

Regional Bureau for the Middle East Central Asia and Eastern Europe

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

CHALLENGES

High food prices

Climate change

Reduced revenues

Locust

Resource constraints

Refugees

IDPs

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 Ukraine as a new donor
- Private sector strategy in the Gulf
- Increased government buy-in to in-country programmes (Iraq, Syria, Jordan)

Outstanding Needs

