



Impact of crises on wheat availability in Syria: What are the effects on food security?

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Introduction

- Syria is the sixth most food-insecure country in the world. Bread made from wheat is the daily food on the table of Syrians
- According to FAO, the continued conflict in the main cereal-producing areas, together with poor rainfall decreased the 2016 wheat harvest by 37 percent compared to the relatively good output of 2015.
- Agriculture suffered massively, which also affected the economy directly since the agricultural sector makes up 26% of the gross domestic product

Objectives

- Explore factors caused low wheat production during the conflict period (2013-2021)



Figure 1. Location of the study area

Research Materials and Methods:

Research Period: 2013-2021.

Methodology:

- The narrative review approach summarizes and evaluates articles from certain scholarly periodicals.
- The food security indicators include per capita wheat consumption (kg/person/year), food gap, self-sufficiency ratio, and import dependency ratio.

Statistical Indicators Used:

1. Per Capita Wheat Consumption for Food (kg/person/year) = Quantity of wheat used for food / Population.
2. Food Gap = Total availability - Food consumption.
3. Self-Sufficiency Ratio = Production / Total utilization × 100.
4. Self-Sufficiency Ratio = Production / Total utilization × 100.
5. Import Dependency Ratio = Imports / Total utilization × 100.

Results

Table 1. Uncovered shortfall of wheat in Syria from 2013 to 2021

Year	Import Requirement		Uncovered shortfall (M.T)
	commercial imports	Estimated food assistance	
2013		1477	99
2014	1000	378	449
2015		1693	799
2016	800	310	838
2017		1816	581
2018	1100	135	1207
2019		2475	445
2020	1200	68	252
2021		1780	1887
	1300	253	
		3163	
	1000	276	

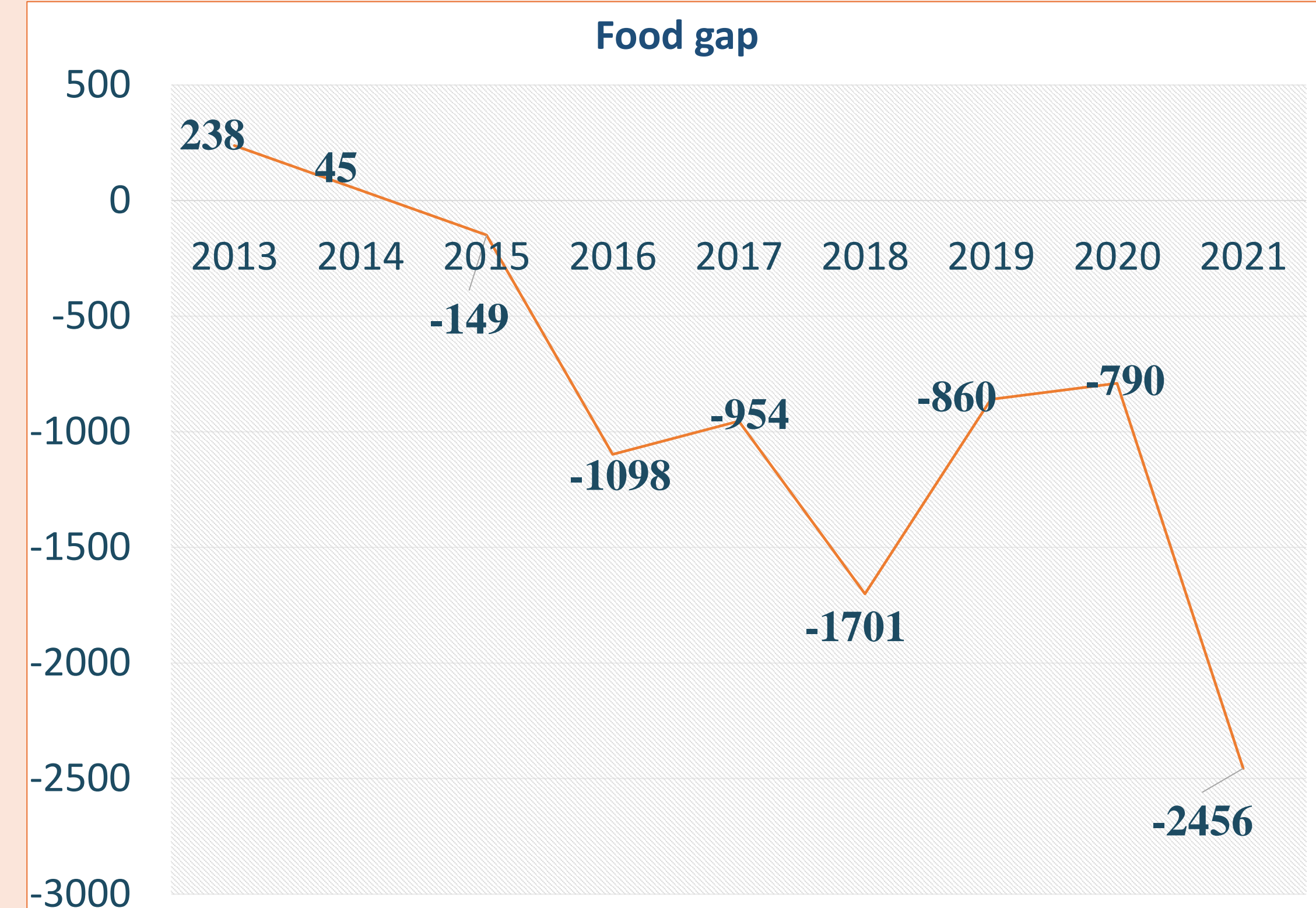


Figure 3. Food gap in Syria from 2013 to 2021



Figure 4. Wheat field in Syria



Figure 5. The staple of the Syrian diet

Import Dependency Ratio

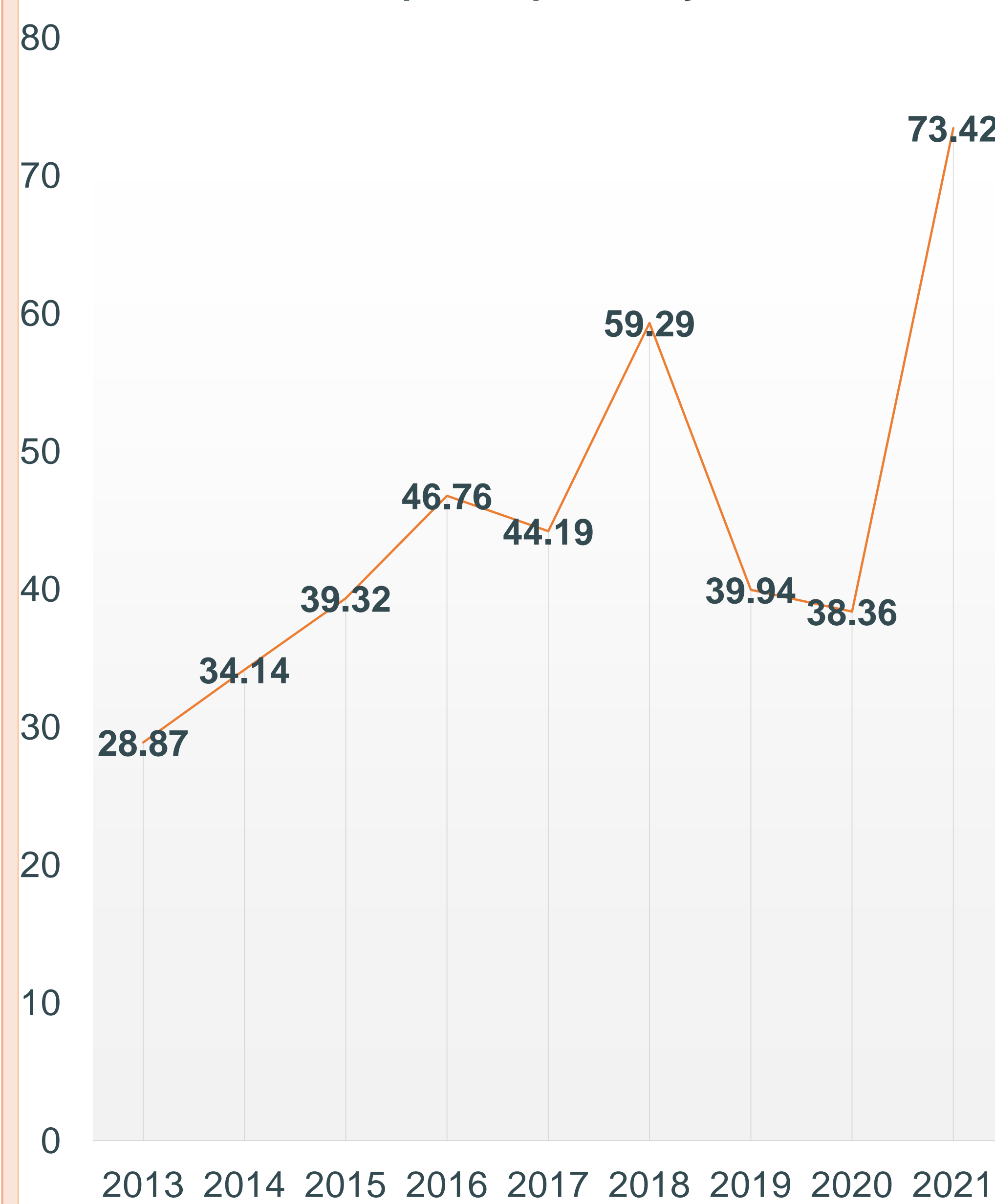


Figure 2. Import Dependency Ratio of wheat in Syria from 2013 to 2021

Conclusions

The Syrian conflict has drastically reduced wheat production, worsening food security. Significant declines in cultivation, yield, and production have increased import dependency and lowered per capita wheat consumption. This study highlights the need for comprehensive strategies to rebuild agricultural resilience and ensure food security in Syria.

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