



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Food  
Programme

Working together to save lives and livelihoods

# Syrian Arab Republic Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission

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May 2017



# Methodology



## Meetings in Damascus

### Ministries

- Agriculture
- Water resources
- Environment
- Cereal (HOBOOB)
- GOSM

### UN agencies

- Food security/nutrition cluster

### NGOs

## Secondary data

- Rainfall data
- Satellite imagery
- NDVI, ASI, mVAM

## Field visits

### Core team

- Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida

### National teams

- All governorates



## Field

- Governorate officials

- Crop inspections

- Farmers

- Livestock owners

- Traders, bakeries

- Displaced, resident

- household & returnees



# Limitations

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Short duration

Insecurity

Travel restrictions

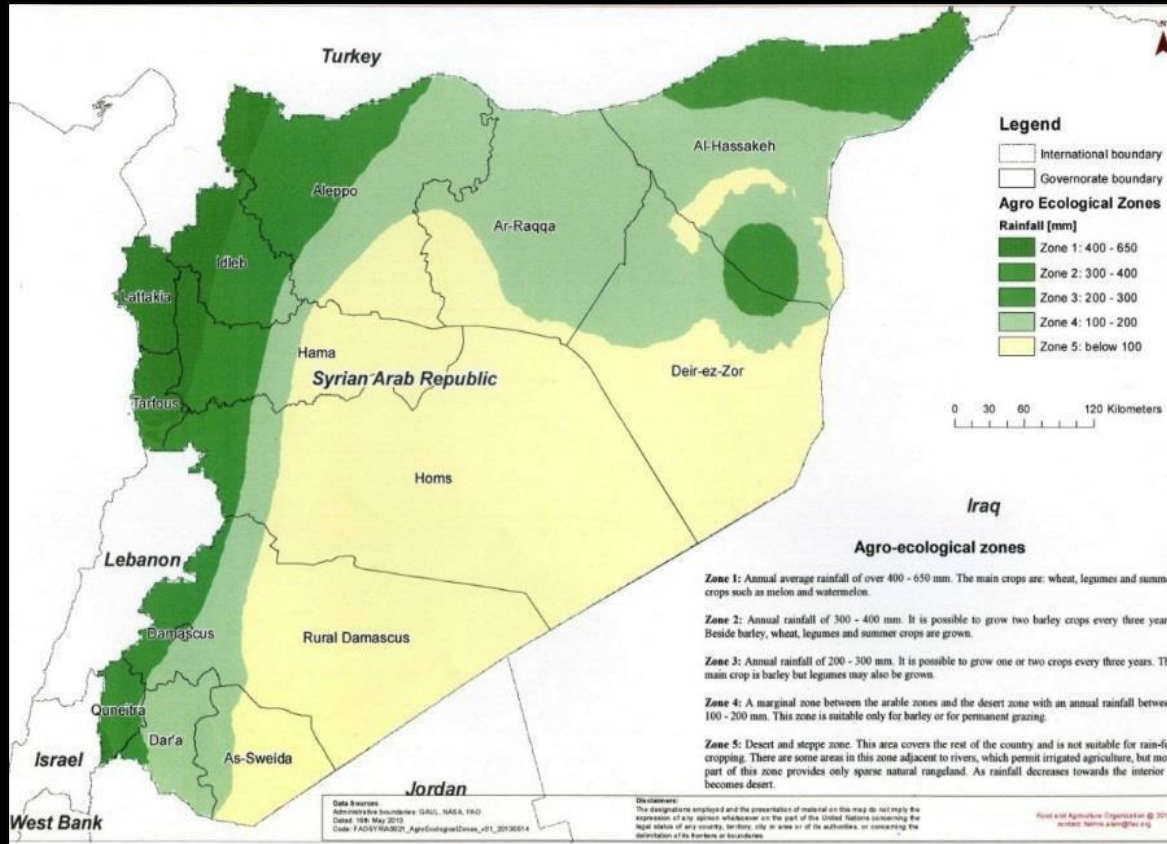
Crop area estimation

**Audit**

# Governorates visited by core team

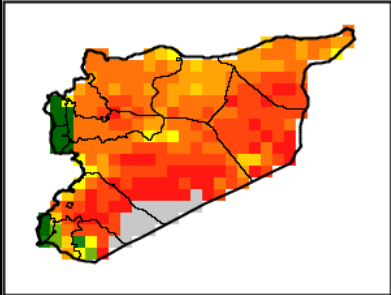
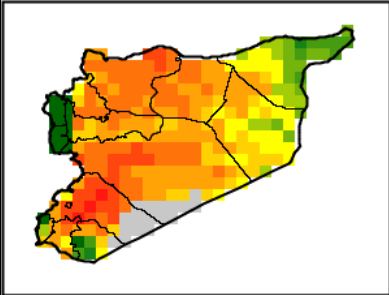
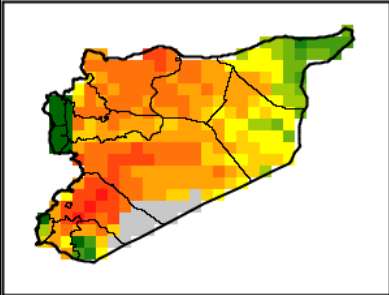
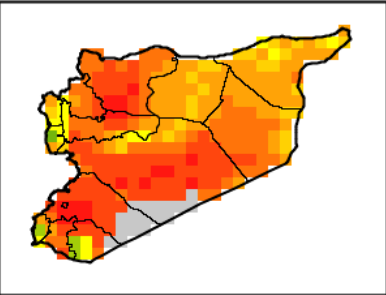


# Syria. Agro-ecological zones

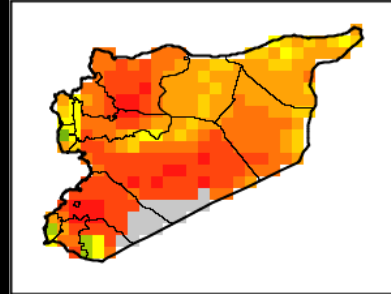
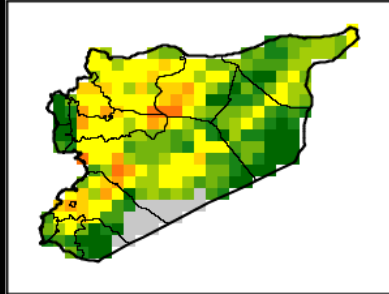
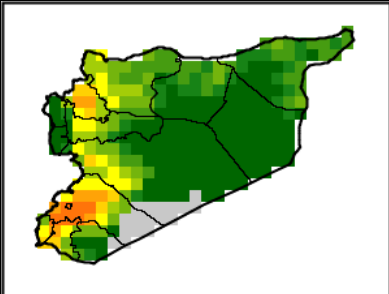
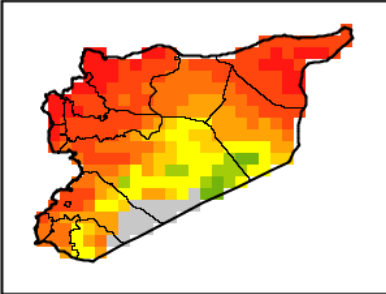


# Rainfall anomaly, February - May

2016

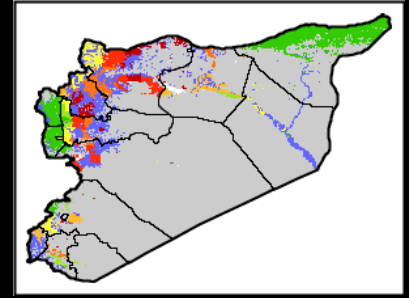
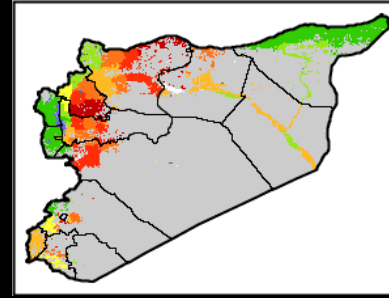
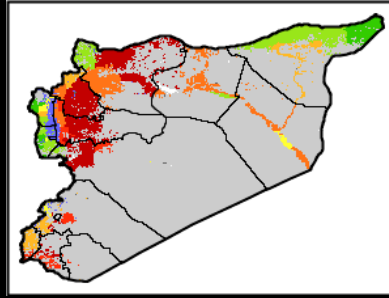
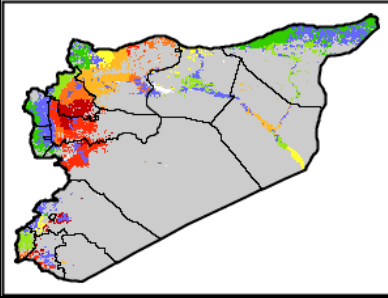


2017

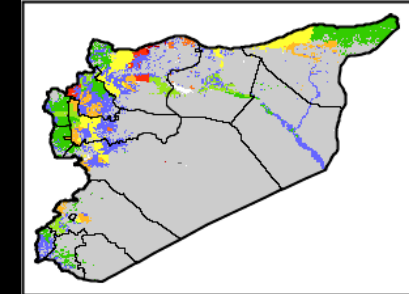
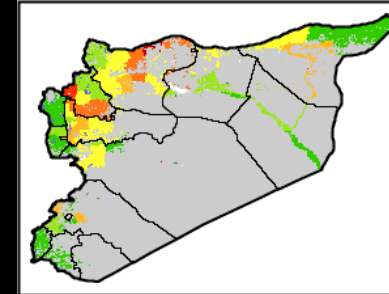
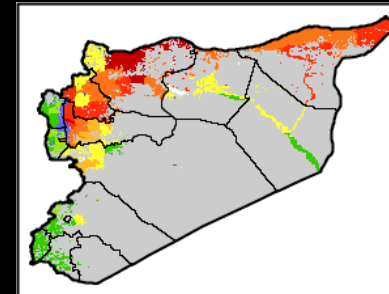
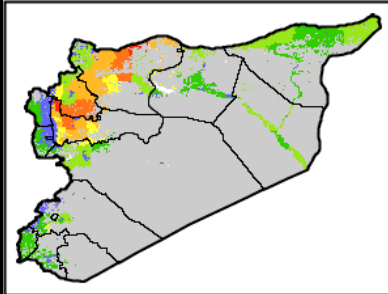


# Agricultural Stress Index, February - May

2016



2017



# Inputs

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**Fuel:** Expensive, but more available than last year

**Mechanization:** Slight increase in availability

**Labour:** locally scarce

**Fertilizer:** Homs factory attacked and closed

**Seed:** limited availability. Own seed

**Pesticides:** prices have doubled in 12 months

**Cost of cereal production:** up about 40% compared with last year





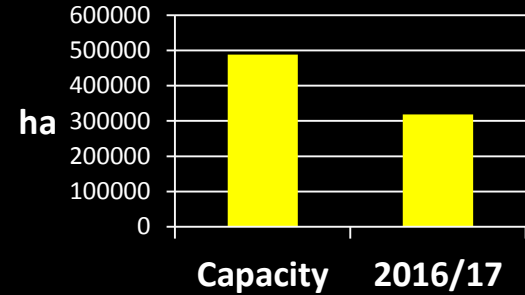
# Irrigation

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- Slight improvement compared with last year
- Better rains, better river flows, more security
- Reduced rate of destruction
- High cost of pumping
- Uncontrolled drilling - local increases in salinity

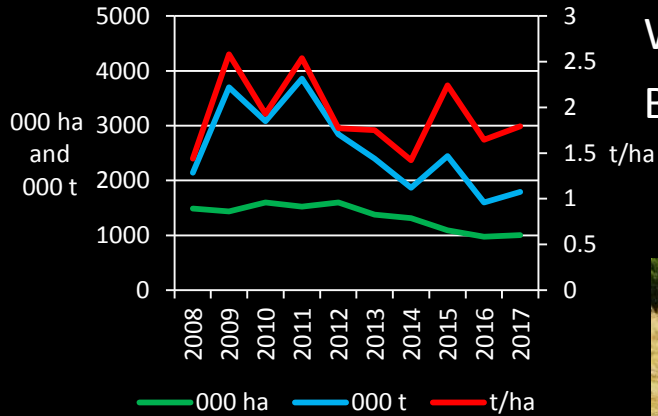


## Public irrigation



# Cereal production

## Wheat



Yield, t/ha

Wheat: 1.8

Barley: 1.0

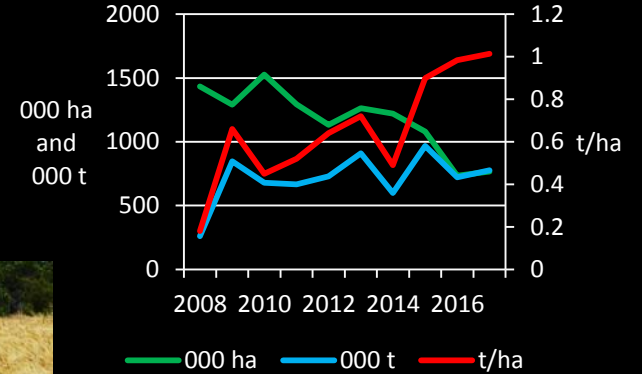
Prod., million t

Wheat: 1.8

Barley: 0.78



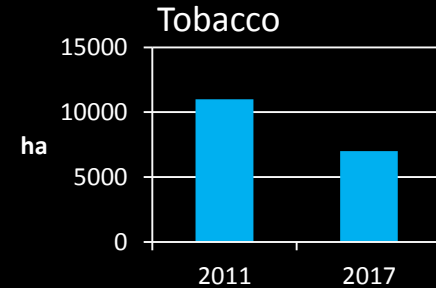
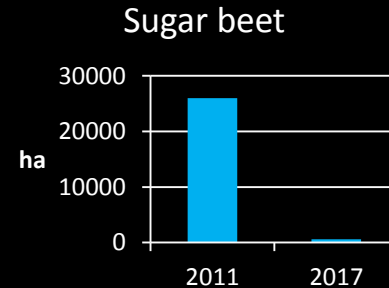
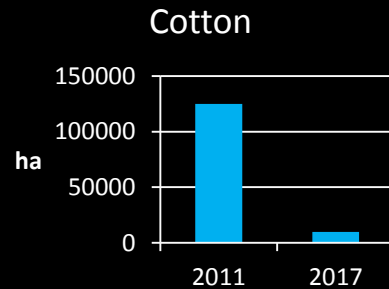
## Barley



# Other crops



Little change in horticultural production since last year  
Slight easing of transport constraints  
Crop protection materials expensive  
Seed limited  
Increasing area under cumin, coriander and lentils



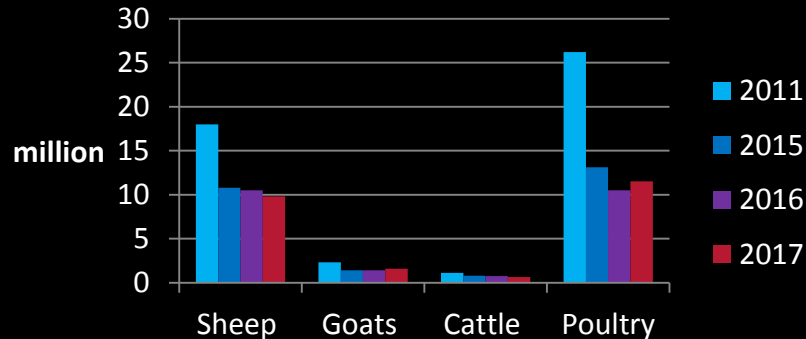
# Livestock



- Greatly reduced numbers
- Shortage of vaccines and other veterinary products
- Shortage of veterinarians
- Health nevertheless relatively good
- High cost of feed
- Increasing tendency towards backyard poultry production
- Good pastures but access limited by insecurity



Numbers



# Recommendations on agriculture

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- ✓ Address the immediate needs
- ✓ Protect, improve and restore agricultural livelihoods

## Priority actions

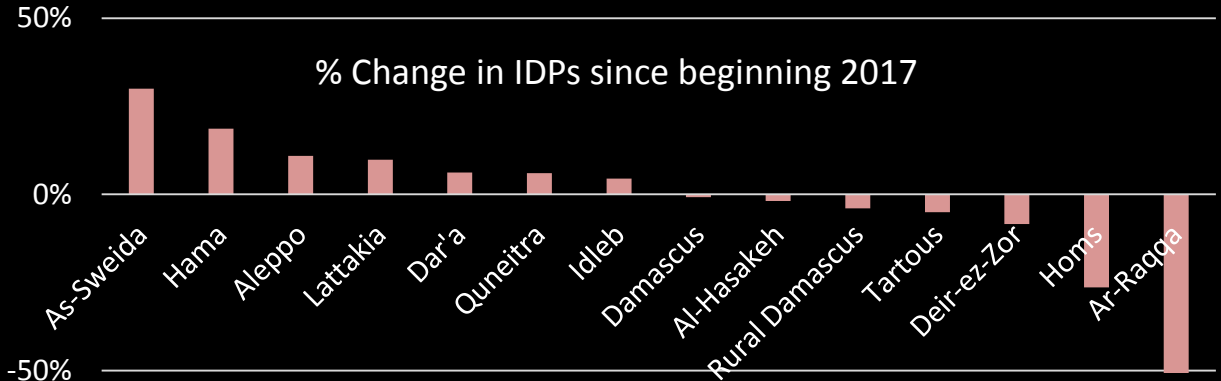
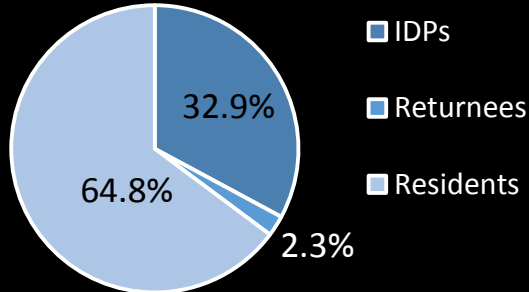
- Provide quality seed for 2017/18 season and support local seed production
- Rehabilitate irrigation systems in secure areas
- Support backyard vegetable and poultry production
- Support livestock vaccination programmes

# Displacement

- Millions have fled war-torn Syria
- 36% are on the move inside Syria
- 6.3 million internally displaced – most of them multiple times
- 440,000 people have returned to their home areas
- Fluidity of the conflict has resulted in new displacements



Population by displacement status



# Humanitarian access

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Access continues to be heavily constrained across Syria

Some of the previous “besieged areas” are now considered “hard-to-reach”

Humanitarian situation in Deir-ez-Zor city has improved due to air-drops

Situation in Ar-Raqqa has become critical due to the continuous fighting

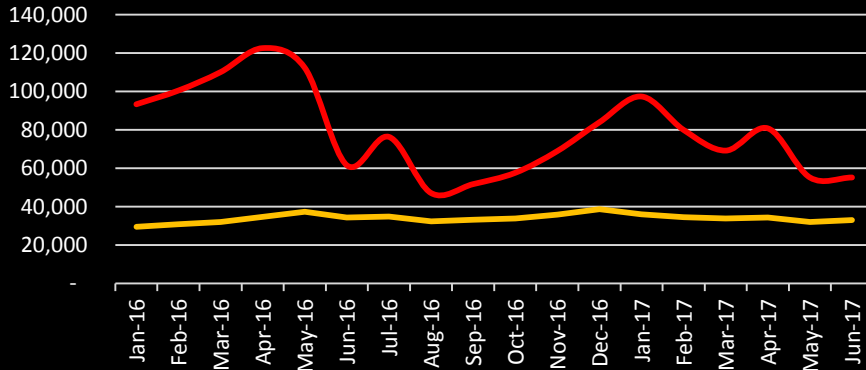


# Market trends

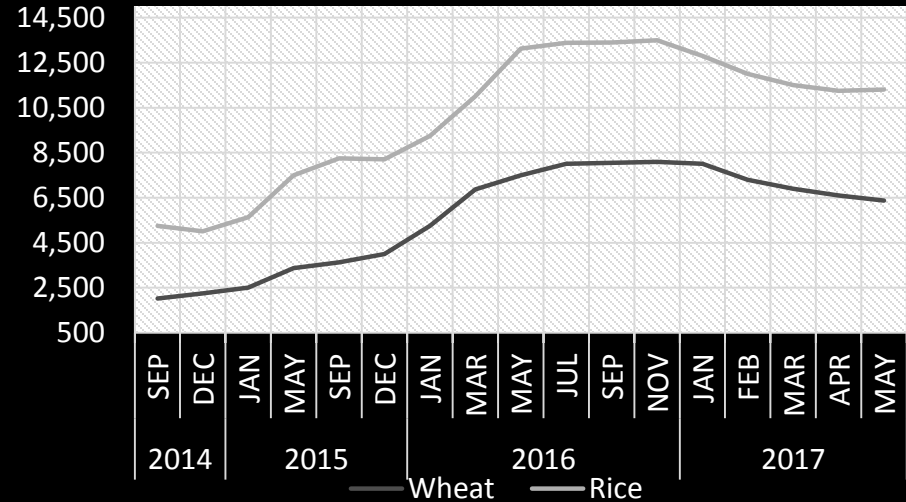
- Opening of supply routes, trade is slowly recovering
- Food prices continue to be very high
- Markets in parts of Eastern Aleppo city slowly starting to recover
- Prices highly volatile in besieged areas



Cost of the standard food basket in Deir-ez-Zor



Wholesale prices, 2014-17 (bag of 25 kg/SYP)



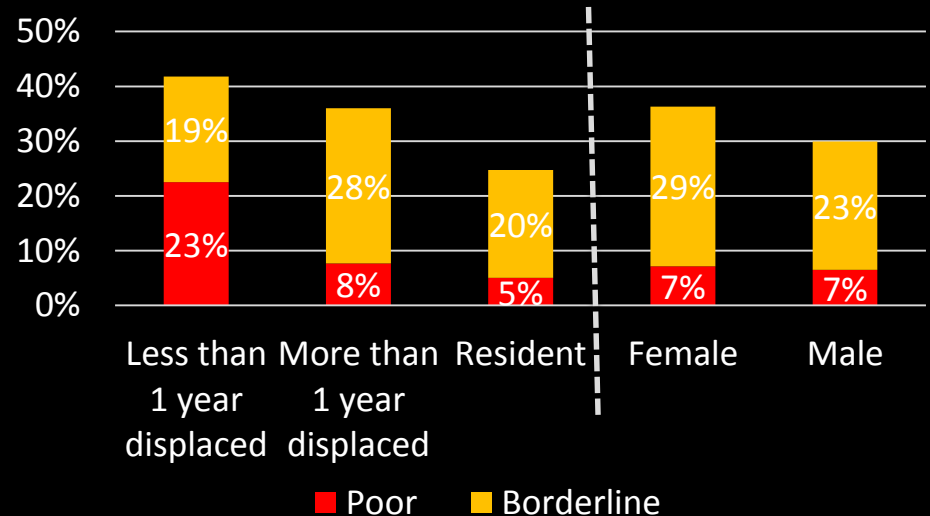




# Food consumption

## Poor and borderline food consumption

- Nearly every third Syrian household has an unacceptable diet
- Situation worse among IDPs, returnees and people living and in besieged and hard-to-reach areas
- Female headed households and large households with many children are more likely to have poor quality consumption



# Coping and asset depletion

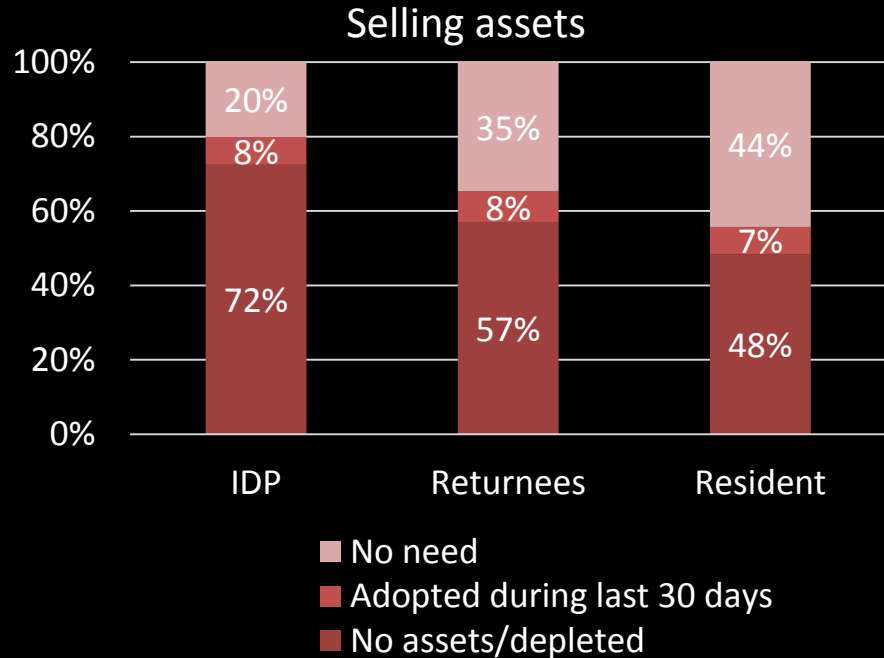
Syrians apply a high degree of coping strategies

Every second households reduced the number of meals

Every third restricts the consumption of adults to prioritize children

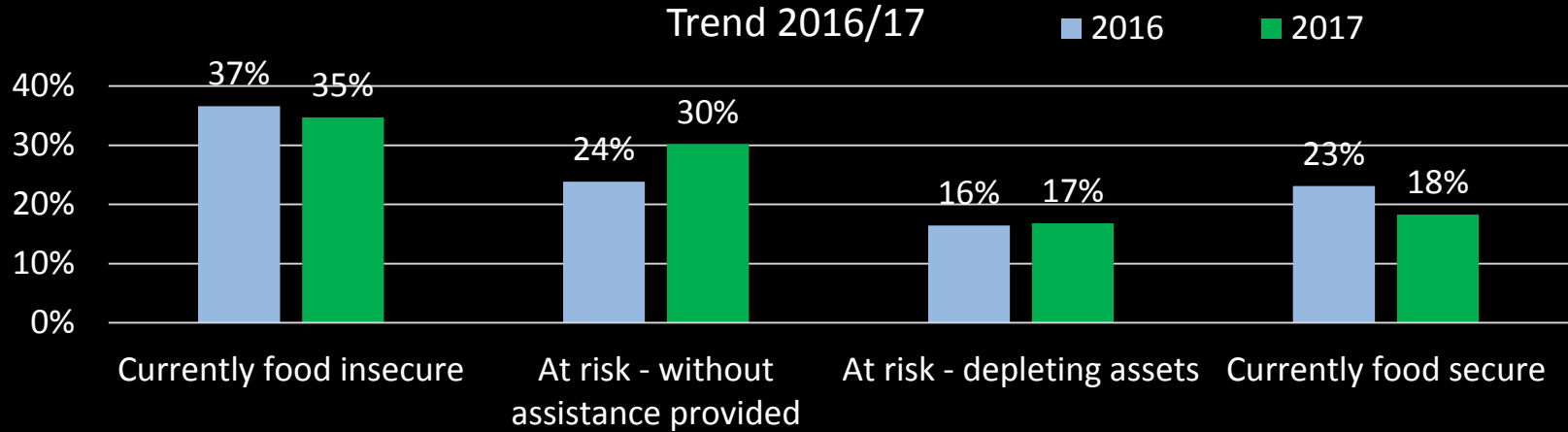
Assets have been largely depleted

Child labour and early drop-outs of school continue to be a major coping strategy of displaced households



# Food security trends

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# Food security overview - estimates

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6.9 million

Food insecure

5.6 million

At risk to become food insecure without assistance provided

3.1 million

At risk as they are depleting assets

3.5 million

Currently food secure

! Assessments are ongoing and new data will become available in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

# Recommendations on food security

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- ✓ Address the immediate needs
- ✓ Provide basis for sustainable longer term solutions

## Priority actions

- Continue **life-saving assistance**, while gradually increasing the focus on **livelihood activities** to rebuild resilience
- Expand the existing **school meals and back-to school** initiatives
- Expand the **nutrition programme**
- Monitor areas with **new influxes of IDPs**



**Thank you**