



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**Somalia**

# DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 5

Results and recommendations  
March 2023

**Data collection** 12 December 2022 to 14 January 2023

## Key highlights

- > There are high levels of food insecurity across the country. According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, a large proportion of rural households (67 percent) are in the indicative Integrated Phase Food Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or worse. Thirty-one percent have borderline and 29 percent have a poor food consumption score. In terms of livelihood coping strategies, a total of 68 percent of households employed emergency coping strategies and 24 percent engaged in crisis coping strategies. Food security outcomes are particularly dire in Bakool, Bari, Bay, Galgaduud, Middle Jubba, Mudug and Sanaag.
- > Most households reported a single source of income, and the lack of options for income generation has exacerbated the economic instability. A majority of households experienced a decline in their primary source of income. Awdal, Bari, Lower Jubba, Sanaag, Sool and Waqooyi Galbeed were hit the hardest.
- > The majority of cropping households relied on rain-fed irrigation and due to the ongoing drought, experienced a decrease in both cultivated area and harvest. The regions that experienced the most major decreases in harvest were Awdal, Lower Jubba, Middle Jubba, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool and Waqooyi Galbeed.
- > All regions experienced a decrease in herd size over the last year, associated with livestock mortality and distress sales attributed to drought, pests or diseases.
- > It is recommended that the national and regional early warning systems on climate and livestock body conditions are used, and government ministries and development partners are worked with to implement offtake programmes and destocking during the early warning of impending drought period.

## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a household survey in Somalia through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. This fifth-round survey was conducted in all regions of Somalia, except for Banaadir. In each region, 160 agricultural households were targeted, a total of 2 720 households. All surveyed regions reached at least 90 households, the minimum required as reliability criteria for the IPC analysis, except for Middle Juba which only reached 57 households. The results for Middle Juba are, therefore, not representative at a regional level.

Interviews for this fifth-round survey were conducted during the *Deyr* rain season from 12 December 2022 to 14 January 2023 through computer-assisted telephone interviews. A total of 2 479 households were reached during the survey. Panel lists of households reached in previous rounds were used, in addition to random digital dialing when the sample size could not be reached in the region using the panel list. Data were weighted at the analytical stage and is representative at administrative level 1. The previous fourth-round survey was conducted from 7 April to 27 May 2022 and is drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 3 November 2022. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)  
**Source of map:** United Nations. 2023. *Map of the World*. Cited 3 November 2022. [un.org/geospatial/content/map-world](https://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 Somalia and other countries.

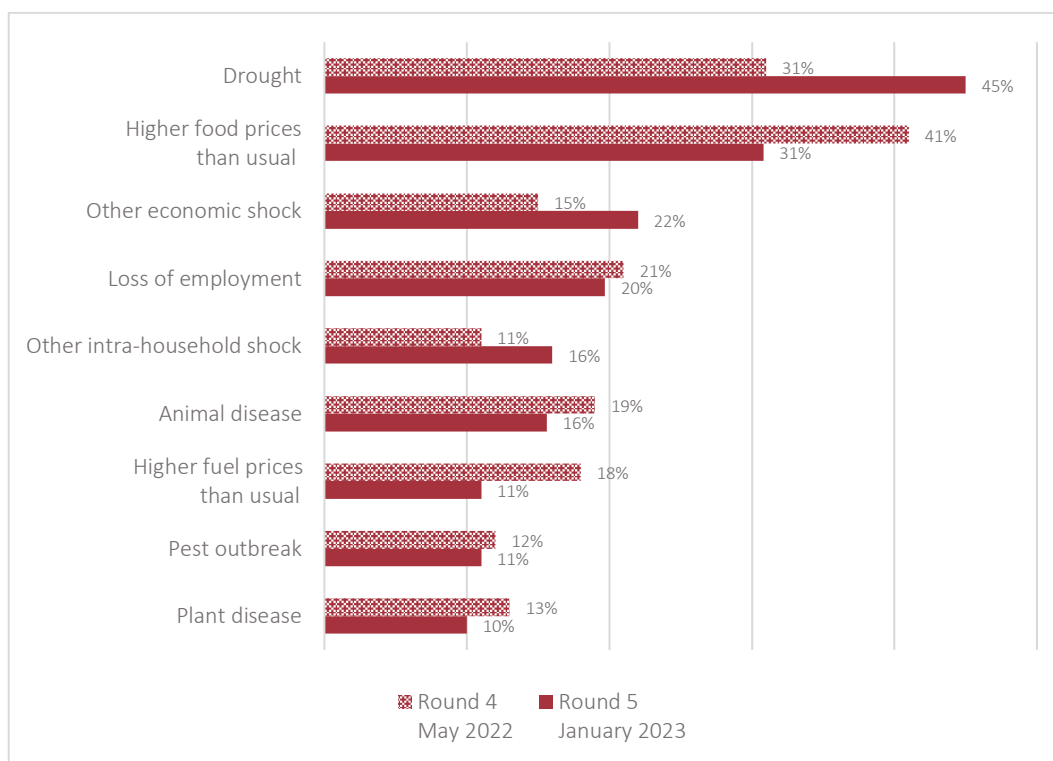
> Learn more at [data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring)

## Income and shocks

The households experienced a decline in the main source of income for 65 percent of households during the fifth round. Twenty percent reported that income remained the same, and only 13 percent reported an increase, a slight improvement compared to the previous round. Despite this, the impact of the decline in main source of income was felt across all categories of livelihoods, with non-agricultural households experiencing less of an impact. However, at the regional level, certain areas, such as Awdal, Bari, Lower Jubba, Sanaag, Sool and Waqooyi Galbeed were hit harder by the decline. The limited options for generating income available to households makes them more vulnerable to economic instability and the erosion of purchasing power once prices rise. The majority of households (80 percent) depend heavily on a single source of income. However, the households that did not experience a shock, such as drought or high food prices, were less likely to report a decline in their main source of income, in contrast to those who did report experiencing a shock.

Multiple shocks continue to plague rural households. Eighty-two percent reported experiencing a shock three months preceding the survey. Drought emerged as the most frequently reported shock, affecting nearly half of all households, followed by high food prices and economic shocks (Figure 2). Other notable shocks included loss of work or employment, plant pests and diseases, animal diseases and high fuel prices.

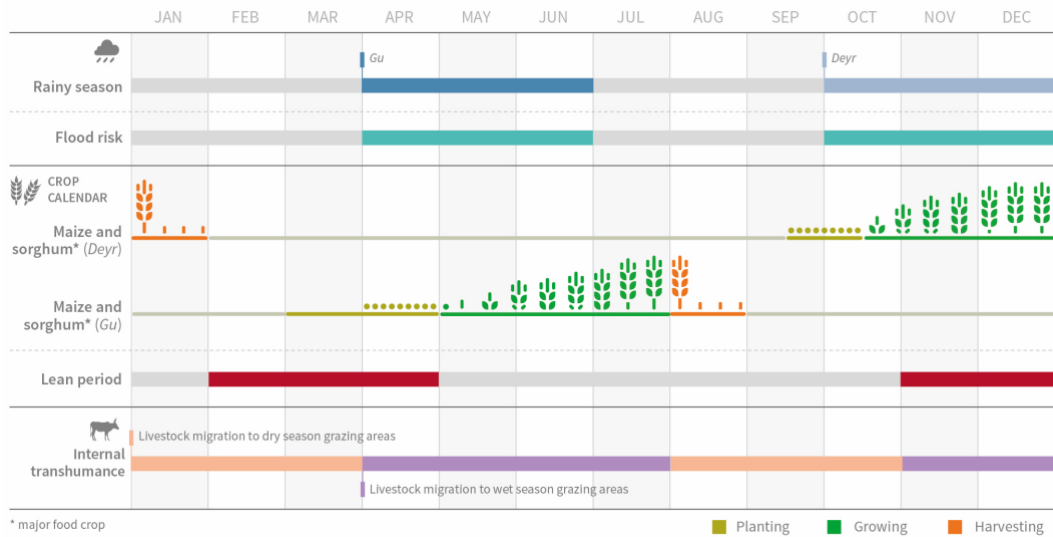
Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May 2022 and January 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

## Crops

Figure 3. Somalia agricultural calendar

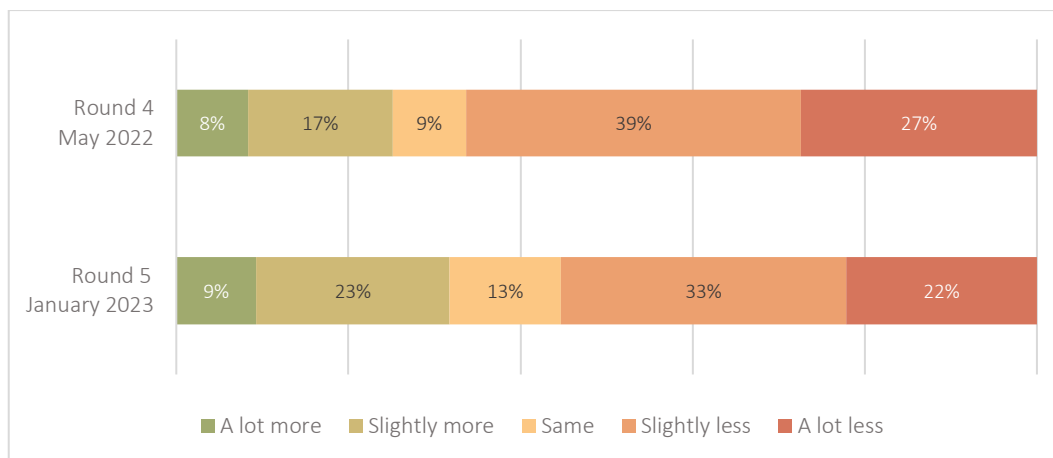


Source of data: FAO. 2023. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Somalia. In: *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=SOM](http://fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=SOM)

During the last *Deyr* season, maize, sorghum, millet, beans, tomatoes, sesame and onions were cultivated. The majority of crop producing households relied on rainfed irrigation for their crop production, and the area planted was reduced due to ongoing drought, with 56 percent of households reporting a decrease. Of those, 22 percent noted that the decrease was significantly greater than in a typical year.

The majority of households cultivated less than three hectares during the *Deyr* season. The percentage of households reporting a decrease in cultivated area was reported by 54 percent (Figure 4). A similar proportion of households, 57 percent, reported a decrease in harvest. The regions most heavily impacted by the decrease in harvest were Waqooyi Galbeed, Sool, Nugaal, Awdal, Mudug, Middle Shabelle and Lower Jubba. Figure 4 indicates a slight improvement in harvest following the *Gu* season (May 2022). The data collected during the fifth round were collected during the harvest of main staples – maize and sorghum. Despite the harvest, food security outcomes were not positively impacted.

Figure 4. Change in crop harvest (percentage of crop producers)



**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May 2022 and January 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

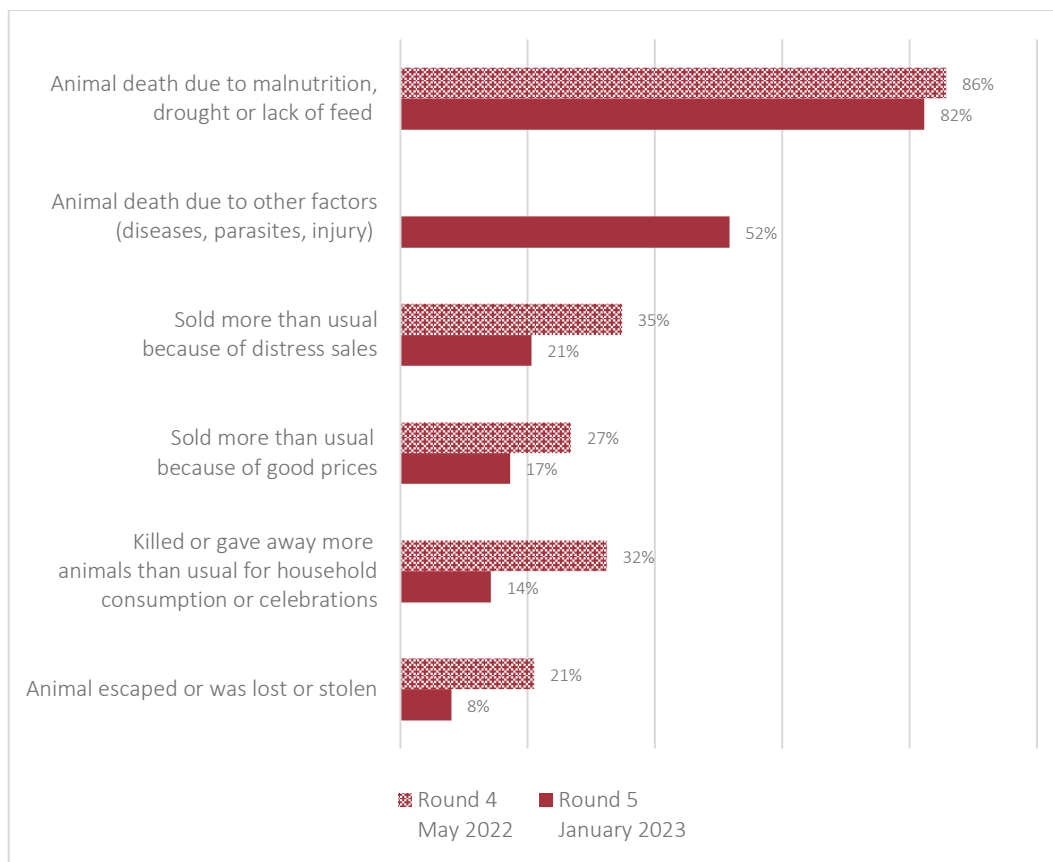
Seventy-four percent of crop producing households reported difficulties with crop production. Pest outbreaks (65 percent) were most frequently reported followed by plant diseases (54 percent), lack of farming water (49 percent), lack of access to fertilizer (28 percent), poor seed quality (23 percent) and lack of seeds (18 percent).

Seventy-two percent of households sourced seeds from the market, while 36 percent relied on their own production and 14 percent relied on other sources. FAO’s seed distribution programme distributed seeds after the assessment which may explain the reliance on other sources of seeds, especially market purchases. Sixty-three percent of households that sold their crops reported challenges with crop sales, including transportation and marketing challenges (66 percent), low selling prices (47 percent), lack of demand (28 percent), damage and losses (27 percent), payment delays (25 percent) and lack of processing inputs (21 percent).

## Livestock

In the rural communities surveyed, 42 percent of households reported engaging in livestock rearing, and the majority reported mainly goats over the past year. There was a reduction in herd size over the past year, with an average decrease of 42 animals across all regions. This decline was primarily attributed to animal deaths due to drought (82 percent), deaths from pests or diseases (57 percent), distress sales (21 percent), normal sales (17 percent) and household consumption (14 percent) (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Reported reasons for the decrease in the number of livestock (percentage of livestock producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May 2022 and January 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

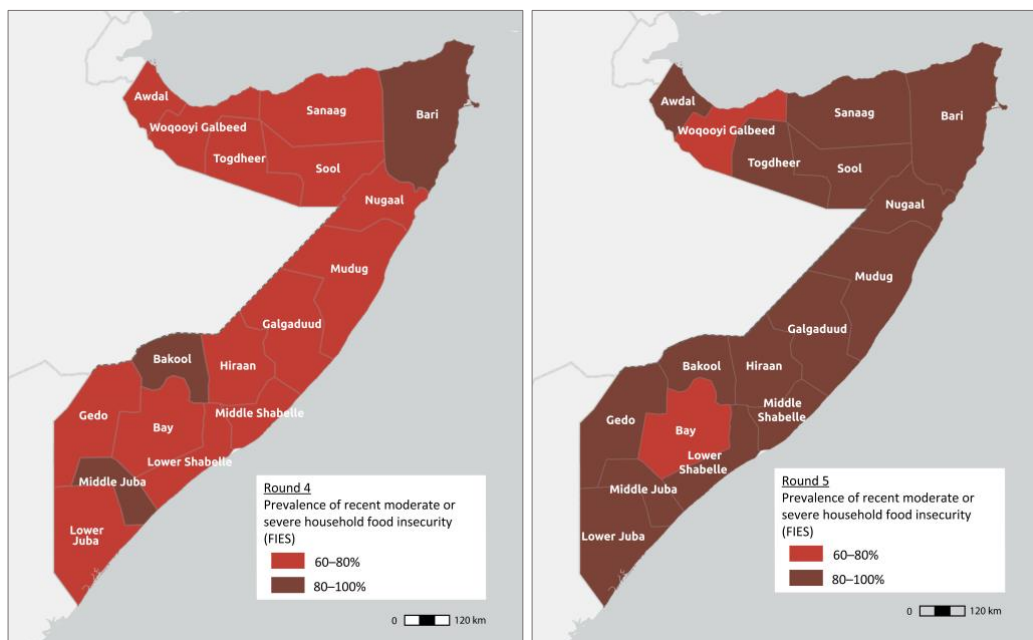
Challenges in livestock production were reported by 75 percent of households. The most commonly cited difficulties were lack of pasture (85 percent), water (78 percent), veterinary services (40 percent), diseases (40 percent), veterinary inputs (32 percent) and access to feed (23 percent). Difficulty selling livestock was reported by 73 percent of households, with the main issues being poor prices (66 percent), low demand (47 percent), high transportation costs (39 percent), payment delays from traders (37 percent) and lack of processing equipment (23 percent).

## Food security

FIES<sup>1</sup> analysis reveals a dire situation for most households, with 83 percent experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity (Figure 6). Of the 83 percent, 32 percent are experiencing severe food insecurity. Overall, on the IPC scale, 67 percent of households were indicated to be in IPC phase 3 or worse. Regions with high FIES, meaning severe food insecurity, included: Middle Jubba (47 percent), Middle Shabelle (40 percent), Hiiraan (39 percent), Sool (38 percent), Bakool (35 percent), Lower Shabelle (34 percent), Gedo (32 percent) and Bay (31 percent).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Figure 6. Prevalence of severe and moderate RFI by province (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May 2022 and January 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. Map of Somalia. Cited 14 February 2023. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

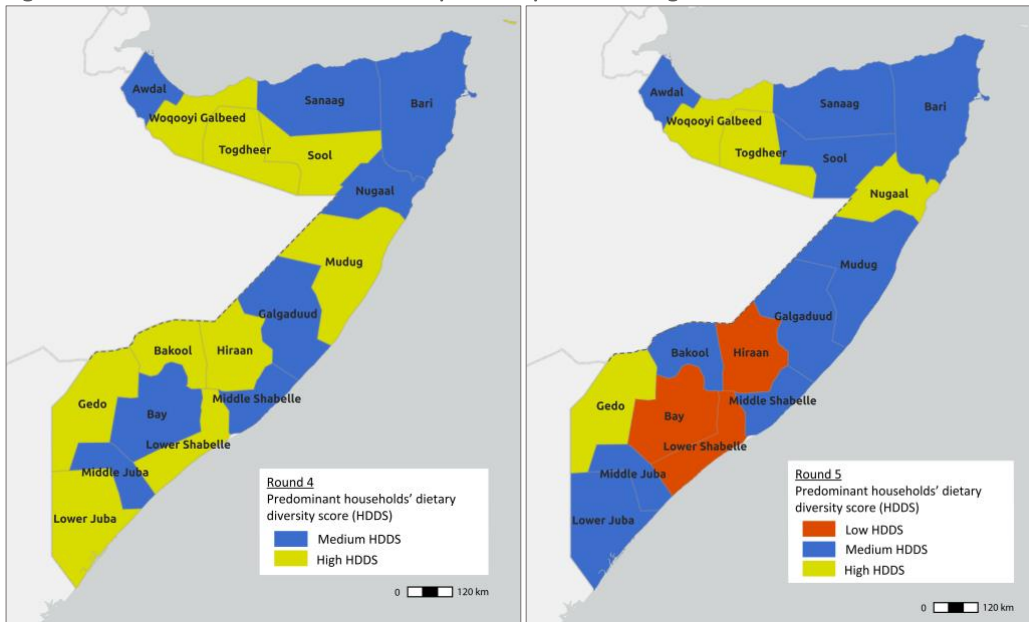
The food consumption score (FCS) paints an equally worrying picture. Forty-one percent of households have an acceptable FCS, 31 percent have borderline FCS and 29 percent have poor FCS. Certain regions in the country – Bakool, Bari, Bay, Galgaduud, Middle Jubba, Mudug, Nugaal and Sanaag – have a higher percentage of households with poor FCS.

The reduced Coping Strategies Index indicates that 33 percent are in stress and 64 percent are in a dire state, as indicated by IPC Phase 3 or worse. According to the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), 36 percent of households had a diet that consisted of 5-12 food groups in the 24 hours leading up to the survey, indicating that they were in IPC Phase 1 or 2, 41 percent of households had consumed 3-4 food groups, indicating that they were in IPC Phase 3 and 24 percent of households had consumed two or less food groups, indicating that they were in IPC Phase 4. Additionally, 67 percent of respondent households employed emergency coping strategies to access food and income, 24 percent employed crisis strategies, 7 percent employed stress strategies and 2 percent did not employ any livelihood coping strategies. When compared to the fourth round, there has been no improvement in the situation.



The results indicate a decline in HDDS when compared to the fourth round. The predominant dietary diversity score was medium. In some regions, such as Bay, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, the predominant score was low. During the fourth round, a considerable number of regions had a high score. However, in the fifth round, all regions experienced a drop in dietary diversity, with most regions showing a deterioration of food security, as well. Medium and even low dietary diversity scores were predominant across most regions in the fifth round as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Predominant households' dietary diversity score during the fourth and fifth rounds



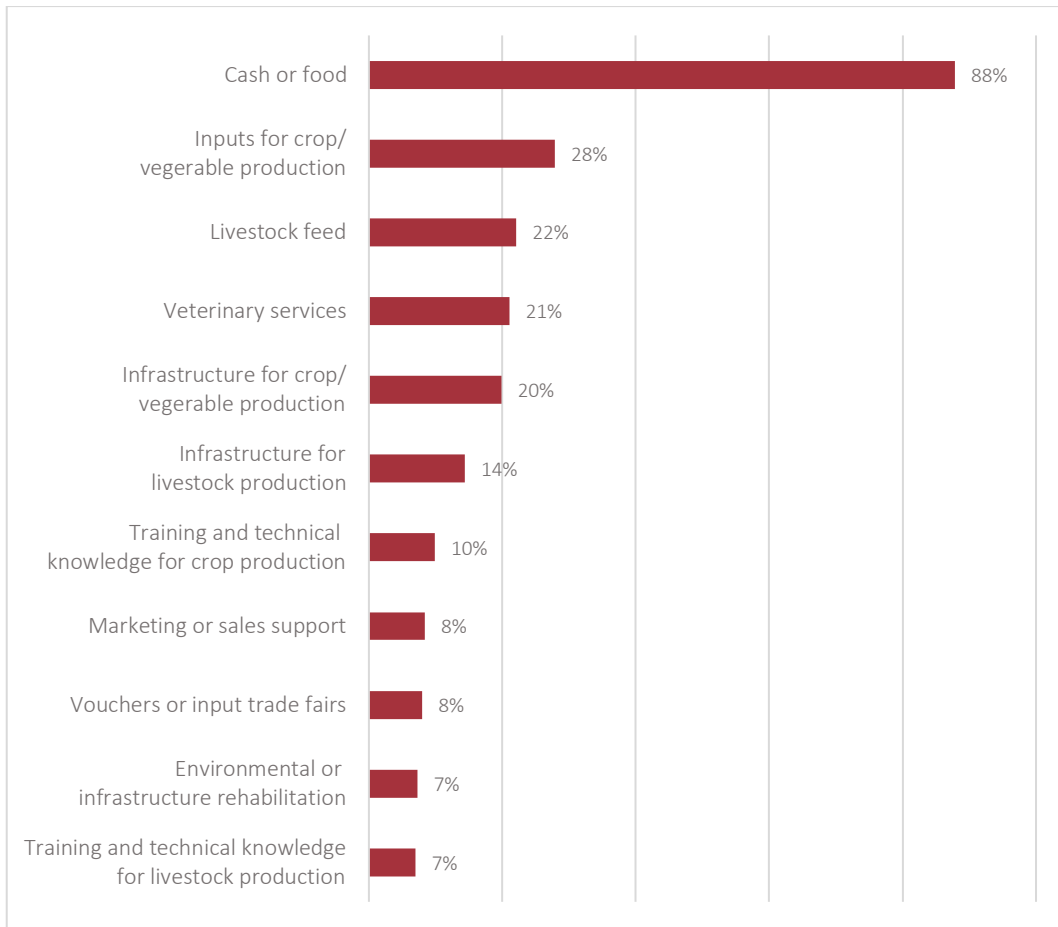
**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May 2022 and January 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)  
**Source of map:** Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. Map of Somalia. Cited 14 February 2023. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

## Needs

Only 34 percent of households reported to have received assistance in the three months preceding the survey. Food and cash were the primary forms of assistance received. Humanitarian and government agencies have made tremendous efforts to prevent famine and protect people from the effects of severe drought. The majority (70 percent) of respondent households believed that the assistance received met their needs. Most surveyed households (98 percent) expressed a need for assistance in the next three to six months, with cash and food support reported as the top priorities for households (Figure 8). Eighty-nine percent prioritized each need respectively.

Among crop producer households, cash and food support were identified as the most pressing needs at 85 percent each, followed by crop inputs (50 percent), crop infrastructure (34 percent) and crop knowledge (14 percent). For livestock producer households, cash and food support were again the top priority at 90 percent, with livestock feed (35 percent), animal feed (44 percent), veterinary services (27 percent), and livestock infrastructure (17 percent) also cited as important needs. All non-agricultural households' prioritized cash and food support (100 percent).

Figure 8. Main needs (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May 2022 and January 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 20 February 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

## Recommendations

### Short-term recommendations

- > Increase food assistance and support to regions with high percentages of households experiencing severe food insecurity outcomes, such as Bakool, Bari, Bay, Galgaduud, Middle Jubba, Mudug and Sanaag. Monitor the food security situation regularly to track progress and adjust food assistance and support as needed.
- > Scale up social protection programmes, including cash transfers, to fight hunger and malnutrition in regions with functional markets and financial sectors.
- > Target support for livestock production to regions where 75 percent or more households are facing difficulties, with a focus on addressing the lack of pasture and water. Increase vaccinations, veterinary services and inputs.

### Long-term recommendations

- > Conduct trainings to promote and encourage diverse income generation options for households to reduce their reliance on one source of income and increase economic stability. Implement programmes and initiatives to help households build resilience and prepare for potential shocks, such as savings programmes, risk management and access to credit.
- > Promote irrigation infrastructure to increase crop production and reduce dependence on rain.
- > Invest in climate, and pest and disease resilient seed and crop varieties to counter the impacts of climate change.
- > Promote and facilitate access to market opportunities for selling livestock, such as improving prices and market linkages, and strengthening market value chains.
- > Use the national and regional early warning systems on climate and livestock body conditions, and work with government ministries and development partners to implement offtake programmes and destocking during the early warning of impending drought period.



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