



# URGENT APPEAL

## FAO's role in the 2014 Gaza Crisis Appeal (September update)



**USD 27.2 million**

needed under FAO's component of the Gaza Crisis Appeal



**14 362 families**

(93 944 people)



**Time-critical support**

Farming inputs for upcoming planting seasons; saving remaining livestock; restoring fishing capacity; quick-impact domestic food production.



Everyone in the Gaza Strip – nearly 1.8 million people – was affected by the recent escalation in conflict and needs humanitarian aid. This is the third such conflict in six years and by far the most destructive. Between 7 July and 26 August, more than 2 100 Palestinians died (70 percent of them civilians) and 500 000 were displaced, including over 100 000 who lost their homes. Virtually all of Gaza is without adequate services such as clean water, health care and electricity. The Gaza Crisis Appeal, updated on 5 September, seeks over USD 551 million to respond to the immediate needs of all men, women and children in Gaza. Restoring agricultural livelihoods is among the top priorities.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- ❖ **Food insecurity and poverty were already endemic.** Food insecurity in Gaza is essentially poverty-driven, resulting from lack of economic access to food rather than lack of food in the markets. Before the crisis, a staggering 72 percent of families were food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, 66 percent received food assistance, 70 percent lived on less than USD 2 per day, and 45 percent faced unemployment.
- ❖ **Agriculture suffered unprecedented damage and losses.** The agriculture sector absorbed over USD 500 million in damages according to preliminary estimates by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture – around twice the total for Operation Cast Lead. The hostilities resulted in substantial direct damage to Gaza's 3 200 hectares of cropland and much of its agricultural infrastructure, including greenhouses, irrigation systems, animal farms, fodder stocks and fishing boats. A sizable proportion of livestock perished, including roughly 40 percent of poultry and 36 percent of total productive livestock. The entire agricultural value chain was affected – from farm and sea to market.
- ❖ **Livelihoods are at a tipping point.** Around 24 000 families of farmers, herders and fishers suffered debilitating losses. The conflict forced farmers to abandon their crops and animals, prohibited access to the sea and paralysed related economic activities. Open fields, greenhouses, gardens and orchards were severely damaged and contain explosive remnants of war. Families that lost animals or fishing assets also lost daily sources of income and nutrition: eggs, meat, dairy and fish. Many cannot access or afford the basic inputs needed to resume production, such as fodder, seeds, fertilizer and water. Without urgent support, livelihoods will further erode as more animals die, fields lay barren and fishers lack the tools of their trade.
- ❖ **Concerted effort is needed to reverse de-development.** Even before the current crisis, livelihoods were highly vulnerable and constrained due to the ongoing blockade and access restrictions imposed by Israel. Farmers cannot access a third of Gaza's remaining arable land and fishers are limited to 6 nautical miles from shore. The protection and promotion of resilient livelihoods must begin immediately to reverse the de-development of Gaza and contribute to sustainable peace. The first 100 days of emergency response will lay the foundation for long-term reconstruction efforts. A twin track approach to emergency and development should be adopted to accelerate the transition from post-war assistance to the restoration of sustainable livelihoods.



# FAO URGENT FUNDING NEEDS: **USD 27.2 MILLION**

## FAO'S ROLE IN THE GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

FAO seeks USD 27.2 million to help over 14 360 families of farmers, fishers and herders minimize the deterioration of their productive assets and restore their livelihoods.

FAO's support will focus on vulnerable families that had low resilience to external shocks prior to the conflict and rebuilding livelihoods to better withstand political, natural, environmental and economic threats in the future.

These efforts are part of the response of the Food Security Sector, co-led by FAO and WFP, which seeks a total of USD 268.2 million.



## FAO PRIORITIES

### 1. Emergency support to low-resilience farmers (4 782 families)

Support to farmers will focus on rapidly restoring agriculture-based livelihoods. Gaza's farmers require urgent assistance to restore their productive capacity in time for upcoming agricultural seasons, including the planting of strawberries, sweet peppers and cherry tomatoes in mid-August/September. Identified needs include essential farming inputs (seeds, seedlings and fertilizers needed to resume cultivation) and materials to repair key on-farm infrastructure, including greenhouses and irrigation networks. The two main planting seasons per year offer time-sensitive opportunities to rebuild: a rapid return to farming will bring rapid returns in reactivating local economies, and mitigating longer-term dependence on aid.

### 2. Emergency support to low-resilience herders (7 173 families)

The project aims to address the direct losses sustained by herders and prevent livelihoods from deteriorating further in the post-conflict period. FAO will help families that lost livestock reconstitute their herds through animal restocking, while providing feed, water storage units and veterinary supplies to keep surviving animals healthy and productive. In addition, the project will help herding communities repair damaged assets such as animal shelters, which are especially crucial as winter approaches. Such interventions will mitigate declining herd sizes, including from distress sales when families can no longer feed or care for their animals. The cost of saving one sheep with 45 days of feed costs only one-third of its replacement value (USD 450).

### 3. Emergency support to low-resilience fishers, and urban and peri-urban livelihoods (2 407 families)

These interventions focus on increasing families' intake of locally produced fresh food (animal and vegetable) and boosting disposable incomes through small-scale domestic food production and the rapid restoration of fishing activities. FAO will help fishers repair their boats and gear to facilitate a quick and safe return to sea. In consultation with beneficiary communities, FAO will provide urban and peri-urban families with a range of livelihood inputs to set up home gardens and raise livestock, especially tailored for high participation among women. Home gardening kits will contain seeds to produce a variety of vegetables, fertilizers and pest control inputs. Livestock packages will include small animals (e.g. pregnant sheep, rabbits or chickens) and enough feed for one full production cycle. FAO will combine the provision of inputs with training on improved agricultural practices, marketing and nutrition to help families maximize production and improve their nutritional status.

#### CONTACT

Ciro Fiorillo | Head of Office/Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator | Jerusalem | Tel. + 880 2 8118015 | [Ciro.Fiorillo@fao.org](mailto:Ciro.Fiorillo@fao.org)

Dominique Burgeon | Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division | Rome, Italy | Tel. +39 06 570 53803 | [Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org](mailto:Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org)