/123	AGRICULTURE	Development of a Drought Early Warning System	433,333
<b>Sub total for FAO</b>			<b>13,284,583</b>

**IOM**

SYR-09/A/25694/298	AGRICULTURE	Assisted Voluntary Return to Drought Affected Areas	4,757,000
<b>Sub total for IOM</b>			<b>4,757,000</b>

**Qatar Red Crescent**

SYR-09/F/25697/6443	FOOD	Provision of dry food ration to the most vulnerable families	1,653,000
SYR-09/H/25698/6443	HEALTH	Operation of three mobile clinics in Dayr Ezzor	120,000
<b>Sub total for Qatar Red Crescent</b>			<b>1,773,000</b>

**UNDP**

SYR-09/ER/25693/776	ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Livelihoods Support for the Most Vulnerable Communities in the North Eastern Region	2,333,333
SYR-09/WS/25702/776	WATER AND SANITATION	Provision of Reverse Osmosis units to secure sustainable access to clean drinking water to 15,000 people in drought affected areas	502,900
SYR-09/WS/25703/776	WATER AND SANITATION	Rehabilitation of Roman wells to secure sustainable access to clean drinking water to 45,000 people in drought affected areas	599,200
<b>Sub total for UNDP</b>			<b>3,435,433</b>

The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).

## SYRIA DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

**Table V: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

List of Projects (grouped by appealing organisation)

as of 10 August 2009

<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Page 2 of 2

Project Code	Sector Name	Project Title	Original Requirements (US\$)
<b>UNICEF</b>			
SYR-09/E/25696/124	EDUCATION	Education support to Drought Affected People in NE Syria	675,000
SYR-09/H/25700/124	HEALTH	Monitoring the nutrition status of U5 children in drought area in North eastern goverorates, and in drought migrants' settlements	520,000
SYR-09/WS/25701/124	WATER AND SANITATION	Providing access for improved quality and quantity of clean water for affected population at NE Region	630,000
<b>Sub total for UNICEF</b>			<b>1,825,000</b>
<b>WFP</b>			
SYR-09/F/25695/561	FOOD	Drought Relief Emergency Food Assistance	27,275,100
<b>Sub total for WFP</b>			<b>27,275,100</b>
<b>WHO</b>			
SYR-09/H/25699/122	HEALTH	Reducing the morbidity and mortality of U5 children due to measles and of the general population due to communicable and respiratory diseases in the drought affected areas	588,500
<b>Sub total for WHO</b>			<b>588,500</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>52,938,616</b>

The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).

**Table VI: Syria Drought Humanitarian Response Plan 2009**

Summary of Requirements (grouped by IASC standard sector)  
as of 10 August 2009  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organisation.

Sector Name	Original Requirements (US\$)
AGRICULTURE	18,041,583
ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE	2,333,333
EDUCATION	675,000
FOOD	28,928,100
HEALTH	1,228,500
WATER AND SANITATION	1,732,100
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,938,616</b>

The list of projects and the figures for their funding requirements in this document are a snapshot as of 10 August 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)).



**ANNEX III. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CFS	child-friendly school
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EMOP	Emergency Operation
EWS	early warning system
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMC	International Medical Corps
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
MAAR	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoHC	Ministry of Housing and Construction
MTs	metric tons
PHC	primary health care centre
QRCS	Qatar Red Crescent Society
RC	<i>Ricerca e Cooperazione</i>
SARC	Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society
SDRP	Syria Drought Response Plan
SI	<i>Secours Islamique</i>
SPC	State Planning Commission (Government of Syria)
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

