



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



to assist
42 million people



FAO requires
USD 900 million

Providing timely agricultural support to vulnerable families not only allows them to produce their own nutritious food but also often to earn an income essential to cover other critical food and non-food expenditures. This contributes to improving their livelihoods and enhances their resilience to better withstand shocks.

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FAO in the 2020 humanitarian appeals

For the past three years the number of people facing acute food insecurity has been persistently above 100 million. Conflict and insecurity are the main drivers of hunger, exacerbated by climate shocks and economic instability. Many countries are facing a combination of two or all of these drivers at the same time, resulting in major food crises.

Conflict and climate shocks have had devastating impacts on food security and agriculture. For example in 2019, in southern Africa, drought, consecutive cyclones (including Cyclone Idai which hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi in March 2019) and flooding have disrupted and destroyed harvests. Furthermore, 2019 ended with the worst desert locust upsurge in more than 70 years across the Greater Horn of Africa, which is threatening the livelihoods and food security of millions of people, and damaging tens of thousands hectares of cropland and pasture. For this, FAO has launched a separate appeal.

Economic instability has also led to rising food and fuel prices, along with the cost of other essential items, severely undermining the food security situation in numerous countries and eroding vulnerable households' capacity to cope with shocks. In times of crisis, protecting livelihoods saves lives and contributes to strengthening resilience to future shocks. Rapid and efficient response in the agriculture sector also promotes recovery and reduces the gap between dependency on food assistance and self-reliance. For instance, supporting food production rapidly increases and sustains food availability, while generating an income to protect the agriculture-based livelihoods on which the majority of crisis-hit people rely.

In 2020, FAO will continue to scale up its response to restore and protect agricultural livelihoods to meet the most urgent needs of vulnerable populations, while also strengthening their resilience and building longer-term self-reliance. These interventions are imperative to fight hunger and malnutrition.

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