

Project Document

Syria

Project Title: The project for enhancing food security and livelihoods in North-eastern Area

Project Number: TBA

Implementing Partners: UNDP

Responsible Parties: FAO, WFP and UNMAS

Start Date: April 2021

End Date: March 2023

PAC Meeting date: 29 March 2021

Brief Description

In accordance with the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan and based on the assessment and context analysis, this project will target north-eastern Syria including Arreesha, Al-Hassakeh, Qamishli and Amuda for the wheat-to-bread value chain with the aim to address the humanitarian needs of the population including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees and vulnerable host communities with specific considerations given to persons with specific needs such as female-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, while providing a clear direction for early recovery. The project will be implemented in close coordination between the four agencies, namely UNDP, WFP, FAO and UNMAS. The purpose of the joint programme is to reach areas where UNDP, WFP, FAO and UNMAS have identified a high number of IDPs and refugee returnees and an increase is expected. UNDP, together with WFP, FAO and UNMAS, will adopt an area-based approach which enables a flexible response to continuously changing needs and prioritisation of critical needs. Through this project, UNDP, WFP and FAO will restore the wheat-to-bread value chain at all levels (bakeries, mills and irrigation systems). UNMAS and UNDP will also provide mine risk education for UN agencies' IP and at community level. The project will benefit 317,287 people directly and 51,025 people indirectly.

Contributing Outcome (UNSF/CPD):

2019 Humanitarian Response Plan Objective 3

Increase the resilience of affected communities by improving access to livelihoods opportunities and basic services, especially amongst the most vulnerable households and communities.

Country Programme Document Outcomes

Outcome 1: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and social inclusion

Outcome 2: Basic and social services and infrastructure restored, improved and sustained to enhance community resilience

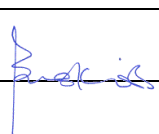

Indicative Output(s):

Output 1.1: Disrupted livelihoods including markets/businesses restored and revived

Output 2.1: Basic social services and other infrastructure repaired and/or restored in affected areas

Total resources required: USD 8,750,115.13	Donor: Japan	USD 8,750,115.13
Unfunded: 0		0

Agreed by (signatures):

UNDP Syria	
Ramla Khalidi, Resident Representative	
Date: 11-May-2021	

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Syria was one of the ten countries hardest hit by acute food insecurity in 2019.¹ A total of 11.7 million people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million people internally displaced. Of those, 9 million require emergency food assistance to meet their basic food needs. Analysis by the World Food Programme (WFP)'s Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit intended to capture the scale of food insecurity prior to the yearly nationwide food security assessment showed that an estimated 9.3 million people are now food insecure across Syria with an additional 2.2 million at risk of food insecurity. This means an estimated 46 percent of the population now require food assistance, the highest level ever recorded in Syria. The main drivers to food insecurity are prolonged displacements, economic downturn, loss and lack of livelihoods and reduced production capacity which in turn resulted in limited financial access to food. High prices and inflation have also contributed to reduced purchasing power and continuous depletion of livelihoods assets of the most vulnerable populations. With an 83 to 89 percent people living below poverty lines and with cumulative GDP loss of \$226 billion between 2011-2016 out of which \$16 billion in losses and damages attributable to agriculture sector alone, the relationship between poverty and food security is inseparable.²

Syria's threat to food security is further compounded by the recent deteriorating exchange rate of the Syrian pound to valuable foreign currencies. In early June 2020, the Syrian pound (SYP) reached its lowest informal exchange rate against the US Dollar (SYP 3,200 to US\$1). Wholesalers have stopped providing imported commodities until the informal exchange rate stabilises. According to WFP, the price of an average food basket in early June 2020 stood at SYP 76,327 approximately 35 percent higher than the previous month and over 200 percent higher than the same period in 2019.

The Syrian economy is deteriorating, with a depreciating currency and rapidly increasing food prices. These trends are compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including panic buying in markets and government measures such as movement restrictions. In addition, expanded U.S sanctions came at a time of crises and a number of factors that already weakened the Syrian economy. Many Syrians are now totally dependent on humanitarian assistance with 1 in 3 people unable to afford basic food items.³ These developments have exacerbated the existing structural and humanitarian needs and have placed further stress on Syrians that have exhausted their ability to cope after more than nine years of crisis. COVID-19 related containment measures and lockdowns also have spurred the further loss of job opportunities, particularly for those who depend on daily wage labour or seasonal work, resulting in more Syrians being pushed into food insecurity in the coming months as they have been extremely vulnerable due to the loss or lack of sustained livelihoods opportunities. As conflicts continue, families are being pushed further into poverty and eating smaller and fewer and less nutritious food to survive. With the crisis now entering into its tenth year, humanitarian needs are expected to remain high. This is due to ongoing insecurity, multiple displacements, spontaneous returns, lost livelihoods and productive assets, high prices and limited economic opportunities.

Wheat is a critical staple in Syria. Controlling the wheat-to-bread value chain is critical to the political, social and economic stability of the country. The wheat-to-bread value chain in Syria is highly disrupted and food security in Syria is severe. The 2019 Food Security Assessment (FSA/FSLA), conducted by WFP in coordination with the Syrian Government and the Food Security Sector, had already estimated that around 7.9 million or 38.8% of the Syrian population was food insecure in September 2019. Seven months later, a desk top review of the FSA/FSLA 2019 data using price increases to project the impact on food security, found that an additional 1.4 million have likely been made food insecure as a result of Syrian's worsening purchasing power, bringing the total estimated food insecure in Syria to 9.3

¹ 2020 Global Report on food crises: https://www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/GRFC_2020_ONLINE_200420.pdf

² 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

³ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/advocacy-report-v013-final.pdf>

million (45.7% of the Syrian population). The 'at risk' of becoming food insecure people has also increased from 1.9 million (9.6%) in the FSA-FSLA 2019 to an estimated 2.2 million people (11.3%) in the mid-year review study.⁴

The ongoing conflict has severely damaged infrastructure and facilities of the wheat-to-bread value chain in northeast Syria (NES). Current wheat requirements in the country are estimated at 3.6 million tonnes, out of which 2.4 million tonnes for bread only. Wheat national production for the 2019 season was estimated at 2.2 million tonnes,⁵ largely insufficient to meet the requirement. Chronic environmental stress compounded with the physical infrastructure damages will continue to be a threat to domestic wheat production.⁶ Physical damage, along with lack of inputs, machinery, electricity supply, machinery and expert staff, are the main barriers to bread production,⁷ and a joined up and well-coordinated intervention is required to boost production in the NES region across the entire wheat to bread value chain.

Agriculture sector is a major contributor to GDP with more than 25-30 percent of Syrian's GDP reliant on this sector, and it is also producing food for more than half of the population in Syria. Wheat is vital not only for the country's food security and nutrient intake but also for the enhancement of access to employment opportunities and livelihoods. The commodity plays a key role in stabilizing communities in NES. Therefore, saving, restoring and protecting agricultural and related livelihoods for the wheat-to-bread value chain are critical to increase the self-reliance and strengthen resilience of Syrians.

Wheat production has dropped on average of about 40% compared to pre-crisis levels. Several factors have contributed to this reduction. In addition to the security situation, lack of inputs (particularly seed and fertilizers), the destruction in infrastructure particularly irrigation and the drought are the main factors. To restore this vital value chain, to which big numbers of rural households depend on, it is important to tackle the above-mentioned factors. This will lead to restore agriculture production and contribute to the improvement of food and nutrition security situation in the country.

In addition to strengthening the wheat-to-bread value chain, it is critical to reduce threat and to protect people from the physical and psychological harm caused by explosive ordnance. Mine action is a vital component of humanitarian responses as explosive ordnance have been widely reported in Syria. Landmines, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which are particularly unpredictable and difficult to detect, continue to put the lives of millions of people at risk.

Shifting frontlines have added a further layer of explosive ordnance contamination in communities across Syria. According to the draft 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 11.5 million people now live in the 2,562 communities reporting explosive ordnance contamination.⁸ There is grave concern that returnees are exposed to high risks. Hence, it is crucial to ensure community safety through mine risk education.

Based on open source information, since 2015 (up until April 2020), Al-Hassakeh governorate, where identified project locations exist, witnessed an average of 400 explosive incidents per month. According to the collected data, in four sub-districts identified as target locations in this project,

⁴March 2020 Rapid Assessment on the "Review on the Impact of Rising Food Prices" in Syria
https://vam.wfp.org/CountryPage_assessments.aspx?iso3=SYR

⁵ FAO/WFP, Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to the Syrian Arab Republic, 2019

⁶ Syria Wheat Value Chain and Food Security: https://gvcc.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/Syria-Wheat-Value-Chain-Food-Security_03.12.2016_FINAL.pdf

⁷ Wheat to Bread Assessment Report, North East Syria, Whole of Syria Food Security Sector

⁸ <https://www.unmas.org/en/programmes/syria>

namely Al-Hassakeh, Amuda, Qamishli and Arreesha, 1 out of 10 people are estimated to be exposed to explosive ordnance.

When applying the normal average 15% failure rate for modern weapons (commonly used by experts to determine residual contamination resulting from air and ground launched weapons), it is clear that a considerable amount of residual contamination in the form of ERWs exists on agricultural lands, residential areas, public areas and roads where armed conflict has taken place in Syria. In fact, 45% of communities surveyed in Al-Hassakeh governorate report likelihood of contamination in agricultural lands⁹.

All population groups are vulnerable to the threat of explosive ordnance, but certain groups are at higher risk due to age, gender, social roles and responsibilities in addition to their activity patterns – children who will pick up dangerous items, agricultural workers who dig up the land, population groups on the move, such as IDPs, who may enter areas without knowledge of local threats. In NES, where it used to be called as a breadbasket of Syria before the crisis, farmers and agricultural workers who will be targeted beneficiaries under this project are one of the most vulnerable categories. According to the data collected by UNMAS, 50% of the victims of explosive incidents recorded in Al-Hassakeh since 2013 are adult men and 24% of the recorded incident occurred while the victim was engaging in farming and/or herding activities.

Thus, mine action perspective is essential to ensure the project will be implemented safely and raise awareness for explosive hazard for people engaging in farming and agricultural business through mainstreaming Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in each agency, and providing other EORE related support. It should also be mentioned that mine action interventions are relatively low in the governorate of Al Hassakeh compared to other governorates, despite aforementioned needs. In the first half of 2020, out of all interventions carried out by mine action partners, only 10% were delivered in Al-Hasakeh due to limited capacity and resources¹⁰, thus demonstrating the importance of the proposed mine action activities under this project.

II. STRATEGY

Under the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), the UN agencies and partners have been providing vital humanitarian assistance to address the immediate humanitarian needs. Over the past years, UNDP has prioritised a resilience building programme focusing on area-based interventions to create emergency jobs, provide livelihoods support, restore critical community infrastructure and basic services and foster social cohesion. This has contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of the affected population, both IDPs and host communities, and to the creation of an enabling environment for humanitarian assistance, reducing the demand for humanitarian relief, and thus enhancing the resilience of affected communities. In addition, this approach is consistently conducive for preparing the ground and to foster local capacities for the reintegration of returnees - both IDPs and Refugees.

The developments on the ground require UNDP to rapidly deploy assistance to address priority early recovery needs and strengthen the resilience of affected people in NES, including Arreesha, Al-Hassakeh, Qamishli and Amuda. This will help contribute to providing an immediate and visible dividend in the highly volatile context so as to avoid going back to violence. This project aims to build resilience of the vulnerable Syrians. Building the resilience of affected population is a contribution to avoiding going back to violence, reducing the driving factors for displacement, promoting sustainable

⁹ Source: Communities where data collected for (draft) HNO 2020

¹⁰ Source: Protection sector and AoR 4ws (January-June 2020)

returns of the displaced and preventing radicalization. The project will support the affected Syrians through strengthening the wheat-to-bread value chain to respond to the priority needs of the population in NES and recovering and building local economic resilience.

UNDP Syria adopts an integrated approach across sectors and issues: To achieve greater impact, projects and activities are designed and implemented in a complementary manner. For instance, the restoration of basic services and public infrastructure are at the same time creating employment opportunities. Women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) are given special attention in all the interventions. Interventions are also implemented in partnership with local partners starting from planning, delivering and following up to ensure capacity development and sustainability.

UNDP's engagement in resilience building derives from its roles as the UN's global development network, the importance of jobs and livelihoods to human development, the objectives set forth in UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and beyond, and its proven comparative advantages and strengths. The Strategic Plan embraces an intended Outcome with direct relevance to strengthening resilience in crisis and post-crisis situations - Strategic Plan Outcome 3: Strengthen resilience to shocks and crises. Toward this Outcome, UNDP supports restoring basic and essential social services and infrastructure and generating jobs and other environmentally sustainable livelihoods opportunities for crisis-affected people.

The HRP sets out the framework within which the humanitarian community responds to large-scale humanitarian and protection needs in Syria. The HRP's objectives are i) save lives and alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people; ii) enhance the prevention, mitigation and response to protection needs; and iii) increase resilience, livelihoods and access to basic services.

UNDP Syria's Country Programme 2016-2017 (extended until 2020) is linked to the HRP, in particular the strategic objective III - Increase the resilience of affected communities by improving access to livelihoods opportunities and basic services, especially amongst the most vulnerable households and communities. Thus, UNDP's Country Programme is founded on a resilience-based approach which is integral to and complements the ongoing humanitarian response while expanding its scope to effectively bridge humanitarian and early recovery interventions. It is composed of the following interlined two Outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihoods opportunities, including economic recovery and social cohesion; and
- Outcome 2: Basic and social services and infrastructure restored, improved and sustained to enhance community resilience.

Based on the bottlenecks and opportunities identified in the value chain assessments, the project will focus on the interlinkages between the different segments along the wheat-to-bread value chain.

In the wheat-to-bread value chain, UNDP, WFP and FAO will provide direct support to wheat farmers and bread producers to restore and to improve production while also strengthening their enabling environment at community level. The interventions will include rehabilitation of product infrastructure such as mills, bakeries and irrigation systems to improve production and processing of wheat flour and bread. UNDP will rehabilitate the bakeries and yeast production while WFP will rehabilitate public mills and enhance fortified flour production capacity. Also, WFP will rehabilitate the irrigation systems with FAO's technical support on green solutions that require lower energy consumption. The rehabilitation of production and processing facilities will raise the wheat to bread processing capacity across NES.

FAO will also work on the improved seed availability for wheat farmers to restore wheat production in the targeted areas. The strategy of FAO intervention in this project will be through targeting wheat farmers with increased access to improved seed and water for irrigation. FAO will work on increasing availability of improved seed by supporting seed multiplication system. At the same time, farmers who

will use the seed to produce wheat grain will benefit as well from rehabilitated water for irrigation systems to have better access to water which is vital for wheat production.

As a cross cutting issue, UNDP and UNMAS will work together to mainstream Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) within UNDP, FAO and WFP and to improve community safety by incorporating EORE into agencies humanitarian activities to raise awareness about safety hazards caused by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), to build life-saving and life-sustaining measures for people which will further build resilience of the vulnerable Syrian civilians.

Also, the project is designed to support women and men to access productive assets and livelihoods support services to strengthen or restart their livelihoods through a value chain approach. Gender-differentiated needs of women and men will be considered where the project supports the inclusion of women, youths (females and males) and empower them to support the development of greater social and economic resilience in their communities, or within the host communities in which they currently live if they are IDPs. Finally, where possible, the project will build partnerships and synergies with other projects and with key players and stakeholders responding to the Syrian crises.

All these interlinked effects of the wheat-to-bread value chain will ensure connectivity and sustainability of the important value chain by independence on locally available raw materials for diversified livelihood activities for the Syrian men and women.

Taken together, the project will be a significant contribution towards Syria, achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being for People;
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

III. RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

In accordance with the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan and based on the assessment and context analysis, this project will target NES such as Arreesha, Al-Hassakeh, Qamishli and Amuda for the wheat-to-bread value chain with the aim to address the humanitarian needs of the population including IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities with specific considerations given to persons with specific needs such as female-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, while providing a clear direction for early recovery.

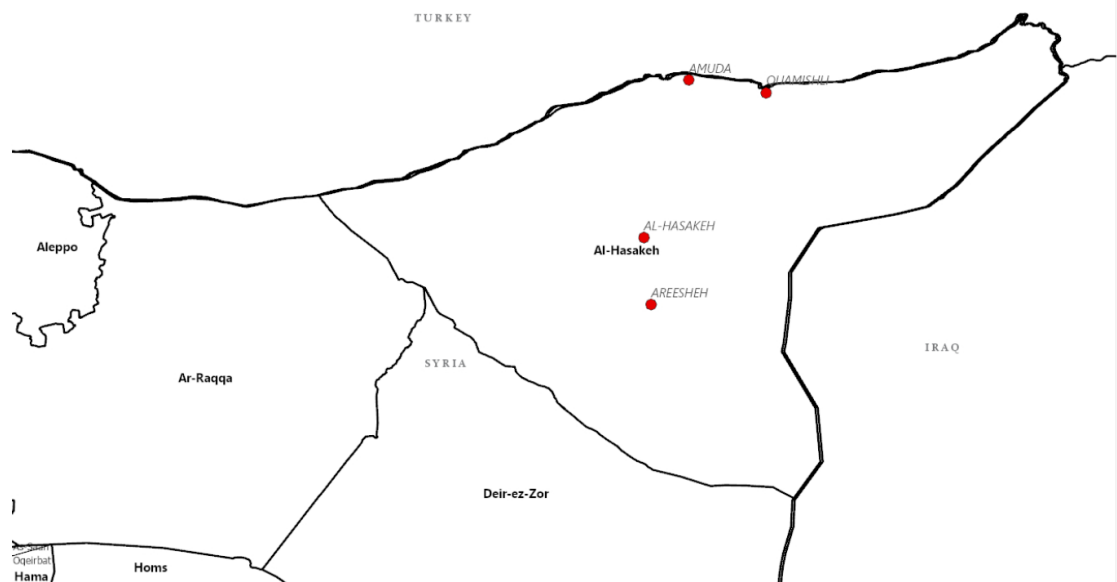
UNDP, together with WFP, FAO and UNMAS, will adopt an area-based approach which enables a flexible response to continuously changing needs and prioritisation of critical needs. Integrated conflict-sensitive programming is a priority, grounded in the understandings of key contextual dynamics and fluctuating needs, supported by regular field updates, consultation with stakeholders, and context analysis conducted prior to interventions. The proposed objective will be achieved by the following outputs. The project will benefit 317,287 people directly and 51,025 people indirectly.

OUTPUT 1: Strengthening the wheat-to-bread value chain

Before the crisis, NES was considered as a breadbasket for Syria. Starting in 2011, owing to the destruction of irrigation structures and pumping stations, frequent electricity outages and increased fuel prices, large areas in Al-Hassakeh Governorate were transformed from irrigated into rain-fed lands, which significantly reduced productivity (wheat in particular) and negatively impacted the livelihoods and food security of farmers. In addition, the worsening economic situation in country is putting the subsidized bread safety net under severe strain, undermining one of the main sources of social stability in vulnerable communities. WFP assessments in Al-Hassakeh recorded an irregular availability of bread including repeated shortages in certain areas as well as long queuing at bakeries selling points. Rural areas - like Al Hol, Rural Hassakeh, Rural Qamishli - depend on distributors who usually sell bread at higher prices and lower quality.

For these reasons, UNDP, WFP and FAO intend to focus on the rehabilitation and enhancement of the wheat-to-bread value chain which represents the main national food crop and a staple of the Syrian diet as one of its strategic priorities to achieve food security in the country. The proposed intervention has the dual objective of creating employment opportunities and enhancing access to basic services such as subsidized bread, hence contributing to restore stability among Syrian communities residing in geographical areas that have been heavily affected by the conflict. This objective will be achieved through the restoration and enhancement of the flour and bread supply chain in NES through the rehabilitation of key infrastructure and the introduction of advanced practices to increase capacity, quality and efficiency along the value chain.

In terms of the project locations, Arreesha, Al-Hassakeh, Qamishli and Amuda have been identified as priority interventions. However, the final decision on the selection of the project sites will be made in consultation with the Embassy of Japan at the initial planning phase of the project.



Activity 1.1: Needs assessments for rehabilitation of smallholders' irrigation systems and water harvesting facilities on Khabour River

The rehabilitation of irrigation networks is critical to re-establish access to agricultural water and to encourage farmers to return to cultivation, hence increasing agricultural productivity and revitalizing local markets. Surface irrigation infrastructures in many crisis-affected areas in Al-Hasakeh Governorate, which hold one of the largest areas of wheat production in the country (about 45% of

wheat production used to be produced in the governorate), are out of order. Some facilities which belong to farmer cooperatives have been physically damaged in military actions, and equipment such as pumping sets and irrigation pipelines have been stolen or vandalised. Productivity of wheat farmers are severely damaged, especially in the southern part of Al-Hasakeh Governorate where large part of agricultural lands previously relied on irrigation networks because of its semi-arid climate. As conflict recedes, and populations return to prior activities, there is a need to provide short- and medium-term support to communities to restore livelihoods, improve food security and rebuild resilience at a community level and reduce the reliance on humanitarian assistance. Rehabilitation of communal agrarian infrastructure such as publicly managed irrigation systems will directly encourage smallholding wheat farmers to return for cultivation and provide an enabling environment for sustainable livelihoods. FAO's vision for sustainable agriculture sector production systems requires integration across the sector, and the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations. This activity aims to reduce stress and competition over limited natural resources in the most severely affected locations by the crisis, and by so doing will contribute to social cohesion and re-settling of displaced populations.

Natural Resource Management is a broad-based management of resources (land, water, forest and biological resources) to sustain agricultural productivity and avoid degradation. FAO will conduct a natural resources assessment using integrated tools and develop a priority list of interventions that would ensure sustainable use of natural resources, improve livelihood of farmers in Al-Hasakeh Governorate and increase agricultural productions including wheat. A rapid needs assessment will be conducted to prioritise necessary interventions in order to increase wheat production in the targeted areas. Further detailed assessment will include field missions to assess damaged/new needed parts, beneficiaries for establishing Water User's Association (WUA) and stakeholders' capacities. This is the work that FAO water team and its network of experts will carry out with the line ministries' experts to propose the engineering designs, related drawings and bill of quantities (BoQ) together with standard Technical Specifications (TS). The design will reflect the use of alternative more efficient methods/techniques such as solar power, efficient irrigation systems where appropriate. Crop water requirements and, irrigation schedules will be developed and prepared for the use by the beneficiaries in the WUA. Coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) and the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) is done through joint technical meetings on all aspects of implementation. The process also includes technical review and clearance on Invitation to Bid from FAO Regional Office and HQ technical experts.

Activity 1.2: Rehabilitation of irrigation networks and livelihood support to farmers

The previously established partnership between FAO and WFP to provide complementarity based on their comparative advantages has contributed to build synergies between the two agencies, thus achieving a higher impact. One of the FAO's advantages is the quantitative damage assessment, needs and priorities, and impact studies by national experts of water resource management. Building on FAO needs assessment (Activity 1.1) and validation of the rehabilitation design and related technical specifications, WFP will be responsible for conducting the rehabilitation works with technical support from FAO. The interventions are expected to re-establish access to irrigation channels, supporting production wheat, creating job opportunities for those who work in the sector, and ultimately improving food security in targeted areas. In addition to the actual rehabilitation works, and based on identified needs, WFP will provide livelihood support and food security assistance to the farmers who will benefit from increased water access until they can restart cultivation. WFP protective food security rations will ensure that farmers make full utilization of the provided inputs and do not sell them nor recur to other negative coping strategies.

The southern area of Al-Hasakeh area is characterise by its semi-arid climate. Thus, majority of the agricultural lands rely on irrigation network for production. Potential interventions in the southern parts of Al Hassakeh, such as in Areeshah and Shadadah districts, are proposed below. The assessment will verify the needs and more precise locations during the project implementation. Given the financial scale of the project and prioritised needs analysed by the assessment, one of the two proposed interventions will be chosen and implemented.



1. *Rehabilitation of water pumping sets for farmers cooperatives southern Al Hasakeh*

A number of villages (Al-Kahirah, Al-Daham, Al-Areeshah, Al-Haddadiya, Al-Hadjia, Al-Qadhiya, and Atlal Al-Ahmar) rely on water pumped from Khabour River located in the south of Al Bassel Dam. Al Bassel Dam's pumping stations and relevant irrigation networks are out of order and need massive rehabilitation investment. Before the onset of crisis, every village used to have a few pumping sets with capacities between 40 and 75 HP managed by cooperatives. There is a need for rehabilitation of an irrigation network that covers 1700 ha in each district. The interventions will benefit more than 9,000 householders who mainly cultivate wheat besides barley, cotton and vegetables. The rehabilitation work would include rehabilitation/installation of water pumping sets, rehabilitation of earthen/concrete lined field irrigation canals and related flow structures.

2. *Rehabilitation of small water harvesting systems along Khabour River and its tributaries*

Rehabilitation of water harvesting system along Al Khabour River will contribute to increase the resilience of small-holding farmers. There are 4-5 small scale water harvesting structures in Areeshah and Shadadah - districts that need rehabilitating works. These will benefit more than 12 villages located along Khabour River in the south of Basel Dam. The old dikes, which harvest and regulate the water flow in the river, were severely damaged during the crisis, currently preventing access to water for irrigation. This rehabilitation work would benefit more than 9,000 households (HH) in Areeshah and Shahadeh districts and assist to re-cultivate more than 4000 ha.

Following the participatory approach through the FAO Technical Working Group for Water and Land Management combined with field missions, all the stakeholders will be present in decision making process. The establishment of managerial bodies for distribution of allocated water according to designed irrigation schedules will be incorporated to the installation design. Activities will be supervised by FAO in consultation with MoWR, using the Integrated Water Resources Management approach.

To ensure the work is implemented according to the BoQ and TS, continuing on the job training (installation, operation & maintenance) and amending technical design is necessary. Progress reports and as built drawings are prepared during this period. Establishment of WUAs in cooperation with local stakeholders will be also facilitated in parallel to the installation of the equipment, so that the land survey and development of irrigation schedule will be approved by the WUA to avoid conflict between farmers.

The targeted areas for this intervention will be the same areas where wheat is produced in the southern part of the governorate. This is to ensure that farmers are having better access to both water and improved seed.

Activity 1.3: Technical training for agricultural engineers for irrigation management

Activities will be designed according to a priority list produced during the needs assessment mentioned in Activity 1.1 and will be supervised by MoWR and FAO using the Integrated Water Resources Management approach. Establishment of appropriate water user associations/groups based on principles of participative governance of natural resource use and installation of demonstration sites for integrated livelihood development will be conducted. This will include practical field demonstration and capacity building on good agricultural practices, efficient irrigation techniques and irrigation management for farmers, extension units and water use groups, as well as introduction to the novel approaches developed based on FAO's concepts such as Climate Smart Agriculture; Save & Grow; and modern irrigation methods and water harvesting technologies that increases efficiency of water use and the productivity of farmers. Capacity building will include different modalities such as Training of Trainers (ToT), on-the job training and farmers training. This activity will be implemented through Letter of Agreements (LOAs) with FAO network of experts or research institutions such as General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), General Organization of Remote Sensing (GORS), National Agricultural Policy Centre (NAPC), and individual experts with FAO experts.

ACTIVITY 1.4: Increasing access by wheat farmers to quality and quantity of wheat seeds

Seed production system in Syria has been severely affected by the on-going crisis especially in Al-Hasakeh Governorate. This is driving farmers to increasingly depend on seed from their own production or from unknown sources, which is contributing to the decline in production. FAO will work on seed multiplication system to ensure that farmers have more access to good quality improved seed that are adapted to local conditions. This combined with the rehabilitation of irrigation system would contribute to improve the production of wheat in the targeted areas. After irrigation network for wheat producers are rehabilitated, the cornerstone for value chain development and the promotion of income-generating activities in wheat production, is the assurance of sustainable availability of quality input supply. To this end, FAO will study the feasibility of community-level wheat seed multiplication schemes following detailed designing based on an assessment, aiming to increase the quantity and quality of seeds available at the household level and within the community while boosting performance of wheat productivity in subsequent seasons. The assessment and potential pilot of a gradual approach of seed multiplication will not only enable the participating farmers expand their production levels in the short run but will also provide opportunity of real-time experimentation to test the hypothesis and develop their capacity of long-term seed provisioning. The improved seeds will be then distributed by the other farmers in the community and other locations in Al-Hasakeh Governorate. Alternatively, when the result of the assessment (class of the seed and its source, locations, needs, and partners etc.) do not match the scope of the project, the wheat farmers will be provided with wheat seeds, through direct distribution of goods or voucher system, to plant and increase their wheat production at for their community as well as their own family. The distribution

will be accompanied by technical training and awareness-raising for the best practices for wheat production.

ACTIVITY 1.5: Provision of equipment to increase production capacity, create job opportunities and sustain livelihoods

This activity aims to support livelihoods of the most vulnerable population who are engaged in the wheat-bread value chain through four types of interventions: i) building capacities of actors along the value chain; ii) improving wheat production, iii) enhancing the capacities of private micro and mobile mills in rural areas; iv) increasing bread production through the provision of support to private bakeries; and v) promoting by-products of wheat and flour.

Sub-Activity i) building capacities of actors along the value chain: First, with the aim of water and climate efficient wheat production linked to Activity 1.2, UNDP aims to support existing farmers' associations and cooperatives with technical support as well as provision of some equipment. Technical support will include farming, pest control, combating field rodents and processing and other related topics, in coordination and support by FAO. Cash for work modality will be used for instance collecting field rodents.

Second, given that it is important to have sustainable maintenance of these two equipment, as well as other key equipment and machineries such as tractors, harvesting machines, pumping equipment and generators, this activity aims to establish 20 microbusinesses focused on maintenance of these equipment. The support will include technical assistance and in-kind start-up support, targeting existing and new maintenance workshops in rural areas.

Sub-Activity ii) improving wheat production: with the aim to increase the wheat production in the region, the project will distribute equipment to NGOs and local associations which include "Zero Tillage" seeders and machineries for flipping and ventilating organic animal and plant waste. The latter will produce organic fertilizers (compost) to be used for fertilizing wheat plants in sustainable methods. These two types of machineries and practices are critical during the production cycle due to the water scarcity and high cost of fertilizers in local market. In addition to the compost, the leftover of wheat after sieving and sorting process in addition to straw and poor-quality wheat will be utilized to produce feeds for animals.

Sub-Activity iii) enhancing the capacities of private micro and mobile mills in rural areas: with the aim of economically empowering the youth through income generation, UNDP will support the instalment of 20 small mobile grinder wheat products which will move amongst villages in rural areas. In addition, it will install 40 small mills in private micro mills for grinding wheat and secure the needed quantities of flour for bread and other wheat products in rural areas, where public mill services (Activity 1.7) are not available. This activity will be directly implemented by UNDP through engaging a group of youth to run mobile mills for their income generation activities. Private micro mills will be selected through mapping and needs assessment. This activity will complement with capacity enhancement of public mills (Activity 1.7) and fill the gaps in rural areas to reduce their risk of exposure to poverty and food-insecurity.

Sub-activity iv) increasing bread production through the provision of support to private bakeries: the activity will support 100 small private bakeries at village level through the provision of equipment and materials to produce different bread/wheat products to diversify types of bread and wheat products and complement public bakeries (Activity 1.8). While enhancing access to bread in rural areas, those bakeries will create job opportunities especially for youth and women. It is anticipated that each bakery will employ at least 3 people.

Sub-Activity v) promoting by-products of wheat and flour: this activity aims to increase income sources for women through diversifying wheat/flour products. It will support 30 women's groups composed of 5-7 women and youth per group in rural areas through providing technical training and in-kind grant to start microbusinesses on producing wheat local commodities.

ACTIVITY 1.6: Rehabilitation of public mills

Out of 35 public mills existing across Syria, currently only 23 are operating while the remaining 12 are partially or totally damaged. Out of the three public mills that provide wheat flour for all public and public-private bakeries in Al-Hassakeh Governorate, WFP has selected two public mills as priority infrastructure rehabilitation interventions. All of them require maintenance works, replacement of old equipment, particularly grinding machines, as well as supply and installation of new generators. The rehabilitation works are expected to increase the productive capacity and the efficiency of the mills, hence increasing wheat flour availability and fostering bread production across the governorate.

ACTIVITY 1.7: Capacity enhancement of flour production

As parts of its ongoing technical assistance towards the development of a nationally owned wheat flour fortification (WFF) system, WFP will support the mills in the geographical areas of intervention with fortification feeders. WFF is a cost-effective intervention to improve population intake of essential micronutrients, in a country where 27.4% and 29.4% of children under 5 years old and childbearing age women suffer from iron-deficiency/anemia, respectively. In addition, WFP will also promote a quality control system through enhanced laboratory equipment, along with capacity building for government staff with a view to ensure sustainability of this intervention.

ACTIVITY 1.8: Rehabilitation of public bakeries and a yeast factory

Out of 17 public bakeries existing in AL-Hasakeh Governorate, only 13 are operating while the remaining are partially or totally damaged. All of them require maintenance works, replacement of old equipment, as well as supply and installation of new generators. UNDP will rehabilitate 3 public bakeries through replacement of damaged equipment. The rehabilitation works are expected to increase the productive capacity and the efficiency of the bakeries, hence increasing bread production across the governorate. Furthermore, to respond to acute shortages of yeast which are estimated at 4 tonnes per day in Al-Hasakeh Governorate, UNDP aims to rehabilitate an existing yeast factory to increase the capacity by 5-10 tonnes per day. The lack of yeast has significantly affected the bread production causing bakeries in the governorate to shut down. UNDP is planning to increase the capacity of existing facilities to be able to supply the needed daily quantities of "yeast" in the governorate and accordingly improving access to bread for approximately 700,000 people on monthly basis.

OUTPUT 2: At-risk individuals, identified under humanitarian priorities, have increased awareness of explosive hazard threats within their communities.

The extensive use of weapons has contaminated vast swathes of land with explosive ordnance including landmines, IEDs, and other ERW. The presence of contamination in civilian infrastructure, agricultural lands, homes and roads puts the lives of millions of people at risk, hampers safe access for essential basic services. Explosive contamination also causes severe socio-economic implications for the families and communities, depriving them of their livelihood and sources of income, thus increasing their vulnerabilities. Farming, herding, travelling, as well as rubble removal are reported to be the most at-risk activities.

The proposed project areas by UNDP, WFP and FAO are targeting rural areas of Syria in Al-Hassakeh Governorate, affected by EO contamination. As mentioned in section 1 Development Challenge, in the NES, farmers and agricultural workers, main target beneficiaries of this project, are considered as one of the most vulnerable categories regarding the explosive ordnance threat. However, often far from community centres where EORE sessions are provided, or working during the time of the session, farmers/herders are not reachable, nor through online (e.g. social media, SMS) means either. Their fragile living conditions also sometimes make them take risky decisions, going into unknown or contaminated areas to sustain living.

For efficient and effective implementation of EORE, UNMAS Syria Response Programme (SRP) has been trying to mainstream mine action within UN agencies and other stakeholders' activities to reach wider beneficiaries across the country. Through this project, it is expected that each agency will have an EORE capacity to conduct risk education activities for their beneficiaries under this project.¹¹ The level of utilization of established capacity varies from each agency based on their situation and needs,¹² and UNMAS SRP will support them accordingly in close coordination with each respective agency for mine action mainstreaming. Also, based on the request from FAO, UNMAS SRP will deliver risk education sessions to farmers and agricultural engineers who will work under this report.

From a mine-action perspective, we consider this is a win-win situation, embodying the spirit of joint UN initiative, capitalizing on technical expertise and accessibility of each agency, maximizing the reach out to hard-to-reach beneficiaries, specifically farmers, agricultural workers/engineers in the target locations, as well as to ensure sustainability through EORE mainstreaming approach.

Activity 2.1: Mainstreaming Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in each agency and providing other EORE related support

Mine action capacity and resources for NES have relatively been limited. Further, effective EORE outreach to farmers, one of vulnerable people often subject to EO risks, has been a high priority for UNMAS. Mainstreaming of EORE in each agency and their IPs will benefit people living in local communities in Al -Hassakeh, including farmers and agricultural workers. It will raise awareness for explosive hazards through EORE session conducted by agencies who will have access to these remote areas and people living there, contributing to longer term impact even when UNMAS intervention ends at the completion of this activity.

UNMAS SRP will support mainstreaming of EORE into UN agencies' activities for the safety and security of their staff, implementing partners, co-workers who are directly involved in this project and direct beneficiaries under this project to ensure safety of their personnel, including their implementing partners, and thus reducing the threat of explosives for their project beneficiaries.

UNMAS SRP will closely work with; 1) Mine Action (MA) focal point from each UN Agency, 2) project staff, and 3) Agency IP (as required) to mainstream EORE in their project activities so that they could implement their activities in a safe manner. Further, UNMAS SRP will closely coordinate with each agency and provide direct training to their implementing partners, as needed. Besides EORE contents, the training package will also include disability inclusion awareness messages, with a focus on EO accidents survivors, in order to advocate and promote the social and economic inclusion of direct and indirect victims of EO among the targeted communities.

¹¹ Target figures such as numbers of project target beneficiaries to be reached by each agency and UNMAS trained personnel will be decided at a later stage in consultation with each agency.

¹²UNDP is planning to conduct risk education activities to their direct project beneficiaries during the project, whilst this is not in the scope of WFP and FAO project planning, at this stage.

1. For the agencies planning to conduct risk education to their beneficiaries, UNMAS SRP will support their EORE delivery by providing technical guidance and advice for planning, prioritisation, tasking and coordination. UNMAS SRP will ensure quality assurance of EORE activities, as well as gathering information and analysing information to refine EORE activities. UNMAS SRP will provide risk education materials tailored to the needs of the project, with the design and production of tools such as printing of brochures and posters, development of new materials in coordination with MA focal points. These risk education materials will also contain disability inclusion awareness messages.
2. For the agency not planning to conduct risk education to their direct beneficiaries under this project, during the project, UNMAS SRP will continue to support them for mine action mainstreaming, and provide technical advice and guidance for their project implementation from mine action perspective to ensure safety of their staff, and for their future launching of EORE activities within their service delivery.

From the information management perspective, UNMAS SRP will engage with the MA focal points in gathering and analysing information on MA needs in the area to further refine/tailor EORE activities fit for purpose including how to fill Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) forms. The information may be used to plan future potential survey and clearance interventions, but also VA interventions (EO victim data collection).

UNMAS SRP will ensure quality assurance of EORE activities conducted by the agencies, and information management for the project. UNMAS will closely coordinate and support agencies during their delivery of EORE sessions to their beneficiaries, through provision of technical advice and consultations for smooth and appropriate EORE delivery.

Based upon the request from FAO, UNMAS SRP will provide EORE sessions to 150 farmers and agricultural engineers for their safety. UNMAS SRP will coordinate with FAO regarding the timing, procedures and necessary arrangements regarding this activity.

Activity 2.2 Community safety is improved through awareness raising about safety hazards caused by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

Based on UNDP Local Context Analyses in Syria which are based on UNDP's Global Conflict-related Development Analysis framework, UNDP has identified priorities for assistance. UNDP has already conducted community-based assessments in two locations in the northeast of Syria that identified a major local security issues of concerns raised, mainly presence of explosive hazards including Landmines/ERW/UXOs which pose a great threat to civilians in Syria.

UNDP will use the technique of "community liaison" to support the efforts of affected communities to address the impact of mines and ERW. This will be implemented through adopting UNDP's area-based approach for implementation where the area offices of UNDP will lead project implementation through community liaison staff who will be trained by UNMAS in order to avail technical expertise of the organisation. UNMAS will play the role of technical advisor for UNDP during implementation of the project activities.

The project team and community liaison staff will obtain relevant background information on the targeted community itself (e.g. population size and movements, main livelihoods or sources of income and other socio-economic concerns). In addition to information about the background to the mine/ERW problem in a specific community (history of local battles/conflicts), the project team and community liaison staff will identify specific at-risk groups in the community and understand the extent and underlying reasons for ongoing risk-taking in mined or UXO contaminated areas. This information can be obtained through media reports, information available with local authorities and community representatives and Mukhtars. Community level consultation will also be conducted to

using rapid assessment methods in order to identify major UXO threats, recognise the community beneficiaries and establish a baseline for the MRE awareness sessions. The data collection will help UNDP in developing relevant awareness raising material tailor made to the community needs. UNDP data collection efforts will be coordinated with UNMAS and based on existing IMSMA forms.

The Community liaison staff will also engage with the communities for identification of MRE programme participants. The beneficiaries will be selected in the light of data collected and rapid assessment findings where priority will be given to those with more exposure to the safety hazards posed by the UXOs. In addition, individuals with greater mobility within the communities and reach to the public will be considered for participation in the trainings with a vision that the trainees will play the role of MRE champions at the local level. In addition, women participation will also be assured in the MRE sessions in either joint male and female trainings or women specific trainings.

The MRE sessions will be conducted in the local communities or in proximity of the communities. The Community liaison staff will deliver training sessions using participatory training methodology allowing space for discussions, deliberations and group activities. The trainees will also take pre and post training assessments as part of training M&E activities.

IV. PARTNERSHIP AND VISIBILITY OF THE DONOR

The Government of Japan has been one of the key supporters of building resilience of Syrian people inside the country. In accordance with the Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures of UNDP, the utmost effort will be made to publicize the partnership with Japan for this project, taking into consideration the sensitive political situation in Syria. UNDP will undertake measures to ensure Japan's visibility, which include:

- Ensuring posting Japan's logo on the reports, publications and other publicity materials, such as signboards;
- Issuing press releases which highlight the Japanese contribution and produce public Information materials and brochures on Japan's contribution;
- Producing and posting web-articles on the activities supported by Japan's contribution;
- Producing and obtaining photos or videos of the activities funded by Japan's contribution, showing Japan's logo or signs;
- Utilizing the social media including Facebook and Twitter, disseminating information on the activities supported by Japan. UNDP will ensure to mention, for the direct beneficiaries in particular, that the activities are funded by Japan;
- Conducting publicity events with the Japanese Government, benchmarking the key accomplishment of activities, such as agreement signing ceremonies, launch/completion ceremonies of the particular activities, and major conferences related to the project activities. UNDP will inform the Japanese Government of these occasions in advance and facilitate their participation in the event;
- Making sure to mention Japan's contribution when UNDP deliver speeches in public events;
- Making arrangements to maximize media coverage on the events related to Japan's assistance;
- Partnership with Japanese institutions including the private sector and NGOs; and
- UNDP will involve Japanese nationals in project implementation within their rules and regulations.

V. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The project will be implemented in Al-Hassakeh Governorate. The project will be managed by UNDP Country Office in Damascus with Al-Hassakeh field office. The project will complement other ongoing interventions in the same target area as well as in the thematic areas using a portfolio management

approach to improve cost effectiveness by leveraging activities and partnerships with other initiatives/projects. Operations support will be shared with other projects.

VI. RESULT FRAMEWORK

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2019 Strategic Objective 3: <i>Increase resilience and access to services. Increase the resilience of affected communities by improving access to livelihood opportunities and basic services, especially among the most vulnerable households and communities.</i></p> <p><i>Country Programme Document Outcomes</i> Outcome 1: <i>Households and communities benefit from sustainable livelihood opportunities, including economic recovery and social inclusion</i> Outcome 2: <i>Basic and social services and infrastructure restored, improved and sustained to enhance community resilience</i></p>								
<p>Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan Strategic Plan Outcome 3: Strengthening Resilience to Shocks and Crises</p>								
<p>Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): The UN partnership project for enhancing nutritious and quality food security and livelihoods through integrated humanitarian response</p>								
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGET			DATA COLLECTION & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1 (Apr to Dec 2021)	Year 2 (Jan to Dec 2022)	Year 3 (Jan to Mar 2023)	
OUTPUT 1: Wheat/bread	# of HHs benefited from rehabilitated irrigation facilities	Terminal report	0	2020	0	0	9000	<p>Data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic progress reports and final reports from IP Baseline and end-line survey <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deterioration of the security situation
	# of small dams for regulatory irrigation and water harvesting	Terminal report	0	2020	0	0	1	
	# of small-holding wheat producers provided with quality seeds and awareness-raising for the best practices	Terminal report	0	2020	0	1800	NA	

								<p>precluding access to areas of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of farmers to cultivate areas due to security reasons, risk of confiscation of the harvest by armed groups and/or displacement before harvest • Increased control of land and water by one party in conflict
	# of families with access to subsidized bread	Project monitoring	0	2020	16,000	16,000	16,000	<p>Data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Monitoring reports • Periodic Progress Report • 3rd Party Monitoring reports <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange rate fluctuation • Delay in finishing rehabilitation work of bakeries • insufficient quantity wheat in local mills

								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • availability of fuel for running bakeries • availability of yeast and other inputs for bread production
	# of people with improved quality of bread	Project monitoring	0	2020	140,000	140,000	140,000	<p>Data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Monitoring reports • Periodic Progress Report • 3rd Party Monitoring reports <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • insufficient quantity wheat in local mills • availability of good quality Yeast • availability of fuel and other inputs for running bakeries and producing bread
	# of labourers contracted for rehabilitation works	Field report from contracted companies	0	2020	20	60	60	<p>Data collection:</p> <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange rate volatility • Difficulties in

								contracting SPs
	# of emergency jobs created	Project monitoring	0	2020	625	700	25	Data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Monitoring reports • Periodic progress Report • 3rd party monitoring reports Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access constrains in case of deterioration of security conditions, • Depreciation of Syrian currency might delay the procurement process/increase the challenge to achieve the target. • Sanction against Syria might make the importation of required equipment very challenging • Delay in receiving the necessary approvals from related authorities. • Availability of skilled labour
	# of longer-term jobs created	Project monitoring	0	2020	273	642	70	
	# of bakeries and relevant wheat production facilities established and revived	Project monitoring	0	2020	82	118	35	

	# of public mills rehabilitated	Final assessment	0	2020	0	2	2	Data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field monitoring reports Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access and security issues
	# of bakeries rehabilitated	Project monitoring	0	2021	3	0	0	Data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Monitoring reports Periodic progress Report 3rd party monitoring reports Equipment handing over supporting documents Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access constrains in case of deterioration of security conditions Depreciation of Syrian currency might delay the procurement process/increase the challenge to achieve the target Sanction against Syria might make the importation of required equipment very challenging

								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in receiving the necessary approvals from related authorities
	Capacity of a yeast factory increased by 5-10 tonnes per day	Project monitoring	0	2021	0	1	0	<p>Data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Monitoring reports • Periodic Progress Report • 3rd Party Monitoring reports • Equipment handing over supporting documents <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access constrains in case of deterioration of security conditions, • Depreciation of currency might delay the procurement process • Sanction against Syria might make the importation of required equipment very challenging • Delay in receiving the necessary approvals from authorities

	# of trained actors along the wheat value chain	Progress report	0	2020	100	150	50	<p>Data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Monitoring reports, • Periodic Progress Report, • 3rd Party Monitoring reports, • Post training evaluation report <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in receiving the necessary approvals from authorities. • Availability of skilled trainers. • Challenges in importation of equipment due to sanction
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Output 2: At-risk individuals, identified under humanitarian priorities, have increased awareness of explosive hazard threats within their communities	# of UN agencies' Implementing partners (IP)' personnel reached by UNMAS ¹³	Periodic progress report	73	2020	56	24	0	Data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNMAS records Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access not granted to conduct EORE
	# of RE beneficiaries reached by each agency	Periodic progress reports from each agency	0	2020	1000	6000	500	Data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reports and record from each agency Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access not granted to conduct EORE
	# of RE beneficiaries directly reached by UNMAS as requested by FAO	UNMAS reports (IMSMA)	0	2020	105	45	0	Data collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNMAS reports (IMSMA) Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access not granted to conduct EORE

¹³ UN agencies' Implementing partners (IP) such as labourers contracted for rehabilitation works by WFP.

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring plan:

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the UNDP senior management and the donor, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined	Annually, and at the end of the			

	annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	project (final report)			
UNDP senior management review	The UNDP senior management will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the UNDP senior management shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Specify frequency (i.e., at least annually)	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		

VIII. WORK PLAN

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME									RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Year 1 (Apr to Dec 2021)			Year 2 (Jan to Dec 2022)				Year 3 (Jan to Mar 2023)	Funding Source		Budget Description	Amount (USD)	
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1					
Output 1: Strengthening the Wheat-to-Bread Value Chain	Activity 1.1: Needs assessments for rehabilitation smallholders' irrigation systems on Khabour River	X									FAO	Japan	Consultants	100,000
										Travel			10,000	
										Procurement of irrigation kits			65,000	
										Contracts for field work			70,000	
	Activity 1.2: Rehabilitation of irrigation networks and livelihood support to farmers		X	X							FAO	Japan	Contracts	70,000
										Travel			20,000	
				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	WFP	Japan	Contracts	600,000
	Activity 1.3: Technical training for agricultural engineers for irrigation management		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	FAO	Japan	Contracts	100,000
										Procurement of training materials			25,000	
										Travel			20,000	
	Activity 1.4: Increasing access by wheat farmers to quality and quantity of wheat seeds	X	X	X	X	X	X				FAO	Japan	Expendable procurement	350,000
										Distribution contract			161,869	
										Seed multiplication contract			350,000	

												Consultants	50,000
												Travel	10,000
	Act 1.5.1. Providing 12 turners for producing organic fertilizer to community based private/cooperative	X	X		X	X				X		Equipment	1,682,000
	Act 1.5.2. Provide Organic fertilizer to wheat farmers through local composting workshops	X	X	X	X							Materials and goods	60,000
	Act 1.5.3. providing 17 Zero Tillage seeders to community based private/cooperative	X	X			X	X					Training	220,000
	Act 1.5.4. Support the value chain for wheat production and processing by providing improved equipment for sterilizing, sorting and sieving of wheat	X	X	X								Consultants	40,000
	Act 1.5.5. Supporting youth by small mobile grinder wheat products		X	X	X	X	X	X				Individual contracts	80,000
	Act 1.5.6. Support private sector small mills		X	X	X	X	X	X				Travel	25,000
	Act 1.5.7. Support private sector - traditional bakeries	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			Grants to NGOs	666,641.70
	Activity 1.5: Provision of equipment to increase production capacity, create job opportunities and sustain livelihoods										UNDP	Japan	

				X	X	X	X						
	Act 1.5.8. Capacity Development of actors along the wheat Value Chain including agribusiness stakeholders												
	Act 1.5.9. Support for wheat-based food Processing by Farmers / Women Groups for income generation and sustaining livelihoods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
	Act 1.5.10: Capacity building & seed fund as productive workshops for maintenance of agricultural machines (tractors Pump and Harvester's Machines)			X	X	X	X						
	Act 1.5.11: Support post-harvesting businesses and handling the ex-product of wheat (small seeds for animal feed stuff & bulking straw for livestock)				X	X	X	X					
	Act 1.5.12: Provide support to farmers in combating field Rodents			X	X		X	X					
	Activity 1.6: Rehabilitation of mills		X	X	X	X	X			WFP	Japan	Contracts	700,000
	Activity 1.7: Capacity enhancement of flour production					X	X	X	X	WFP	Japan	Equipment	76,000
													contractual services

Output 2: At-risk individuals, identified under humanitarian priorities, have increased awareness of explosive hazard threats within their communities	Activity 1.8: Rehabilitation of public bakeries and a yeast factory	Act 1.8.1. Rehabilitation of public bakeries	X	X	X							UNDP	Japan	Rehabilitation of 3 bakeries	594,695.70		
		Act 1.8.2. Rehabilitation of a yeast factory				X	X	X	X					Rehabilitation of a yeast factory	800,000		
	Sub-total for output 1														6,978,711.40		
		Activity 2.1: Mainstreaming Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in each agency and providing other EORE related support ¹⁴		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			UNMAS	Japan	Training	179,253	
															Consultants	72,768	
															Travel	25,757	
		Activity 2.2: Community safety is improved through awareness raising about safety hazards caused by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			UNDP	Japan	Contractual services	130,000
															Training and workshop in targeted locations	150,000	
															Equipment	12,000	
															Travel	8,000	
Sub-total four output 2														577,778			
Direct project costs (DPC)														545,011.51			

¹⁴ UNMAS aims to mainstream risk education into the UN agencies' service delivery and facilitate their EORE reach out to their project beneficiaries (e.g. farmers). UNMAS' risk education activity will be tailored to each respective agency's needs; e.g. UNDP plans to extend risk education to their beneficiaries, while for FAO and WFP, a detailed scope of collaboration is still under discussion. Accordingly, UNMAS SRP will support UNDP's delivery of risk education sessions as an important pathway to reach to hard-to reach farmers as mentioned in activity 2.1. UNMAS' support also includes provision of tailored risk education materials. As part of UNMAS contribution, UNMAS will provide risk education sessions to farmers and agricultural engineers based upon the request from FAO.

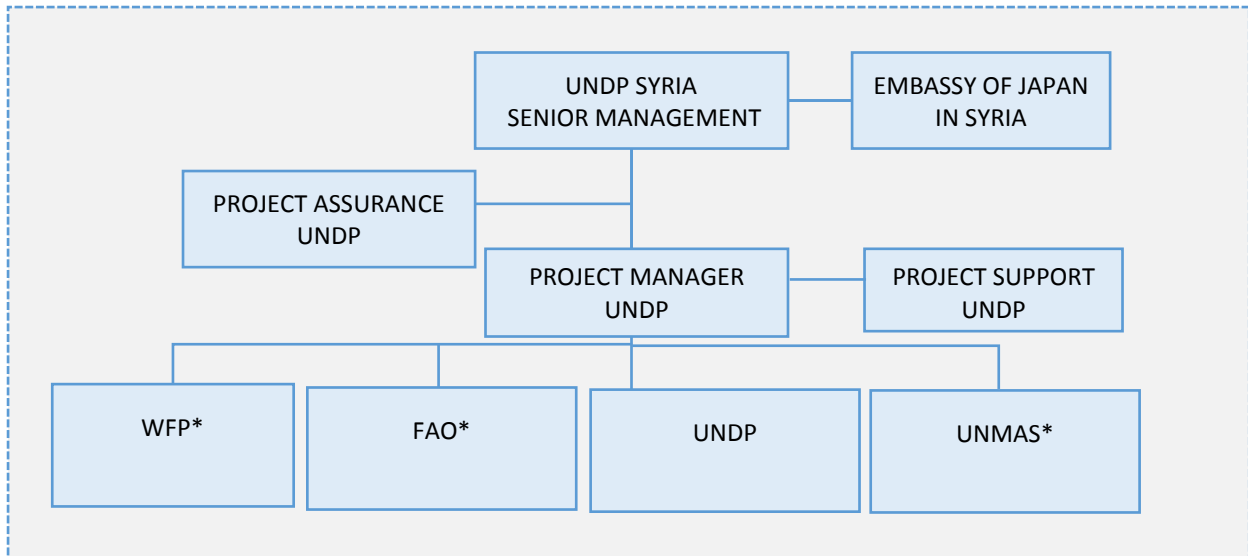
Programme total		8,101,500.91
General Management Support (GMS)	UNDP GMS (8%)	403,712.22
	WFP GMS (6.5%)	91,549
	FAO GMS (7%)	98,131
	UNMAS GMS (8 %)	22,222
	Sub-total for GMS	615,614.22
Administrative Agent (AA)		33,000
Grand total		8,750,115.13

**THIS PROJECT IS NOT SUBJECT TO 1% LEVY.*

IX. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This joint project will be implemented by UNDP in partnership with WFP, FAO and UNMAS.

- According to the note to file dated 10 Sept 2017 signed by the Regional Director for Arab States, UNDP Syria may operate without a **Project Board** due to the prevailing situation in the country which makes it difficult for UNDP Syria to bring together all relevant stakeholders. In this regard, this project will not establish a Project Board but instead the senior management of the Country Office will be responsible for making management decisions for the project when guidance is required by the Project Manager including recommendation for approval of project revisions. UNDP Syria will consult with the Embassy of Japan when making programme decisions as required.
- **Project Management:** The Project Manager will be responsible for the overall supervision of the project on behalf of the senior management of the CO. Each agency is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The Project Manager is appointed by UNDP.
- **Financial Management:** The Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy (BERA) in UNDP New York will oversee overall fund management of Japan's contribution to this project in line with the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund. For any fund balances at the end of the project, the Country Office shall consult with the Japanese Embassy in Syria on its use. The interest income should be treated in accordance with the Japan-UNDP agreement on "Agreement for the Interest Income derived from Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund." UNDP will submit a written request to the Government of Japan for prior approval in case (1) the extension of the project is required, and/or (2) the re-deployment of funds between approved project budget Outputs is required, if more than 20% increase or decrease is expected.
- UNDP Syria will use the direct Implementation modality for the implementation of the project. Implementing partners will be selected in consultation with the Embassy of Japan in Syria.
- **Reporting:** UNDP will submit a consolidated progress report every 6 months and a consolidated final narrative report to the Japanese Embassy in Syria within 3 months after the end of the project period. UNDP will submit a final financial report to the Japanese Embassy within 12 months after the project end date to the Embassy of Japan in Syria.



*Day-to-day management of activities will be managed by each agency.

X. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Syria and UNDP, signed on 12 March 1981. All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.” This project will be implemented by UNDP in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures.

XI. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner shall comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]¹⁵ [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]¹⁶ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Consistent with UNDP’s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).

4. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

UNDP Syria has a comprehensive risk management strategy to manage risks at various levels as outlines in the Annex I.

XII. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: RISK ANALYSIS

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	The escalation of violence and armed conflict in Damascus (UNDP CO) and/or other governorates (UNDP field presence)	Project initiation	Political (security)	Impede access and operations in specific locations/governorates or in the country (depending on intensity/scale/geographical areas) P = 5 I = 4 (depending on available contingency measures and partnerships agreements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaise with local counterparts and increase number of partnerships for project implementation, monitoring and supervision ▪ Ensure adequate support to UNDP field teams to facilitate remote management ▪ Develop and manage partnerships with CBOs and private sector at the local level ▪ Identify qualified partner NGOs/CBOs for the implementation, monitoring and supervision of the project activities ▪ Set up a back-up office in Damascus or field locations to support the operation from within Syria ▪ Maintain an in-depth follow up and analysis of incidents and security situation in the country. 				
2	Inaccessibility to target areas due security situation		Operational	Impede operations and implementation of relevant project activities (cash transfer and distribution of tools, if procurement is not made locally or if tools are not yet distributed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen field teams and operations ▪ Rely on implementing partners at the local level (CBOs/NGOs/Private sector/local authorities) ▪ Third party monitoring ▪ Rely on available financial transfer mechanisms 				Highly variable in time and geographically

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
				P = 5 I = 4 (Agreements with implementing partners should be in place, which will lessen the impact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strong partnerships for all of the above-mentioned measures 				
3	Absorption capacity of national and local stakeholders and implementing partners		Operational Organizational	Slow implementation of the planned activities due to limited capacities of national and local partners P = 4 I = 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick on-the-job training for target implementing partners to better implement/perform Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to work with each target partner (depending on the nature/type of partnerships) Develop a detailed operational plan (including procurement and recruitment plans to support the implementation of activities) 				
4	Depletion of local markets and long procurement processes and approvals		Operational	Given the situation in Syria, prices and availability of good quality materials might be affected. International bids can be problematic given the sanctions imposed on the country. P = 4 I = 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of fast-track procedures for procurement Inform the concerned government entities of any potential international procurement to facilitate import (taking into consideration the imposed sanctions) Inform RACP and ACP of potential cases based on a detailed procurement plan Support the procurement team with an international expert. 				

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
5	Equal access to all affected populations		Political Strategic	Negatively affect the fair and equal targeting of all affected populations P = 4 I = 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversification of national and local partners and target beneficiaries ▪ Targeting mechanisms well developed and promoting for local level engagement of all concerned stakeholders ▪ Continuous consultation with concerned national and local concerned stakeholders 				
7	Recruitment of highly qualified staff National (brain drain/ migration)		Operational Strategic	This will affect the delivery of results. P = 3 I = 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application of fast-track procedures. ▪ Pre-identifying and encouraging potentially suitable candidates to apply for vacancies. ▪ Look into project pools of consultants who are available and interested. 				
8	Fluctuation of exchange rates		Operational	Change in exchange rate affects the amount of payment in USD if the contract is made in a currency other than USD P=4 I=3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contract in USD for any major procurement cases 				