

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Workshop on Tracking and Monitoring Food Security for Palestine

Food Security Challenges in the Arab Region

Sheraton Amman Al Nabil Hotel, 5th Circle, Amman, Jordan
19-21 July 2022

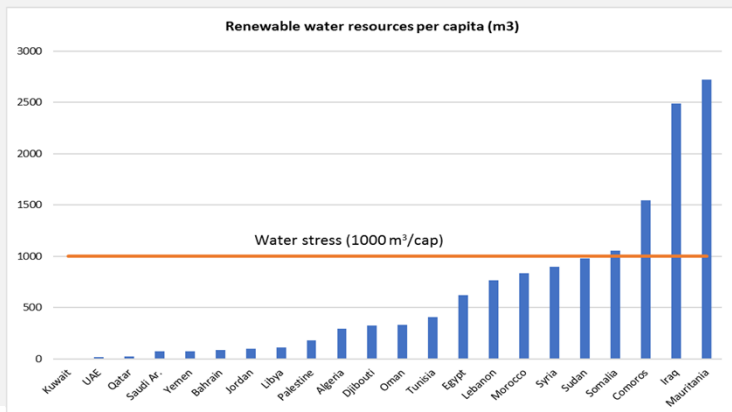
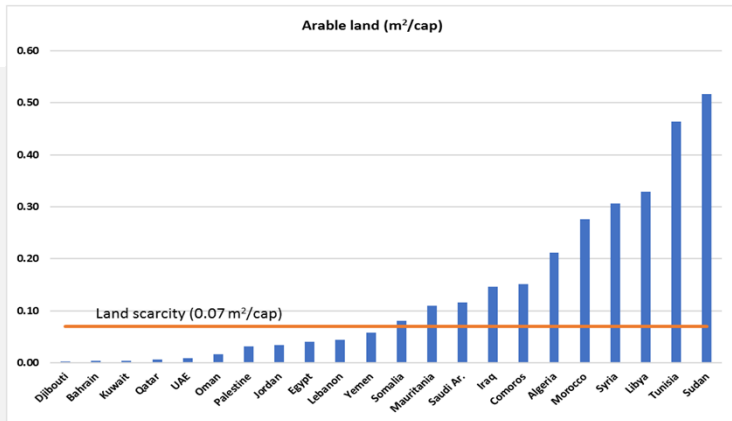


Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



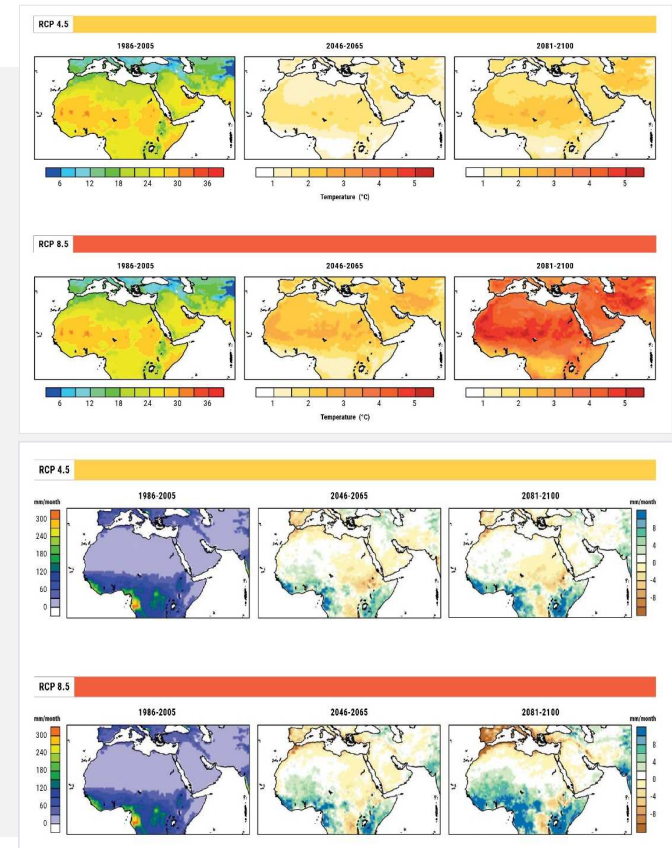
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Lack of resources

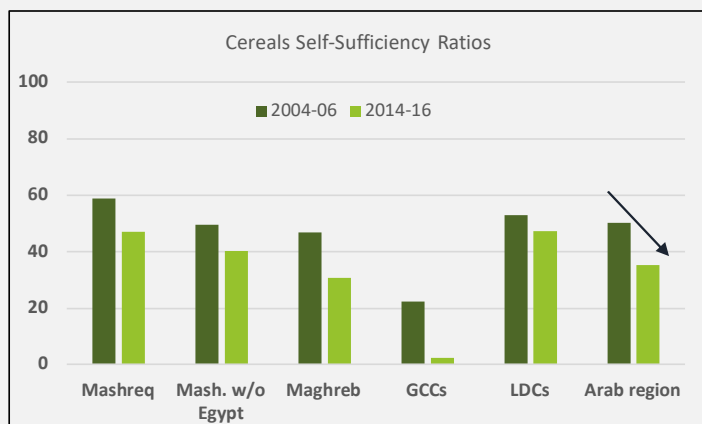
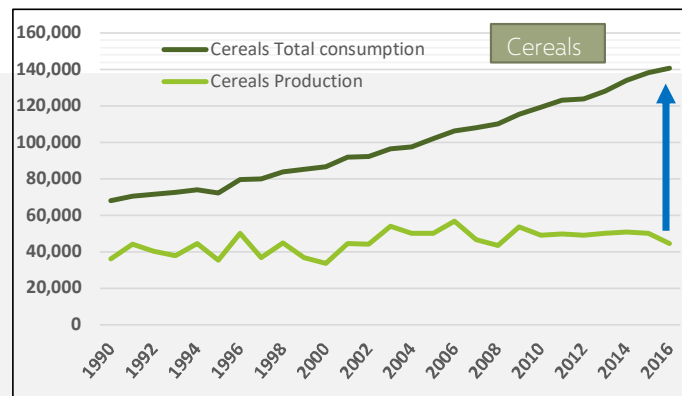
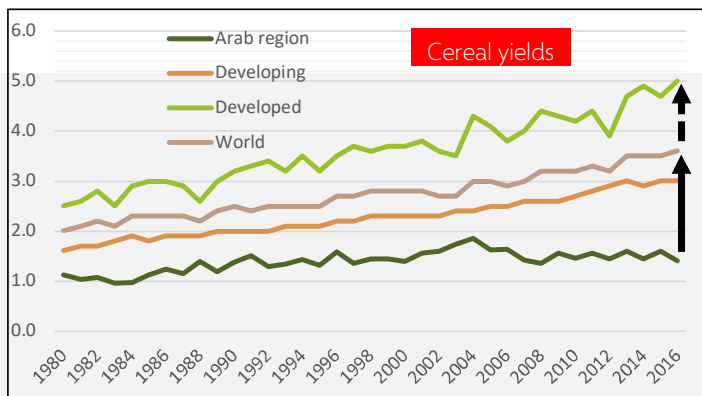


- Increasing scarcity of water and land resources, and

- Growing challenge due to potential impact of climate change



Food availability challenges



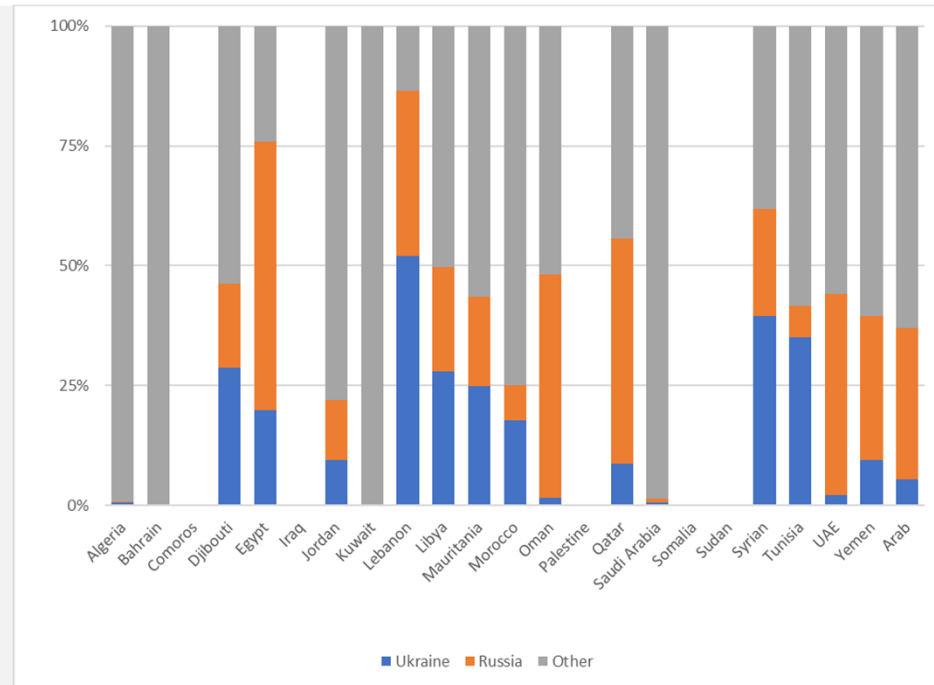
- Slow growth in productivity and production,
- Growing gap between production and consumption,
- Increased reliance on imports to meet demand, and
- Challenge to fund food imports in Arab LDCs

Recent developments

Global food prices are increasing and expected to rise further

High-dependency of the Arab region on the Ukraine and Russia

Prior to Ramadan, most countries had 3-6 months safety stocks, but situation could unravel further in the aftermath as locally prices are rising



Since the beginning of the war, wheat and maize prices have risen by



Overall food prices have globally increased by



Prices are sky high

Food Prices Index

	01/2022	02/2022	03/2022	04/2022
Algeria	11.8	13.2	13.6	
Bahrain	9.5	12.1	10.6	9.7
Egypt	12.5	17.6	19.7	26
Iraq	8.5	7.8		
Jordan	3.9	2.4	3.9	4.3
Kuwait	7.3		7.2	9.13
Lebanon	483.2	396.0	390.4	374
Mauritania	9.4	9.6	11.4	13.4
Morocco	4.2	5.5	9.4	9.4
Oman	5.2	5	4.88	5.47
Palestine	6.6	7.4	9.6	9.7
Qatar	7.2	6.9	3.4	3.6
Saudi Arabia	2.0	2.4	3.0	4.3
Somalia	11.6	12.7	12.0	11.9
Tunisia	7.6	8.9	8.7	8.7

 In Egypt, overall food prices rose by an estimated

17%



 In the Sudan, cereal prices rose by

70%-80%



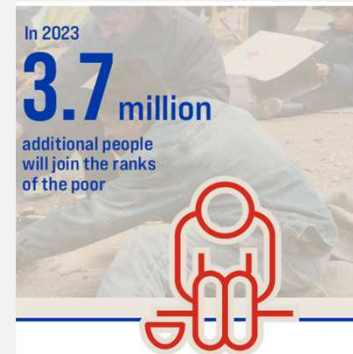
 In the Syrian Arab Republic, particularly in Idlib, dry beans prices rose by

13%



 Sugar prices rose by

27%

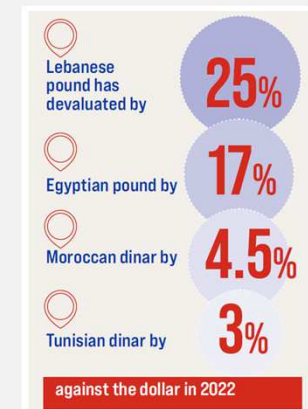
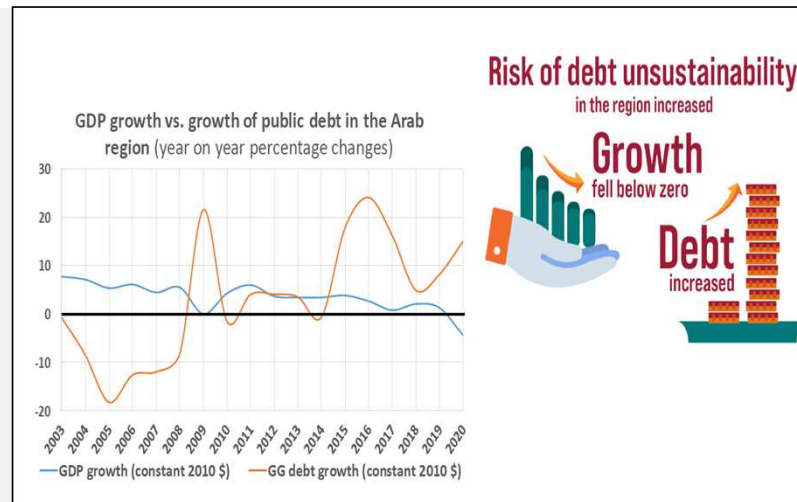


- WFP assists about 19 million people mainly LDCs and conflict- or crises-affected
- It estimates that 57 million are in need of assistance as of March 2022

Poor economic performance

Food Prices Index

- Global growth revised down by the IMF: from 4.9% to 4.4%
- Arab MICs: GDP loss of 2.3%, other Arab countries loss 0.5-0.6% but GCC GDP higher by 0.7%
- Fiscal deficits 2-6% due to lower estimates for oil prices (below \$75)
- Most currencies being devalued



Impact & measures adopted

SELECTED IMPACTS

- Deep shortages for key food items including bread, oil and flour leading to empty shelves and waiting lines
- Hoarding of selected food items such as sunflower oil and flour : e.g., Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia but others as well
- Consumers are making small changes to their food-related habits : from drastic measures to having one meal a day only, to reducing the amount of food (dishes) served/ordered, to changing ingredients, or to eating more at home
- Disbursement of additional funds to assist those in need (Egypt, Morocco or Tunisia)

SELECTED MEASURES

- Budgeting additional assistance to those in need (Egypt, Morocco or Tunisia)
- Price caps on key food items: bread, flour, oil, etc. and punishing contraveners (e.g., Qatar decreased prices on more than 800 commodities during Ramadan while UAE requires special authorization and justification for any price increase)
- Rationing of key food items (Syria)
- Banning the (re-)export of food items (Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, others)
- Allocating suitable public lands for cereal production (Jordan, Lebanon)
- Egypt: incentivizing farmers to sell more wheat to the government
- Assistance through humanitarian organizations (WFP and other NGOs)



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Thank you!