Why the Initiative?

- Lack of progress on the MDG on hunger
  - Increase in the proportion of undernourished since 1990–92
  - Double burden of malnutrition

- Severe structural constraints to food security and nutrition
  - Supply–side: limited and fragile natural resource base; low productivity
  - Demand–side: high population growth, growing urbanisation, starch–rich consumption

- High vulnerability of countries to a broad set of hazards and risk drivers of man made and natural disasters: drought, transboundary plant & animal pests and diseases, conflicts and civil insecurity
Overall Objective of the Initiative

Within the existing regional policy framework, assist countries address short and long-term vulnerabilities and acute shocks and stresses to agriculture and food systems through building resilient FSN institutions, communities and households.
FOCUS COUNTRIES

- Countries in protracted crises and LDCs (Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania)
- Syria–crisis affected countries (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq)
- Countries in transition (Egypt)
- Countries with high exposure to vulnerabilities of external food supplies.

- 7 countries have been selected in 2014: Yemen, Sudan, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq
Main pillars/intervention areas

- Developing FSN policy & strategy framework
- Strengthening FSN information & knowledge exchange systems
- Promoting efficient and effective food value chains: with focus on food losses and waste
- Promoting nutrition and food safety
- Building resilience of households and communities – protect, restore and strengthen livelihoods and the agro–eco systems

BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
Principles and prerequisites

- Partnerships: the Arab Emergency Food Security Programme and RCM
- Setting the appropriate policy and institutional framework
- Developing appropriate food security information and knowledge sharing systems
- Innovation: identifying and scaling up of good resilience practices
PROGRESS ACHIEVED SO FAR

Support to Country Planning and Programming

- Resilience based action plans for agriculture, food security and nutrition have been developed for 8 countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, and Syria);

- Sub-regional PoA anchored in resilience approach combining emergency and development interventions has been formulated for the Syria crisis-affected countries;

- Support to regional programmes of UN and other partners.
In 2014, countries were assisted in mobilising a total of USD 54 million in support of their resilience plans of action.

**Food security information (FSIS) and policy development**

- A sub-regional programme on FSIS has been launched aiming at timely gathering and analysis of food security and nutrition information for the Syria crisis affected countries.

- Three country pilot projects are under implementation in Sudan, Yemen and Iraq (Kurdistan region of Iraq).

- Promoting exchange of knowledge and information at the regional and country level:
  - cooperation with partners in the region: Regional Cooperation Mechanism
  - Regional multi-stakeholder forum on food security and nutrition
BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Food value chains
- Development of regional strategic framework for reducing food losses and waste
- Comprehensive assessment of food losses and waste in the region;
- Supporting the establishment of a regional network on food losses and waste
- Support to control of transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases: avian flue, locust, FMD, rift valley fever

Resilience of communities and households:
- Food security and livelihood assessment: Syria crisis-affected countries
- Country assistance focusing on livelihoods support, restoring small-scale farmers was provided
- Examples
  - More than 40,000 families in Syria; 28,000 small holders in Iraq (agric inputs, animal feed, and vet services)
  - 800,000 livestock heads vaccinated in Lebanon
What is Next?

- Identifying good practices
- Strengthening partnerships
THANK YOU
What do we mean by resilience?

FAO defines resilience as:

“The ability to prevent disasters and crises as well as to anticipate, absorb, recover and adapt from them in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner.

This includes protecting, restoring and improving food and agricultural systems under threats that impact agriculture, food and nutrition security, and food safety.”