



Implementing FFS as a post-conflict resolution tool

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Introduction

FFS in action since more than 30 years

- Started in Asia as an innovative tool to solve pest problems; then, can, now solve post-conflict problems?
- Post-conflict FFS in RNE.
- Challenges.



Categorization of FFS in NENA

- Normal rural development context
- Conflict
- Post-conflict

Designing a Farmer Field School Programme



- < 6 months** ▶ Too short consider something other than FFS
- 6-12 months** ▶ Not recommended unless the use of FFS is the most feasible tested solution under the prevailing circumstances
- Up to 2 years** ▶ This recommended minimum duration for acceptable quality FFS implementation
- Over 2 years** ▶ This longer duration is ideal and will allow basic cycles of FFS to be implemented, as well as follow up activities

Differences between implementing FFS in Rural Dev. vs Post-conflict context

Rural Dev.	Post-conflict
Post-conflict	Limited movements - Security
Access - Community readiness	No or difficult Access to inputs, financial capital, human capital, damaged infrastructures
Easy to trust and accept interventions	Suspicious and lack of trust, political interference
Easy to work with groups	Conflicts might have affected grouping -Trauma
No incentives or giveaways	Support in the form of inputs and assets is essential

Strengths and Weaknesses of FFS in Post-conflict

Strengths:

- Linking emergency/humanitarian to early recovery/development.
- Direct participation and inclusiveness.
- Flexible to be adapted to the local context.
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Weaknesses:

- Shortage of skilled facilitators.
- No Guidelines.
- No define suitable exit strategy
- ...



Why FFS in conflict resolution?

- When not to use FFS.
- Which adaptations are needed.
- Which principles to be maintained.
- What could be the role of FFS in returning to normal situations.



Cases from countries with conflict, Syria

Project name	FAO Syria Smallholder Support Programme (SSP) for Agriculture Transformation
Project number	NEAR-TS/2018446-402/
Project duration	01 January 2019 to 31 December 2022 (48) Months
No. of targeted FFS	307
No. of established FFS	307
FFS scope (crops, horticulture, livestock, etc.)	Crops, Livestock
Risks/Challenges faced during implementation	Security situation, transportation and access to FFS.



Special stories and achievements

The conflict in Syria has had a negative impact on livestock farmers, causing a decline in their livestock numbers. Farmers are facing challenges such as high feed prices and lack of access to pasture, leading to extensive destocking. Some farmers have been considering selling their entire herd and moving to search for other jobs, but those who joined the FFS in 2022 have learned good agricultural practices that have helped them increase milk production, process milk, and access markets, allowing them to save money and maximize profits. As a result, farmers continued their activity and now considering increasing the number of cows and staying in their village instead of moving.

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The crisis in Deir Ez Zor resulted in a decrease in social cohesion and an increase in tension between families and individuals. However, the establishment of the FFS by FAO in 2022-2021 helped to improve the situation both socially and economically. The FFS provided a positive and supportive environment for participants, helping to reduce tension and increase social cohesion. Participants developed a sense of familiarity and intimacy with each other through various activities and practical demonstrations, which helped to strengthen social ties and family relations. Overall, the establishment of the FFS had a significant impact on the social and economic well-being of participants, helping them continue working in agriculture effectively.

Cases from countries with conflict, Yemen

Project name	Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen – Joint Programme (ERRY II)
Project number	UNJP/YEM/041/EC
Project duration	2019 to 2022
No. of targeted FFS	4750
No. of established FFS	171
FFS scope (crops, horticulture, livestock, etc.)	tomato, vegetables, coffee, fattening, Dairy
Risks/Challenges faced during implementation	Increased tensions between warring parties of conflict in across the active frontlines in targeted governorates and Tensions between communities (e.g. host communities and IDPs)



Special stories and achievements

Women participation in FFS were not allowed as a result of customs and traditions.

FAO signed LoA with IP to conduct training for beneficiaries and raise the awareness about women participation in FFS. IP trained the women from same community and hired them to work at the project as facilitators. The community started to accept this idea and encourage the women to participate in FFS. Women participated in FFS and benefited much knowledge where their production increased while their skills developed.

Project name	Yemen Small Holder Agricultural Productivity Restoration and Enhancement Project (SAPREP)
Project number	OSRO/YEM/704/WBK
Project duration	2017
No. of targeted FFS	307
No. of established FFS	105
FFS scope (crops, horticulture, livestock, etc.)	Cereal, vegetables, livestock
Risks/Challenges faced during implementation	Insecurity, Accessibility to project area, and COVID 19



In Maqbanah District of Taiz governorate, the community had been a conflict on irrigation from the well. Where they were suffering from water scarcity and using water of well to irrigate the vegetables.

FAO carried out the FFS using the drip irrigation networks, that farmers adopted the drip irrigation network during their experiment in the FFS. The water from the well became enough for farmers using drip irrigation networks for all of them and stopped irrigation by open canals to save the water.

Proposed roadmap for developing tailored FFS as a post-conflict resolution tool

- Develop FFS Guidelines as a post-conflict resolution tool.
- Develop training materials to current and future facilitators.
- Create a cadre of Master trainers.
- Tools for situational analysis, risk assessment, value chain crosscutting areas with FFS.
- Evaluation tool for the special cases of FFS in post-conflict countries and emergency situations.