



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Central African Republic

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 6

Results and recommendations
September 2024

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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Monitoring brief, round 6

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Key highlights

- > The sixth round of data collection for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) was conducted in 23 subprefectures within seven prefectures in the Central African Republic between 20 August and 16 September 2024.
- > A total of 3 701 households were interviewed, including 3 294 crop producers and 814 livestock farmers. The main reported source of income was the production and sale of agricultural products.
- > Sixty-seven percent of the households surveyed had been affected by shocks to their sources of income. Illness or death of a household member was the most reported shock (by more than 50 percent of households), followed by violence and insecurity, and rising food prices.
- > Eighty-seven percent of crop producers reported that they had experienced production difficulties, with 43 percent reporting a smaller harvest than a typical year and 66 percent experiencing marketing difficulties. The main crops were cassava, groundnuts and maize.
- > Eighty-five percent of livestock farmers experienced production difficulties, the most common being animal disease or death (reported by 48 percent of farmers), leading to a reduction in livestock numbers.
- > According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), the prevalence of moderate or severe recent food insecurity (RFI) was reported by over 86 percent of the households surveyed, and 16 percent reported severe food insecurity. Over 14 percent of households had a low dietary diversity score.
- > Ninety-six percent of households reported using coping strategies: 11 percent emergency strategies and 60 percent crisis strategies.
- > Almost all surveyed households expressed a need for assistance in the six months following the survey. Access to agricultural inputs was requested by 82 percent of households.

Methodology

Between 20 August and 16 September 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the sixth Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) household survey in the Central African Republic to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews in partnership with the Central African Institute for Statistics, Economic and Social Studies in 23 subprefectures (administrative level 2) within seven prefectures across the country. A total of 3 701 households were surveyed out of the 4 025 initially planned, as some subprefectures were inaccessible. Disproportionate stratification sampling was used, and the minimum sample size required to achieve the desired level of accuracy was identified as 175 households per subprefecture.

Data collection took place after the rainy season. The results of this sixth round have been compared throughout this brief to the results of the fifth round (March 2024, dry season), the fourth round (March 2023, dry season) and the third round (October 2022, lean season).

Figure 1. Countries with an established DIEM-Monitoring System



Note: Refer to the disclaimer on the back cover for the names and boundaries used in this map. The final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of 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.

Source of data: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 11 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>
Source of map: United Nations Geospatial. 2023. Map of the World. In: *United Nations*. [Cited 11 December 2024]. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world-1>

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.

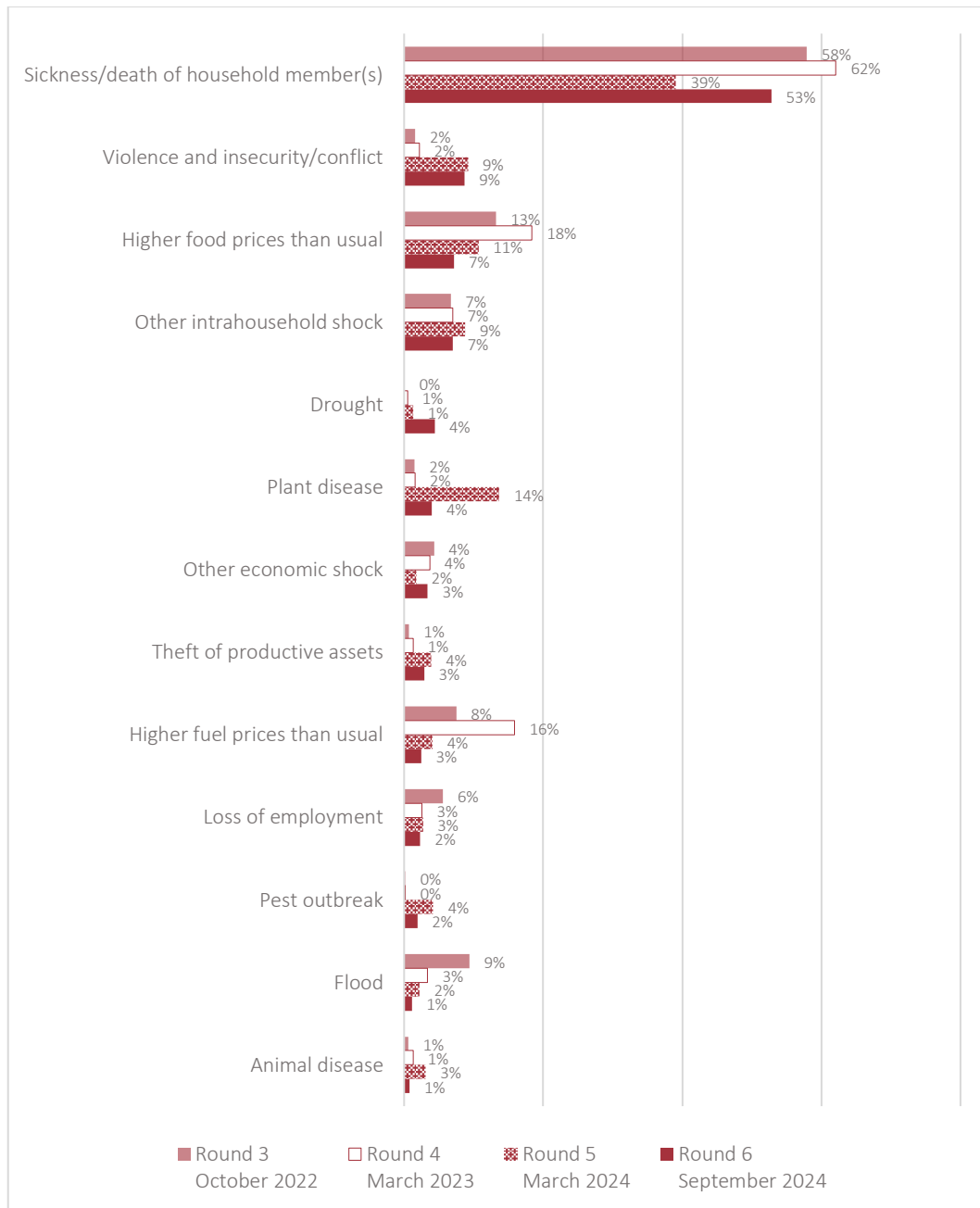
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of the Central African Republic and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

Sixty-seven percent of surveyed households reported having been affected by one or more shocks in the three months preceding the survey (up 7 percent from the fifth round). Illness or death of a household member remained the most common shock (53 percent), an increase from the fifth round (39 percent) (Figure 2). Bocaranga, Bria, Ouadda and Yalinga subprefectures were most affected by this shock (more than 80 percent).

Figure 2. Main shocks in the three months preceding the survey (percentage of households)

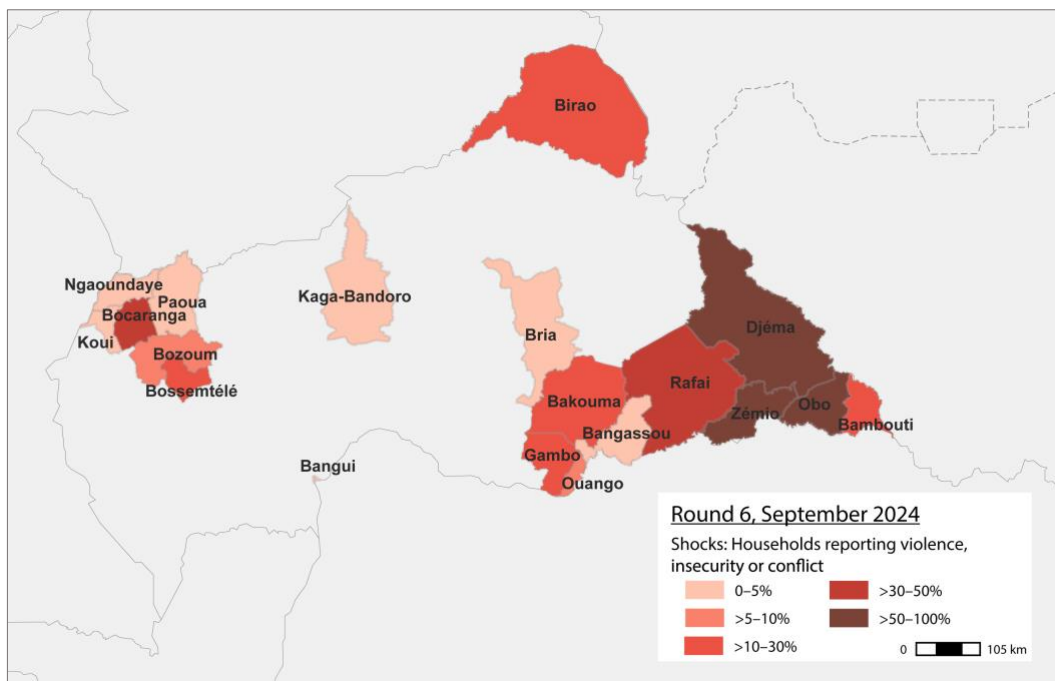


Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Overall, 9 percent of surveyed households reported experiencing violence and insecurity. However, this rate rose to 80 percent in Djéma, 78 percent in Obo and 74 percent in Zémio,

where armed groups – often unidentified – were active. Theft of productive assets was more widespread in Bocaranga (35 percent) and Rafai (13 percent) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Households reporting violence, insecurity or conflict as a shock (percentage of households)



Note: Refer to the disclaimer on the back cover for the names and boundaries used in this map.

The subprefectures of Mbrès, Ouadda, Ouadda-Djallé and Yalinga are not shown on the map.

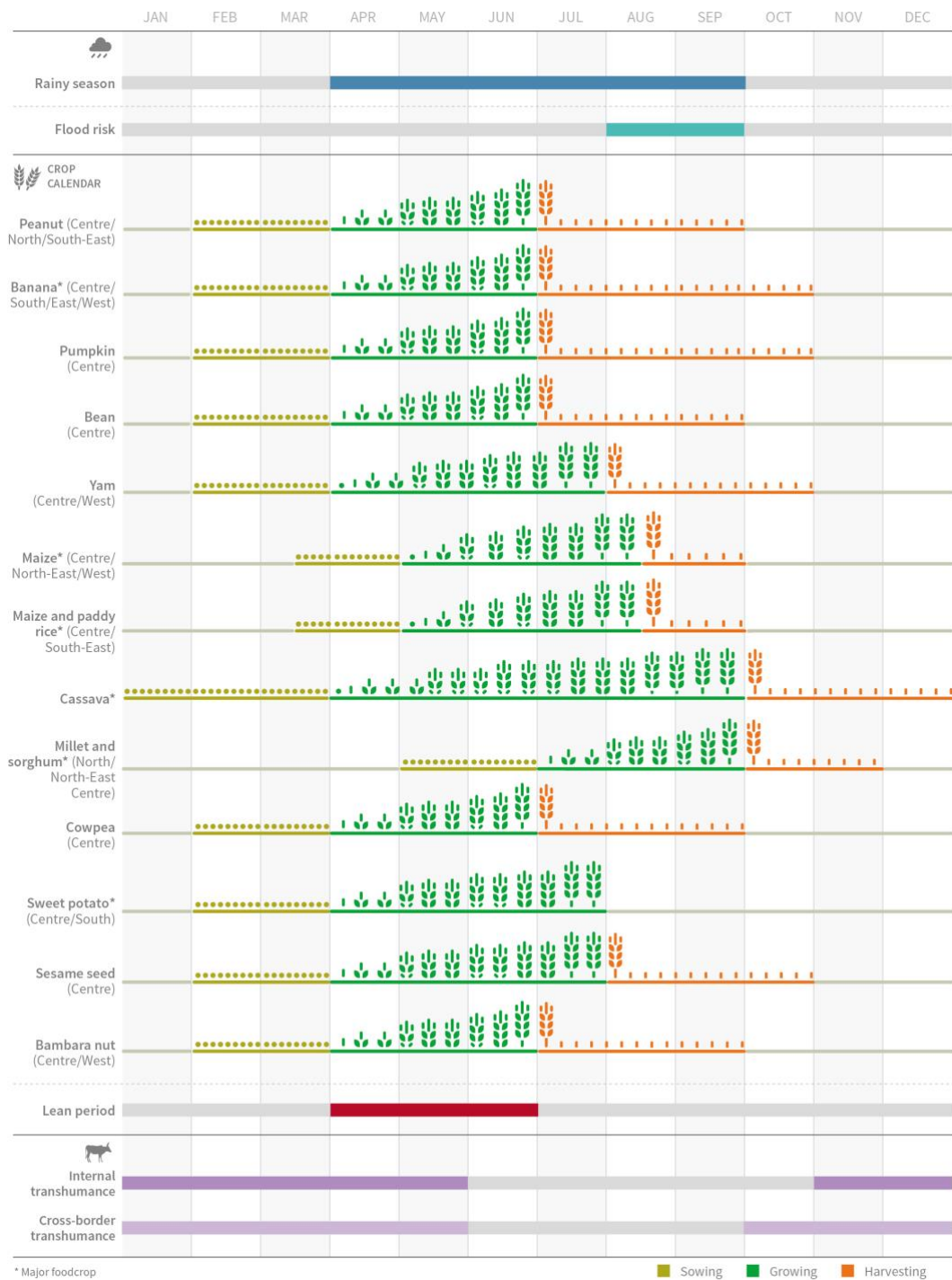
Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Fewer households reported higher food prices than in the previous two rounds (7 percent). This decrease can be explained by the poor state of roads, which limited the transport of produce to the major towns. As supply outstrips demand, prices fall.

The proportion of respondents reporting a decrease in their main source of income fell from 54 percent in the fifth round to 47 percent this round. A decline in income was most commonly reported in the subprefectures of Yalinga (66 percent), Ngaoundaye (63 percent), Bangassou (59 percent), Rafai (59 percent), Bossemptélé (55 percent) and Bria (51 percent). The decline was the consequence of the most widespread shocks, such as death in the household and poor harvest. Insecurity limited access to fields, particularly in Ouadda and Yalinga (where 100 percent of surveyed households reported insecurity as the main shock), and in Bria, Bossemptélé and Bangassou (80 percent). Lack of access to agricultural inputs led to a reduction in the area under cultivation, compounded by plant diseases, flooding and widespread increases in price.

Crops

Figure 4. Central African Republic agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2024. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System Country Briefs: Central African Republic. In: FAO. Rome. [Cited 5 November 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=CAF&lang=en>

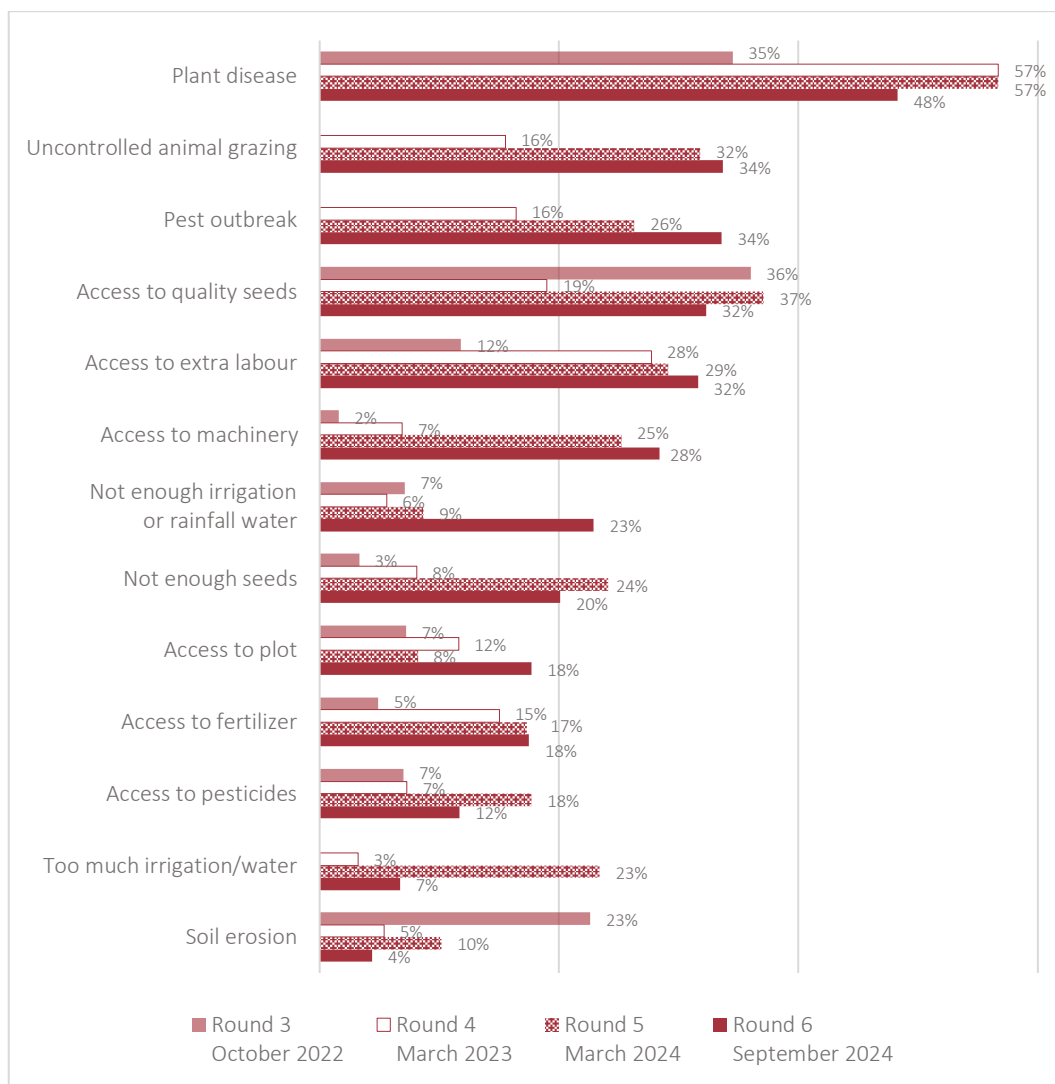
A total of 3 294 crop producers were interviewed. Of the subprefectures targeted, Ouadda (99 percent), Yalinga (98 percent), Mbrés (92 percent) and Bocaranga (80 percent) had the highest percentages of crop growers. The main crops grown were cassava, groundnuts and maize. These results corroborate the structure of food crop production at the national level,

as cassava is the most widely consumed staple food, and is grown almost everywhere in the country. Rainwater remained the main source of irrigation (99 percent).

Of the producers surveyed, 88 percent reported that they had experienced production difficulties (down 4 percent from the fifth round) and 66 percent had experienced marketing difficulties (up 8 percent from the fifth round).

The main reported difficulty was plant diseases (48 percent), although this fell by 8 percent since the fourth and fifth rounds, due to the seasonality of data collection (Figure 5). The subprefectures of Bossemptélé, Rafai and Bocaranga were the most affected. Damage caused by uncontrolled animal grazing (34 percent) and crop pests (34 percent) has increased steadily with each round. A reduction in harvest compared with an average year was reported by 43 percent of crop growers. In addition, lack of irrigation water was reported by 23 percent of surveyed households, as well as difficulties accessing plots (18 percent), obtaining enough seeds (20 percent) and accessing quality seeds (32 percent). The reduced harvest was a consequence of the lack of access to land and irrigation.

Figure 5. Crop production difficulties (percentage of crop producers)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Conflicts between farmers with long-term presence and newly-arrived displaced farmers made access to land difficult. As a result, 37 percent of growers reported a reduction in the area under cultivation, compared to 30 percent in the fifth round, and 56 percent anticipated a reduction in their harvests.

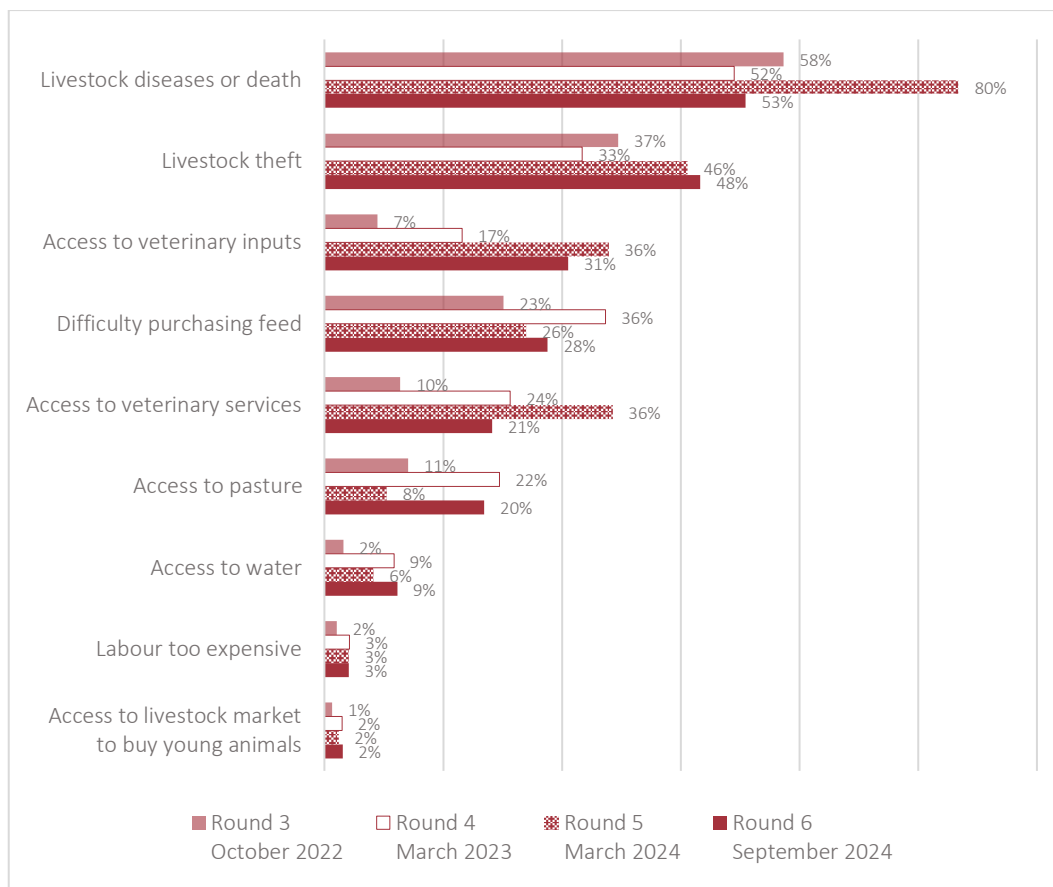
In addition, 66 percent of farming households reported experiencing difficulties marketing their produce (up 8 percent from the fifth round). These included a decline in the selling price of produce (46 percent) and higher transport costs (31 percent). The difficulties were largely due to the poor state of the roads.

Livestock

Of the 814 livestock farmers surveyed, 50 percent kept goats, 33 percent poultry and 13 percent pigs. The subprefectures with the most livestock farmers were Ouadda-Djallé (54 percent), Ngaoundaye (40 percent) and Ouango (39 percent), where the climate is favourable to livestock farming.

Eighty-five percent of livestock farmers experienced production difficulties, mainly disease and death of animals (53 percent), livestock theft (48 percent) and difficulties accessing inputs, feed and veterinary services (31, 28 and 21 percent, respectively) (Figure 6). Sixty-six percent of surveyed livestock farmers said they had fewer animals than the previous year. Bria was the most affected subprefecture. Predominantly inhabited by herders because of its favourable climate for livestock farming, Bria has experienced violence, and lacks the infrastructure needed for livestock. In addition, traditional Fulani herders are nomadic, and not many were included in the survey. Most of the surveyed herders raised livestock for their own consumption, and had little experience herding.

Figure 6. Livestock production difficulties (percentage of livestock producers)



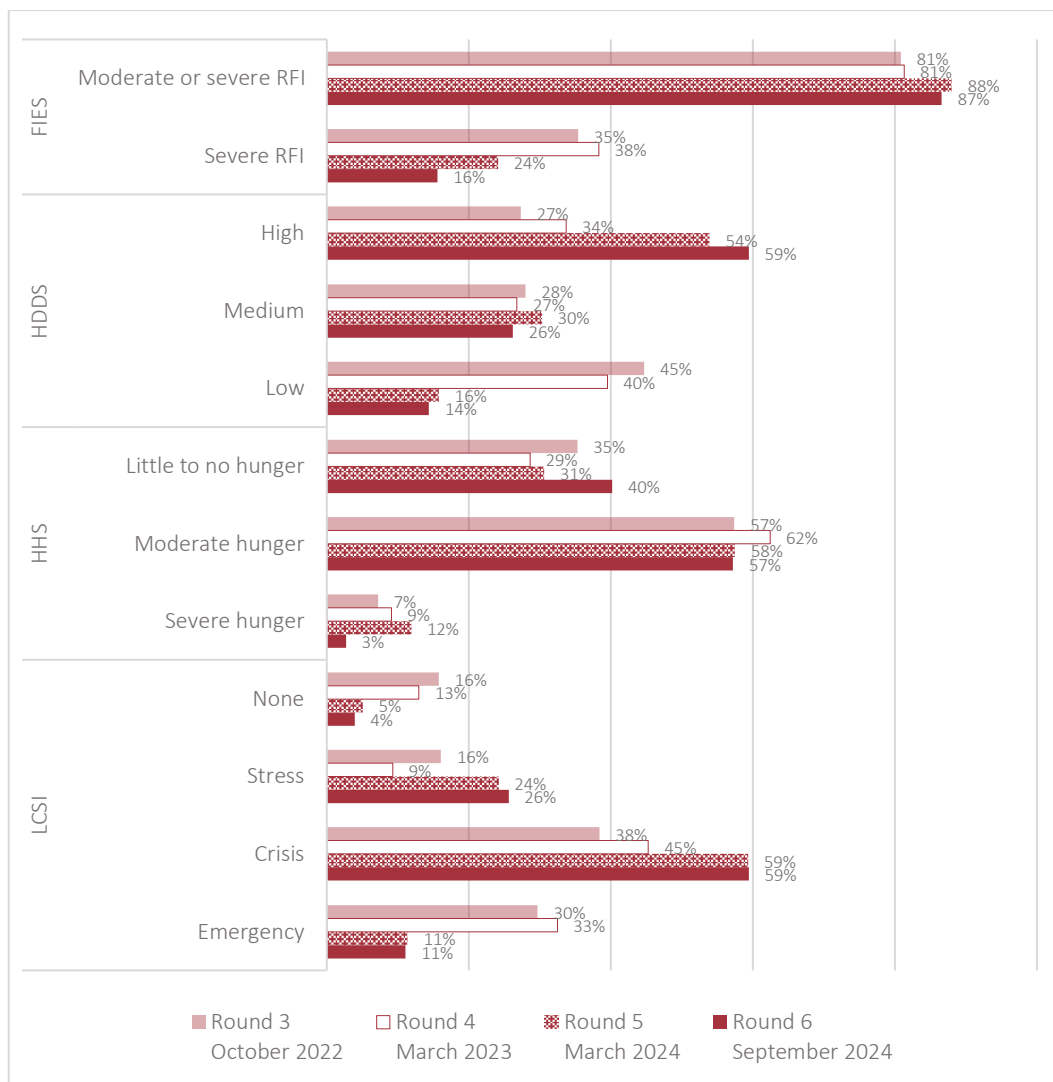
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Food security

In the areas targeted by the survey, the food consumption score was low for 19 percent of households and average for 31 percent. In several subprefectures, low scores affected more than 30 percent of households: Djéma (40 percent), Zemio (38 percent), Rafai and Kaga Bandoro (37 percent), Bria and Mbrés (34 percent), and Obo (30 percent). These areas are known for their high cost of living – particularly evident with food prices – due to low agricultural activity and recurrent insecurity.

Analysis of the household dietary diversity score (HDDS) showed that 14 percent of households had an insufficiently varied diet (less than two food groups consumed in the 24 hours preceding the interview) (Figure 7). This figure rose to 41 percent in Bria, 35 percent in both Mbrés and Djéma, and 32 percent in Zemio, due to the high cost of living in these subprefectures.

Figure 7. Evolution of food security indicators (FIES, HDDS, household hunger scale [HHS] and livelihood coping strategies index [LCSI])



Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Moderate or severe recent food insecurity affected 87 percent of households surveyed overall, exceeding 95 percent in several subprefectures: Ngaoundaye (99 percent), Yalinga (99 percent), Bambouti (98 percent), Ouadda-Djallé (97 percent), Rafai (97 percent) and Zemio (94 percent). Severe recent food insecurity affected 16 percent of households.

Ninety-six percent of households reported using coping strategies, with 26 percent resorting to stress strategies, 59 percent to crisis strategies, and 11 percent to emergency strategies.

Needs

Eighty-one percent of surveyed households reported that they had not received any assistance in the three months preceding the survey. Of the assistance received, 45 percent came from non-governmental organizations, 27 percent from FAO and 18 percent from the World Food Programme.

Of the 3 701 households surveyed, 99 percent reported that they would need assistance in the six months following the survey. The need for inputs for crop production was reported by more than 80 percent of households surveyed, followed by assistance in the form of cash (67 percent) and food (46 percent).

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

- > Provide emergency food assistance in areas where more than 80 percent of households surveyed are food insecure, including Bambouti, Bangassou, Birao, Bozoum, Bria, Gambo, Mbrès, Ngaoundaye, Obo, Ouadda-Djallé, Ouango and Paoua.
- > Promote access to improved short-cycle seeds, and disease- and pest-resistant strains for growers facing production difficulties in Bria, Gambo, Kouï, Ngaoundaye, Obo, Ouadda, Ouango and Yalinga.
- > Encourage market gardening production to boost household income, particularly during periods of low agricultural activity (lean season) and high demand for horticultural products.
- > Provide agricultural kits in line with the national agricultural calendar.
- > Develop veterinary services and provide food supplements for livestock in the most vulnerable pastoral areas, particularly Birao, Obo, Kouï, Bria and Ngaoundaye.

Medium and long-term recommendations (6–24 months)

- > Initiate income-generating activities to support and safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable households in Ngaoundaye, Kouï, Mbrès, Bria and Birao subprefectures.
- > Support agricultural resilience (particularly in Bangassou, Bocaranga and Ngaoundaye) by distributing seed, farming tools, and inputs to enable more intensive cultivation and pastoral resilience in Birao, Kouï and Bria.
- > Conduct diagnostic assessments of markets and establish social protection mechanisms in vulnerable areas.
- > Initiate and develop off-season farming to improve household income and boost food security in the country.
- > Improve rainwater conservation and access to sustainable irrigation systems.
- > Support government subsidies for basic food supplies.
- > Increase domestic food production.

Annexes

Annex 1. Number of households surveyed per subprefecture

Subprefecture	Households		
	Number expected	Number reached	Percentage reached (%)
Bakouma	175	259	148
Bambouti	175	43	25
Bangassou	175	175	100
Bangui	175	211	121
Birao	175	176	101
Bocaranga	175	176	101
Bossemptélé	175	194	111
Bozoum	175	177	101
Bria	175	175	100
Djéma	175	95	54
Gambo	175	101	58
Kaga-Bandoro	175	161	92
Koui	175	176	101
Mbrès	175	175	100
Ngaoundaye	175	174	99
Obo	175	176	101
Ouadda	175	129	74
Ouadda-Djallé	175	72	41
Ouango	175	114	65
Paoua	175	182	104
Rafai	175	127	73
Yalinga	175	178	102
Zémio	175	255	146
Total	4 025	3 701	

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Annex 2. Proportion of households affected by predominant shock type by subprefecture

Subprefecture	Illness or death in the household (%)	Violence and insecurity (%)	Rising food prices (%)	Plant disease (%)	Rising fuel prices (%)	Theft of productive assets (%)	Loss of employment (%)
Bakouma	73	25	0	1	0	2	0
Bambouti	63	19	5	0	0	0	5
Bangassou	58	2	2	2	0	0	0
Bangui	33	2	10	2	5	1	4
Birao	53	19	12	1	1	3	3
Bocaranga	84	47	2	20	0	35	0
Bossemtréalé	75	15	3	25	2	6	1
Bozoum	55	6	6	10	1	0	0
Bria	82	2	3	5	1	0	2
Djéma	37	80	0	2	2	0	0
Gambo	66	16	0	8	0	0	1
Kaga-Bandoro	51	2	2	0	0	0	0
Koui	60	3	0	9	0	1	0
Mbrès	63	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ngaoundaye	78	3	0	1	0	0	0
Obo	41	78	3	10	0	3	1
Ouadda	100	0	28	5	24	0	5
Ouadda-Djallé	61	0	15	1	11	1	8
Ouango	78	5	2	3	1	0	4
Paoua	63	1	12	1	1	0	0
Rafai	72	39	2	23	0	13	4
Yalinga	99	0	51	1	48	0	31
Zémio	49	74	2	0	0	0	0

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024].
<https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Annex 3. Main animals reared by subprefecture (percentage of farmers)

Subprefecture	Poultry (%)	Goats (%)	Pigs (%)
Bakouma	77	9	14
Bambouti	79	19	2
Bangassou	67	14	12
Bangui	85	1	9
Birao	86	10	4
Bocaranga	84	14	1
Bossem-télé	76	13	2
Bozoum	79	8	2
Bria	64	15	11
Djéma	82	12	6
Gambo	62	22	12
Kaga-Bandoro	98	1	1
Koui	63	28	2
Mbrès	95	2	2
Ngaoundaye	60	24	6
Obo	73	6	14
Ouadda	99		
Ouanda-Djallé	43	14	35
Ouango	61	18	10
Paoua	89	4	2
Rafai	72	13	12
Yalinga	99		
Zémio	76	6	16

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 November 2024].
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**Food and Agriculture Organization
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