



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Niger

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 4

Results and recommendations
November 2022

Data collection 13 July to 13 August 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a household survey between 13 July and 13 August 2022 to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security in Niger.

Data were collected through a telephone survey in all regions of Niger (Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder), with the exception of the urban community of Niamey. Between 231 and 335 households were sampled in each region, equalling 1 999 households interviewed in total. Weights were calculated based on population size and post-stratifications (access to drinking water and household agricultural activities). Data collection took place during the rainy season.

Comparisons were made with the previous survey conducted during February and March of 2022 (the off-season). They illustrate the evolution of difficulties and needs over the period and are provided as an indication, as the agricultural periods are not directly comparable.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



Source of data: FAO. 2022. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 3 October 2022. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World*. Cited 3 October 2022. un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO established the DIEM-Monitoring System to collect, analyse and disseminate data on shocks and livelihoods in countries prone to multiple shocks. DIEM-Monitoring aims to inform decision making by providing regularly updated information on how different shocks are affecting the livelihoods and food security of agricultural populations.

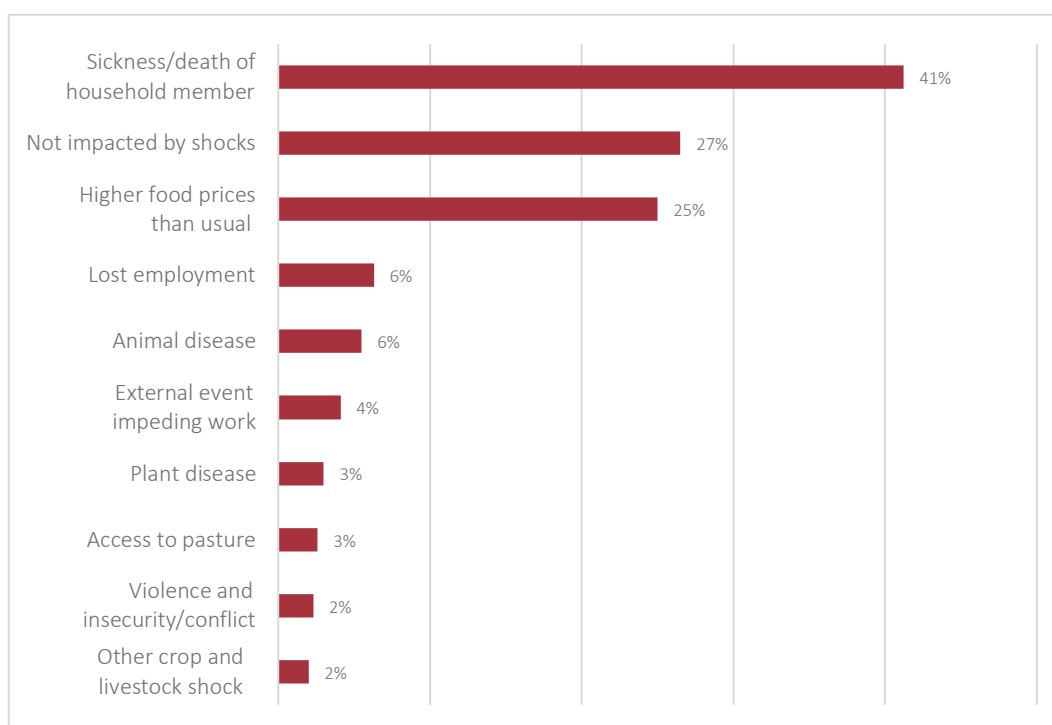
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of the Niger and other countries.

Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

Most households (73 percent) experienced at least one shock during the three months preceding the survey. All regions were affected, although Zinder had the highest percentage of those impacted (79 percent). The primary reported shock was illness or death of a household member (41 percent) (Figure 2). Crop farmers (81 percent) and livestock keepers (75 percent) experienced more shocks than other categories of households surveyed.

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 September 2022. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Over the three months preceding the survey, 48 percent of households reported a drop in their primary income. The drop was particularly high in Agadez and Diffa (56 percent), Maradi (55 percent) and Tillabéry (51 percent) regions. For most regions, this decline is explained by the poor harvests of the 2021 season, which did not allow producers to build up sufficient stock. It may also be attributed to the general rise in prices of local products (cereals, animals, etc.), which reduced demand. Additionally, insecurity in the Tillabéry region led to the abandonment of crops and reduced the volume of trade to the capital, particularly sales of poultry, to the benefit of other regions.

Crops

Figure 3. The Niger agricultural calendar



Source of data: FAO. 2022. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Niger. In: *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. Rome. Cited 10 October 2022. fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=NER&lang=en

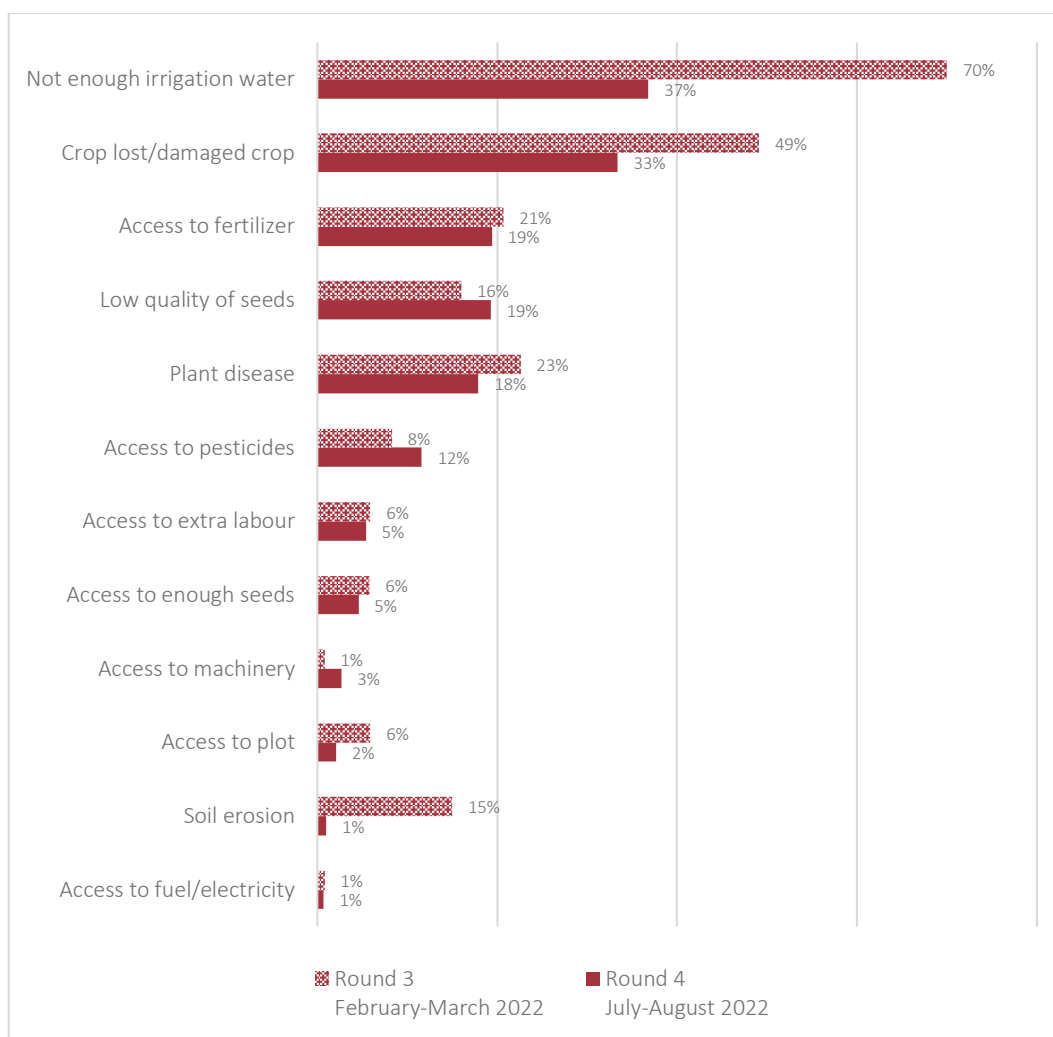
Sixty-three percent of households surveyed were crop producers. Of these, 76 percent reported production difficulties, resulting in a decrease in the area cultivated (48 percent), as well as a lower estimate of expected harvests compared to a normal year (54 percent).

The decrease in cultivated area can be explained by low seed stocks (due to the poor 2021 season) and the late arrival of the rains, which led to successive sowings that depleted household stocks (large variations by area in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions, which practice dry sowing, and in Tillabéry).

The anticipated decline in harvest should be treated with caution, as the survey took place during a period of low rainfall. The country subsequently experienced a significant improvement in rainfall.

Concerning crop production difficulties, farming households primarily reported a lack of rain or irrigation water (37 percent), crop damage during the growing season (33 percent), lack of fertiliser and poor seed quality (19 percent) and plant diseases (18 percent) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Crop production difficulties (percentage of crop producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (February–March 2022 and July–August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 September 2022. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

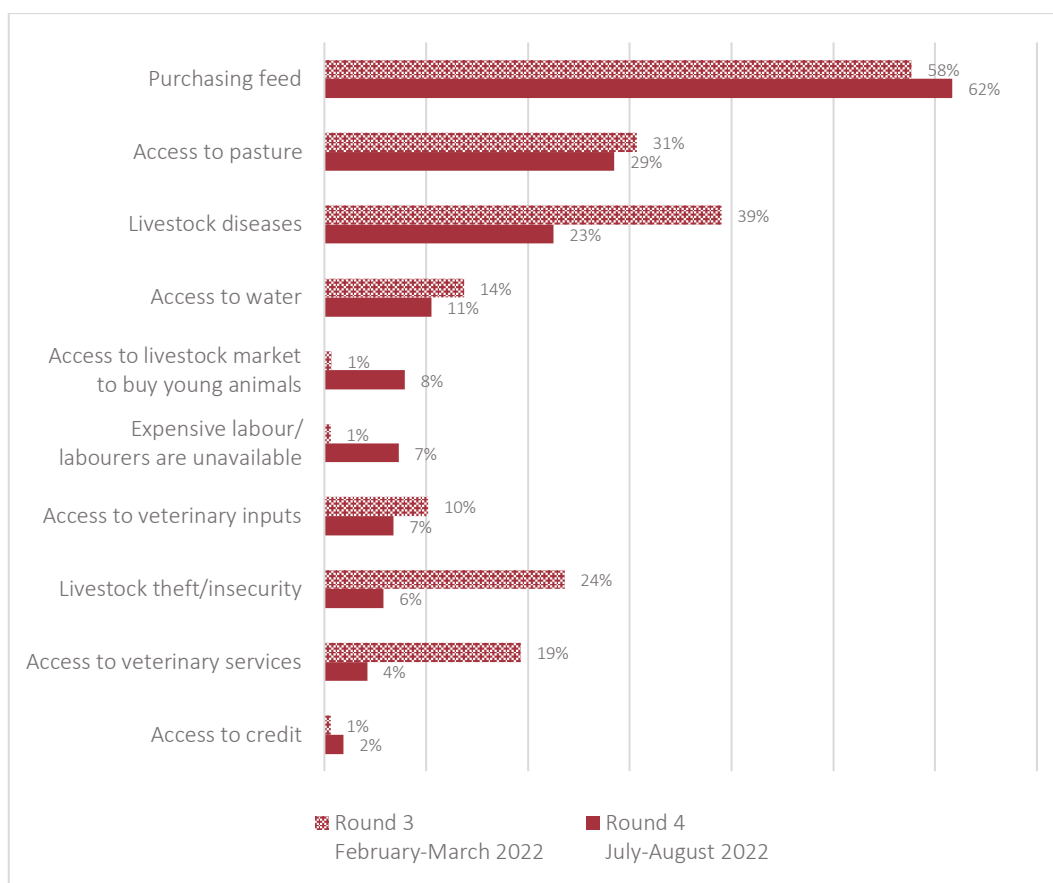
In the three months preceding the survey, 50 percent of producers marketed their crops. Of these, 64 percent reported difficulties related to physical access to markets (44 percent), which can be explained in the regions of Agadez and Tahoua by the development of banditry and the deteriorating state of the roads.

Livestock

Of households surveyed, 80 percent were engaged in livestock production. For 58 percent of those, herd size was reportedly decreasing – notably due to distress sales (35 percent) and the death of animals (27 percent).

Seventy-one percent of farmers reported production difficulties in the three months prior to the survey, including difficulties purchasing feed (62 percent), access to pasture (29 percent) and animal disease or death (23 percent) (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Livestock production difficulties (percentage of livestock producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (February–March 2022 and July–August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 September 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

An average decrease in herd size of 0.38 tropical livestock units (TLU) compared to the same period of the previous year was observed. In general, the decline in average livestock size can be explained by increased household vulnerability following the rise in prices and the poor results of the 2021 season. The transhumance of large livestock was also disrupted by insecurity and the closure of borders, which locally increased pressure on pastures and the availability of livestock feed. The increase in bush fires (particularly in the Maradi and Tahoua regions) and the decline in pasture production in Diffa and Tillabéry reduced the supply of feed. Finally, while feed is relatively available, its price was too high for herders to afford it.

Marketing difficulties affected 62 percent of livestock keepers and were primarily related to access to markets (43 percent) and higher transport costs (23 percent).

Food security

According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), 72 percent of households surveyed were moderately or severely food insecure in the recent past, with 13 percent being severely insecure.¹

Analysis of the household hunger scale revealed that 50 percent of households experienced little or no hunger, 44 percent experienced moderate hunger and 6 percent experienced severe hunger.

According to the household dietary diversity score (HDDS), 83 percent of households surveyed had low dietary diversity, 12 percent had moderate dietary diversity and 5 percent had high dietary diversity. Non-agricultural households reported a significantly better HDDS (72 percent had low HDDS and 11 percent had high HDDS) than agricultural households (82 percent with low HDDS, 13 percent with medium HDDS and 6 percent with high HDDS), due to their greater proximity to markets. Farming households relied more on the consumption of their own produce (which is difficult during the lean season).

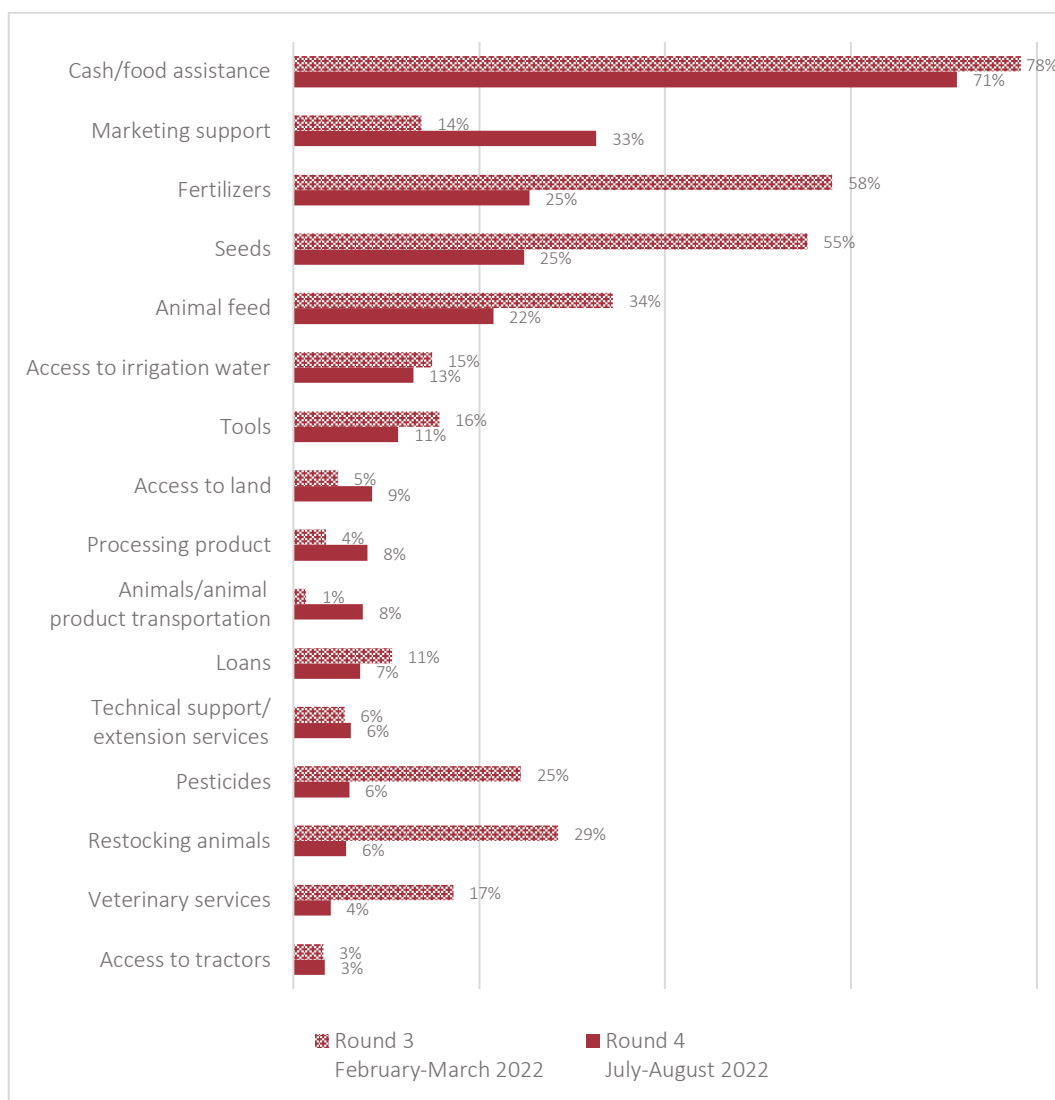
Coping strategies were primarily oriented towards emergency strategies (53 percent), followed by crisis strategies (19 percent) and stress strategies (18 percent). Non-agricultural households adopted significantly fewer emergency strategies (26 percent) than agricultural households (49 percent).

¹ FIES results are subject to change. The country scale will continue to evolve over additional rounds of data collection allowing for more consistent comparability across rounds.

Needs

Almost all households surveyed (97 percent) said they would need assistance within the next three to six months. Food or cash assistance was most frequently cited (71 percent), followed by marketing support (33 percent), fertiliser and seed supply (25 percent) and livestock feed (22 percent) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Main needs of assistance (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (February-March 2022 and July-August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 September 2022. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Crop producers requested assistance in cash (63 percent), fertilizer (41 percent) and seeds (38 percent), while livestock keepers preferred assistance in cash (71 percent), feed (34 percent) and marketing support (25 percent). The latter request can be explained by the difficulties encountered in selling live animals in neighbouring countries, accessing fairs and fattening.

Recommendations

- > **Crops:** Consolidation of harvesting and conservation techniques, particularly for market gardening; increased monitoring of weather forecasts to inform producers of rainfall; awareness-raising on the use of fertilizer and quality seeds; promotion of alternatives to pesticides; and support for the multiplication and marketing of quality seeds, particularly by developing multipliers.
- > **Livestock:** Securing grazing areas against bush fires; financial assistance to livestock farmers for the purchase of feed and necessities; recovery of grazing areas occupied by unused species; and popularization of strategic destocking to benefit from favourable prices while freeing up more resources for food.
- > **Food security:** Support for nutritional education to diversify food consumption; promotion of home gardens; development of local markets that stabilize price increases by limiting transport costs; and assist vulnerable farmers with agricultural inputs for the 2022/23 crop season via vouchers, with emphasis on more drought-tolerant varieties and on diversifying agricultural commodities.



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