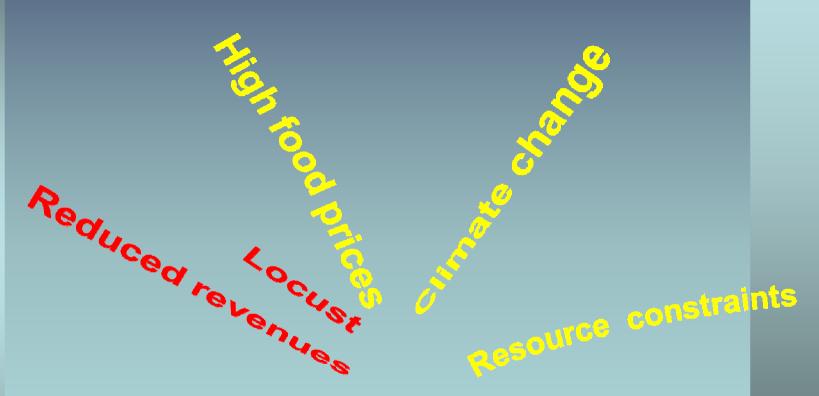
## Regional Bureau for the Middle East Central Asia and Eastern Europe

Annual Session of the Executive Board 8-12
June, 2009

## **CHALLENGES**



Refugees

### 1. The "Triple F" Crisis ++

#### **Financial Crisis:**

- Increase in poverty and vulnerability;
- Downturn in remittances

#### Food:

- Prices above 2007 levels;
- High commodity price volatility;
- Long term concerns over food supplies and access.

#### Fuel:

- Commodity price volatility;
- Unstable energy supplies;
- Unstable fuel production;
- Drop in production and reduced revenue

#### 2. Conflict and Civil Unrest

- > 2009 began with the conflict in Gaza
- ➤ Elsewhere unresolved conflict continues to erupt into violence: Iraq, Yemen, OPT, Lebanon, South Caucasus.
- Societal tensions: demonstrations, loss of income, stress

# 3. Natural disasters and Climate Change

- ➤ Winter emergency:
  - Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- ➤ Water Scarcity / Drought:
  - Jordan, Syria, Yemen, oPt
- > Climate change: increased vulnerability

#### 4. Reduced Remittances

- Tajikistan
  - 39% drop in remittances since April 2008.
- > Yemen
  - remittances represent \$1.3 billion, 6.7% of GDP and are set to drop in 2009
- Kyrgyzstan
  - remittances represent 27.9% of GDP and are predicted to drop to 21%
- Armenia
  - 14% of GDP in 2008 (\$1.4 m); Dropped by 21% since Jan 08
- > Jordan
  - 600,000 citizens work abroad in the Gulf

## Case Studies

## 5. Security Challenges

- OMC geopolitically volatile Region -Iraq, Yemen, oPt and Georgia
- Five country offices are at phase 3 or higher.
- Financial consequences of increased security phase.
- ➤ Higher MOSS compliance costs:
  - Armored vehicles, guards,
  - Additional staff costs
  - Transportation costs
  - Capital expenses (additional communications requirements
  - Staff costs and needs increased risks, personal status (education/family separation)

## Innovations and progress: 2008-9

✓ Expansion of cash and voucher programmes

oPt, Georgia, Yemen

✓ Expansion of nutrition and food technology partnerships

Egypt, Syria, OPT, Russia, Iraq

## Climate Change Adaptation

#### 1. Linking Food Security and Climate Change

Case studies Egypt and Tajikistan

#### 2. Partnerships

- With ICARDA for mapping food security and CC
- OMC in Regional and Global conferences

#### 3. Building Government Capacity

 Egypt, Syria, Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan: Adaptation Programming to strengthen food security and climate vulnerability analysis, and capacity development

### Capacity Support to Governments

Food subsidy systems and social safety nets study

- >Technical support for micro-nutrient food fortification
- >Monitoring and surveillance systems, inc. early warning
- **≻Vulnerability Assessment Mapping**
- ➤ Convening partner dialogue on national-led food security initiatives.
- >Advocacy about food security in safety net reform.

## Expanding partnerships and establishing new ones

- Increased support from Russia
- Kazakhstan and Ukrania as a new donor
- Private sector strategy in the Gulf
- Increased government buyin to in-country programmes (Iraq, Syria, Jordan)

## **Outstanding Needs**

