

المنتدى العربي للبيئة والتنمية  
ARAB FORUM FOR  
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



البيئة 2014  
ARAB ENVIRONMENT 2014

# ARAB ENVIRONMENT•7

## FOOD SECURITY

### CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Conflicts, Protracted crisis and Food Security

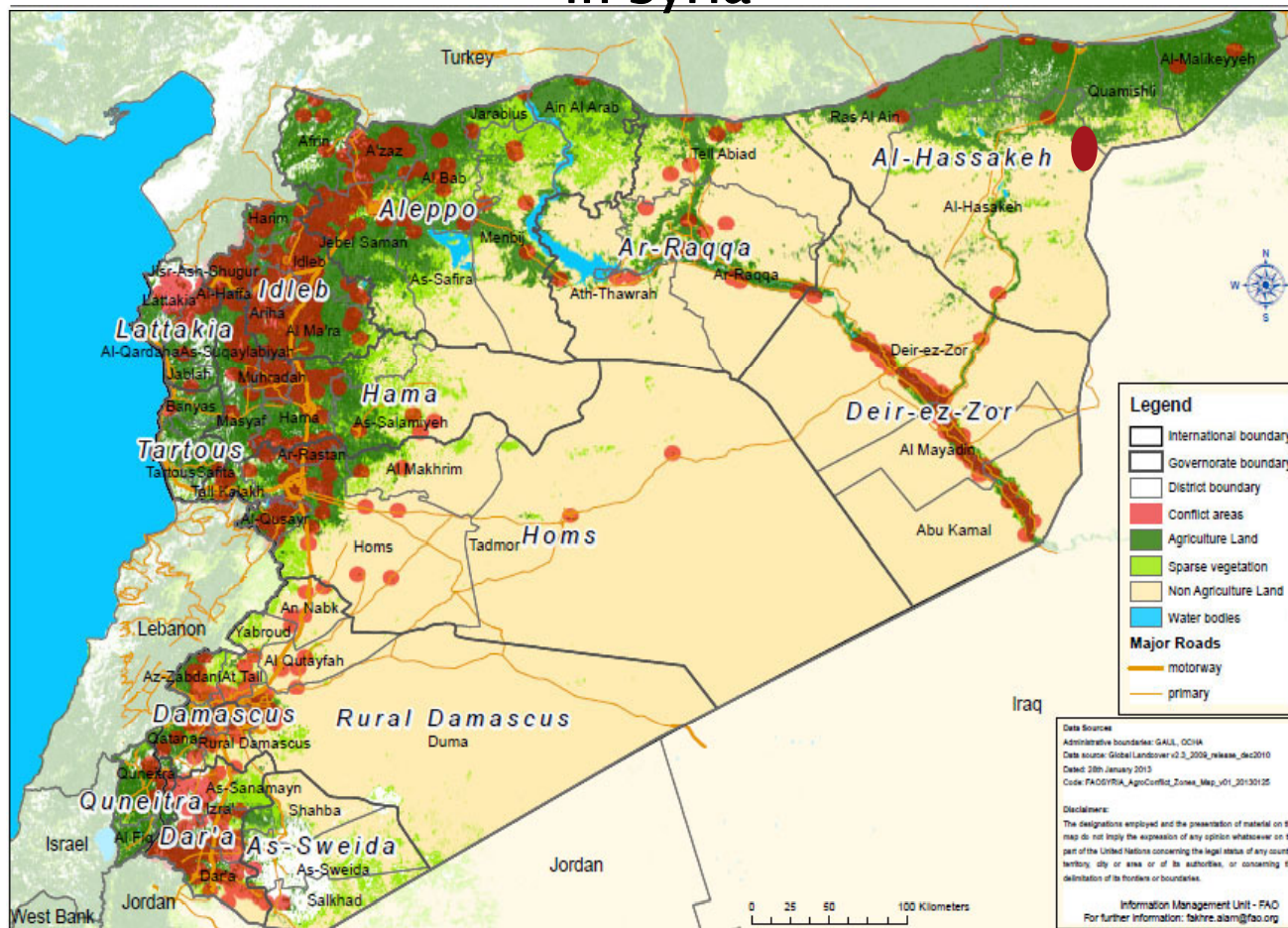
Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director-General and  
Regional Representative, FAO

# Regional picture

## The outbreak of conflicts and food insecurity are interconnected

- The region exhibits the highest number and intensity of conflicts in the world. Over the last few years, 12 countries in the region have witnessed at least one form of instability, including civil unrest, terrorism, civil war or protracted conflict
- Beyond the long standing structural constraints of food security, conflict and civil instability remained the driving factor of food insecurity in the region in 2012-14
- Food insecurity, in turn, has acted as a “multiplier” contributing further to aggravation of conflicts and instability
- Currently NENA Region hosts about 33 million undernourished people which is double from 1990-1992 ; proportion of undernourishment increased to 7.7% from 6.6% in the same period ( SOFI 2014)

# Agricultural production areas and conflict zones in Syria



- Conflict is the main driver of Syria's precarious food security situation

# Syria crisis –impact within country

- 12.2 million people in need inside Syria, of whom 7.6 million IDPs
- **9.8 million food insecure people** with 6.8 million in urgent need of food and agriculture assistance
- 3.2 million refugees in neighboring countries ( OCHA, HNO, 2014)
- More than 200 000 killed
- Syrian economy contracted by 16.7 percent in 2013 compared to 2012, and 28.2 percent compared to 2011
- Between 2010–2013 total GDP loss is estimated at USD 70.88 billion
- The structure of GDP changed dramatically during the conflict, with agriculture and government services together accounting for 50 per cent of total GDP in 2013 (agriculture share 23%) , with each becoming a growing share of a shrinking productive base. ( Syrian Centre for Policy Research/UNDP/UNRWA, 2014)

# Syria crisis – impact within country

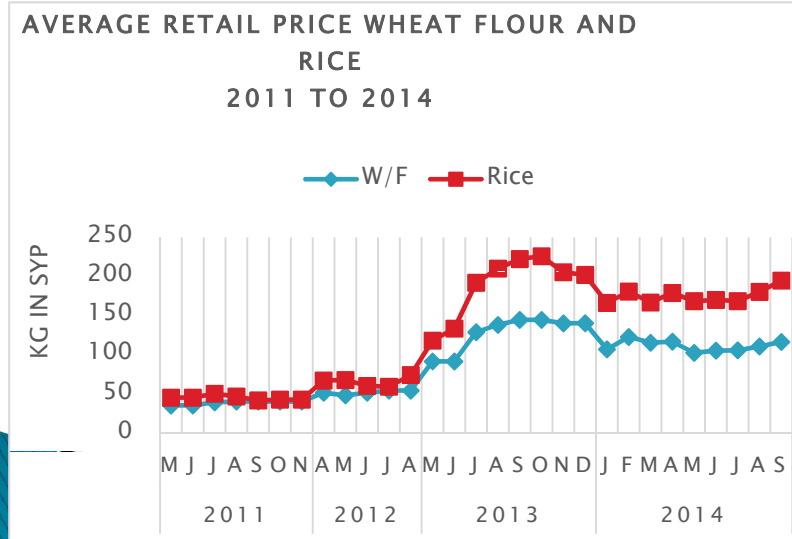
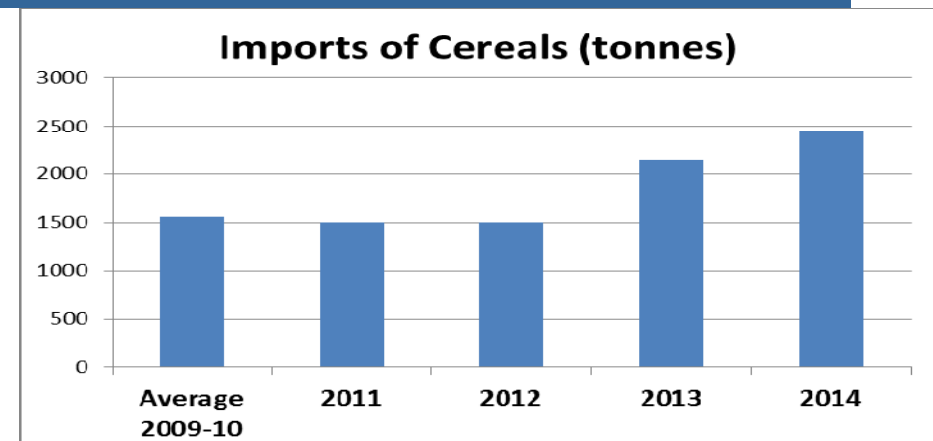


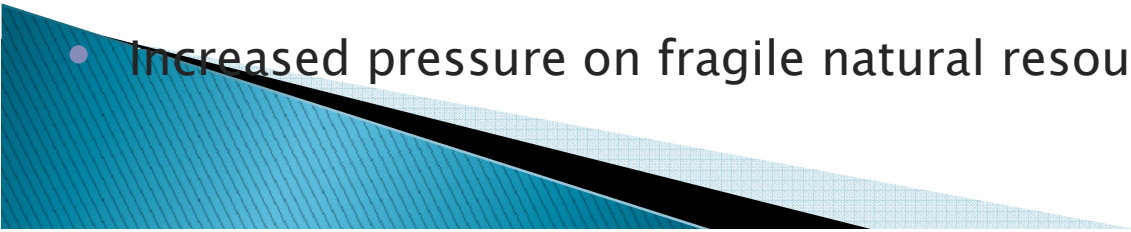
Table 1. Growth collapse between 2010 and 2013  
Source: ESCWA, September 2014

Item	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013
GDP in 2010 constant prices	billion USD	60.2	55.9	40.2	33.4
Change in GDP (%)	%	3.2	-6.8	-28.2	-16.7
Inflation rate	%	4.4	4.8	37.4	89.6
Net exports	billion USD	-6.2	-9.4	-5.4	-0.6
Unemployment	%	8.6	22.3	40.4	54.2

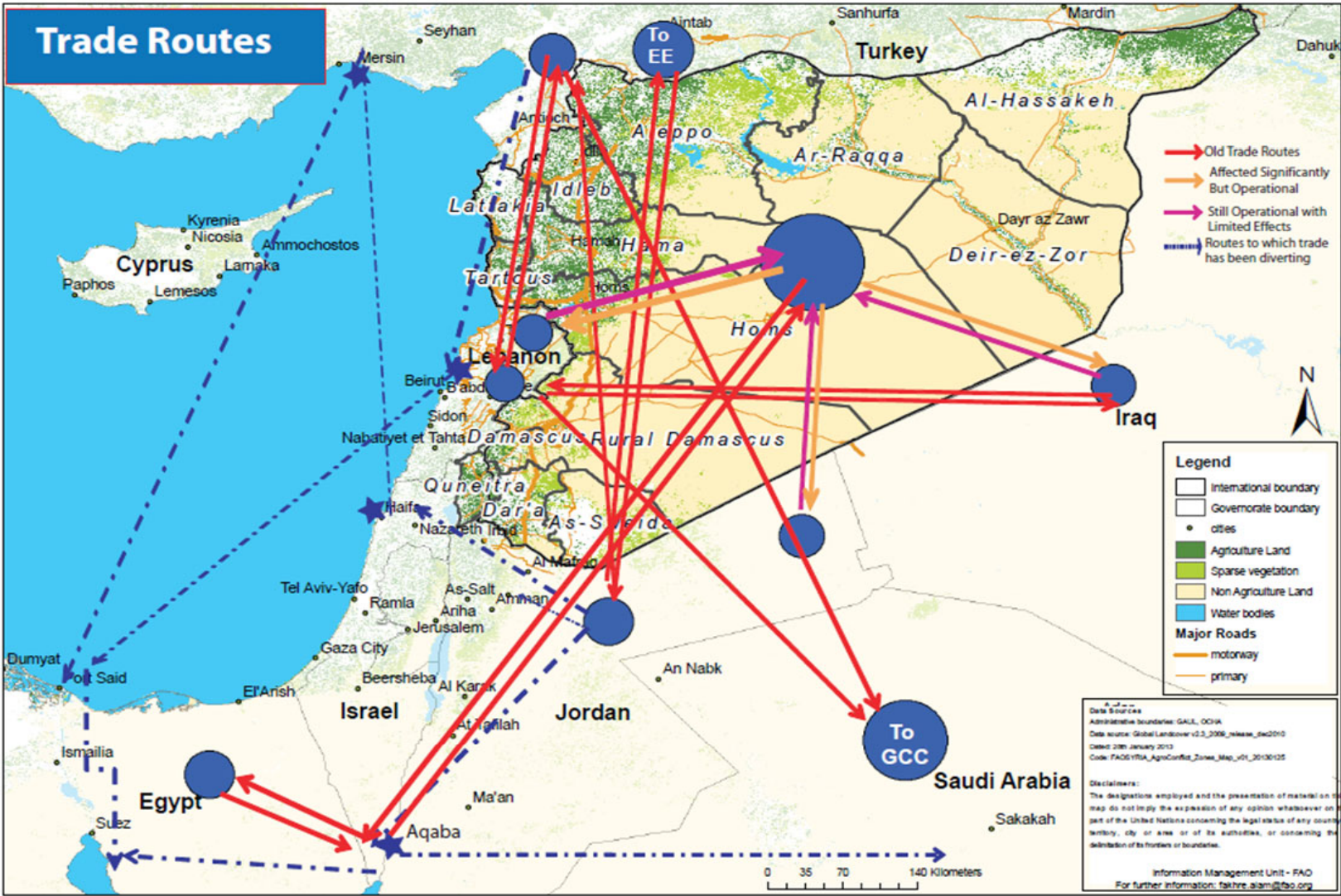
# Syria crisis –regional impact



## Macro-economic situation in neighboring countries

- Decline in agriculture and food trade (trade routes disruptions, increase of freight and transportation costs, increase of input costs...)
  - Small producers and workers along the supply chain negatively affected
  - Border communities affected the most ( lost jobs, decline in farming business)
  - Increased informal trade (and smuggling) with Syria for basic food products and agriculture inputs
  - Broken chain for safeguarding food quality and safety across borders
  - Increased risk of trans-boundary animal and plant pests and diseases
  - Increased pressure on fragile natural resource base
- 

# Syria crisis – regional impact



# Towards protracted crisis?

## Prevention *versus* cure

### Syria crisis appeal trends

	2012	2013	2014
Requirements – Humanitarian appeals (Syria+neighboring countries)	USD 1.4 billion	USD 4.4 billion	USD 6.5 billion
Funding received against appeals	USD 0.6 billion	USD 3.1 billion	USD 2.9 billion

- Negative impact of low funding on institutions in protracted crisis situations –building and sustaining institutions as key prevention and recovery action



# Towards protracted crisis?

## *Violence often recurs*

*Few countries are truly "post-conflict." The rate of violence onset in countries with a previous conflict has been increasing since the 1960s, and every civil war that began since 2003 was in a country that had a previous civil war.*

Decade	Violence onsets in countries with no previous conflict (%)	Violence onsets in countries with a previous conflict (%)	Number of onsets
1960s	57	43	35
1970s	43	57	44
1980s	38	62	39
1990s	33	67	81
2000s	10	90	39

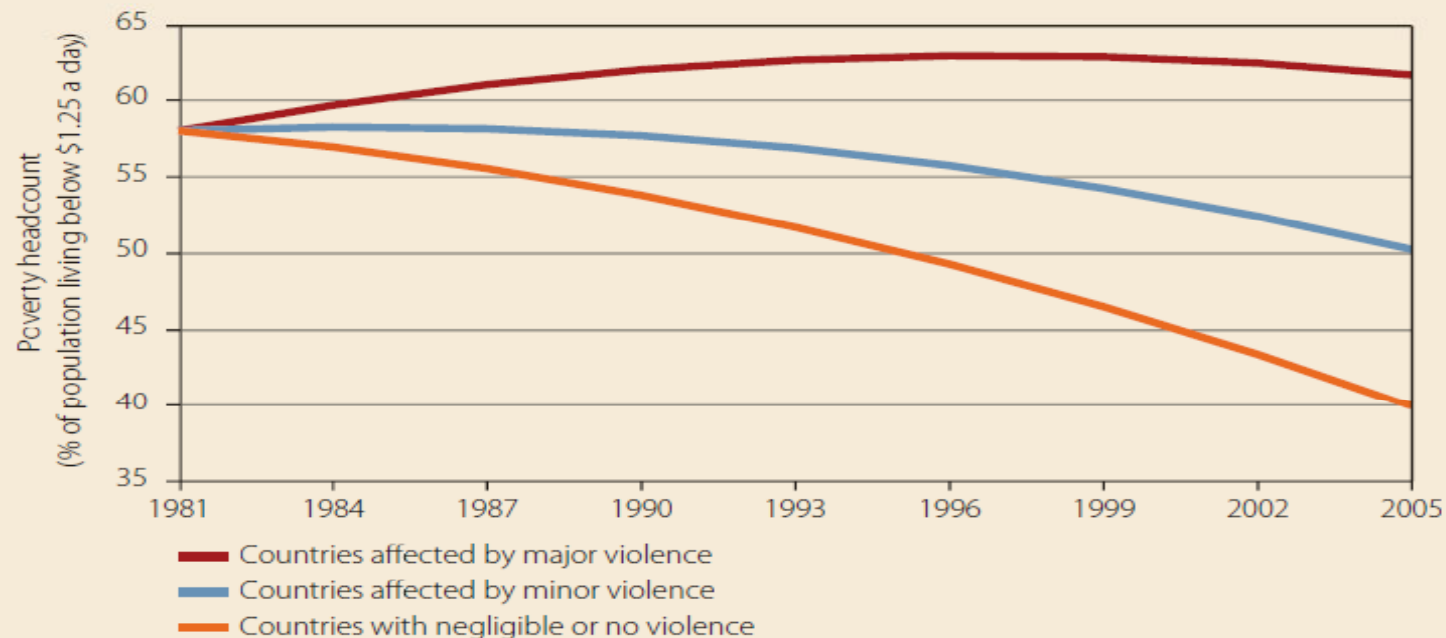
*Sources:* Walter 2010; WDR team calculations.

*Note:* Previous conflict includes any major conflict since 1945.

# Towards protracted crisis?

*The gap in poverty is widening between countries affected by violence and others*

*New poverty data reveal that poverty is declining for much of the world, but countries affected by violence are lagging behind. For every three years a country is affected by major violence (battle deaths or excess deaths from homicides equivalent to a major war), poverty reduction lags behind by 2.7 percentage points.*



Sources: WDR team calculations based on Chen, Ravallion, and Sangraula 2008 poverty data (available on POVCALNET (<http://iresearch.worldbank.org>)).

# Addressing the vicious cycle of conflict and food insecurity



- Building inclusive and effective institutions
  - Trust and confidence
  - Inclusiveness
  - Legitimacy
  - Accountability

# Addressing the vicious cycle of conflict and food insecurity



## A Regional Action is imperative

- Regional Action in conflict resolution is imperative;
- Regional cooperation in food security promises considerable political and economic returns for the region at large.
- Building resilience to conflicts of institutions, communities and households to cope and recover from conflicts and transform over time

## Addressing the vicious cycle of conflict and food insecurity – cont.



- Promoting agriculture in support of recovery
  - Agriculture has a critical role for recovery from conflicts, because its economic and social role and its resilience;
  - Regional investments focusing on rural poverty and development are particularly important
  - Greater resilience of agriculture sector compared to other sectors; one of the fastest growing sectors next to transportation and trade in the recovery phase
  - Farmers are the last to leave..
  - Importance of agriculture in safeguarding natural resources
  - Strengthening capacity for monitoring and analysis of food security and nutrition situation

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**THANK YOU**

