



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Mali

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 8

Results and recommendations
August 2024

Data collection 4 June to 9 July 2024

Key highlights

- > The eighth round of Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) data collection in Mali highlights an upsurge in insecurity in the north of the country, particularly in Ménaka, Gao, Tombouctou and Mopti regions. The proportion of households reporting a situation of insecurity or conflict reached 68 percent in the Tombouctou region.
- > The direct consequences of insecurity included disruptions to economic activity, job losses, theft of productive assets, and a general increase in food and fuel prices. For 51 percent of the surveyed households, the main source of income was lower than a normal year, leading to a decrease in purchasing power.
- > Difficulties with crop production affected 91 percent of agricultural households, with lack of water topping the list (64 percent), particularly in Sikasso, Ménaka and Mopti regions. Access to seeds, labour and fuel was increasingly difficult. Insecurity has led to a reduction in harvests (for 49 percent of households), which have also been cut back by drought, higher fuel prices and movement restrictions.
- > The reduction in grazing areas caused by the drought, coupled with difficulties purchasing feed for livestock (reported by 87 percent of livestock farmers), has led to animals straying, especially in Gao and Ménaka regions. The drought has also weakened the animals, making them more susceptible to disease. The situation has worsened in Tombouctou, where animal theft rose from 10 to 52 percent between the last two data collection rounds.
- > Food insecurity remained high in the north of the country, with a five-percentage point increase in households experiencing recent moderate or severe food insecurity compared with the last round (reaching 32 percent according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale [FIES]), particularly in Gao region. The increase in recent levels of food insecurity can be linked to drought, rising food prices and conflict.

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the eighth round of DIEM-Monitoring household level data collection in Mali between 4 June and 9 July 2024 to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security.

Data were collected by computer-assisted telephone interviews reaching 1 404 households in Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso and Tombouctou regions.¹ The survey results are representative at regional level. Weights were applied on the basis of population size, access to electricity and the level of education of the head of household.

Data collection took place during the dry and pastoral lean season. The results of this eighth round have been compared to those of the fifth round (June 2023, dry and pastoral lean season), the sixth round (October 2023, winter season) and the seventh round (January 2024, post-harvest season).

Figure 1. Countries with an established DIEM-Monitoring System



Source of data: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 1 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Source of map: United Nations Geospatial. 2024. Map of the World. In: *United Nations*. [Cited 1 July 2024]. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world-1>

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 Mali and other countries.

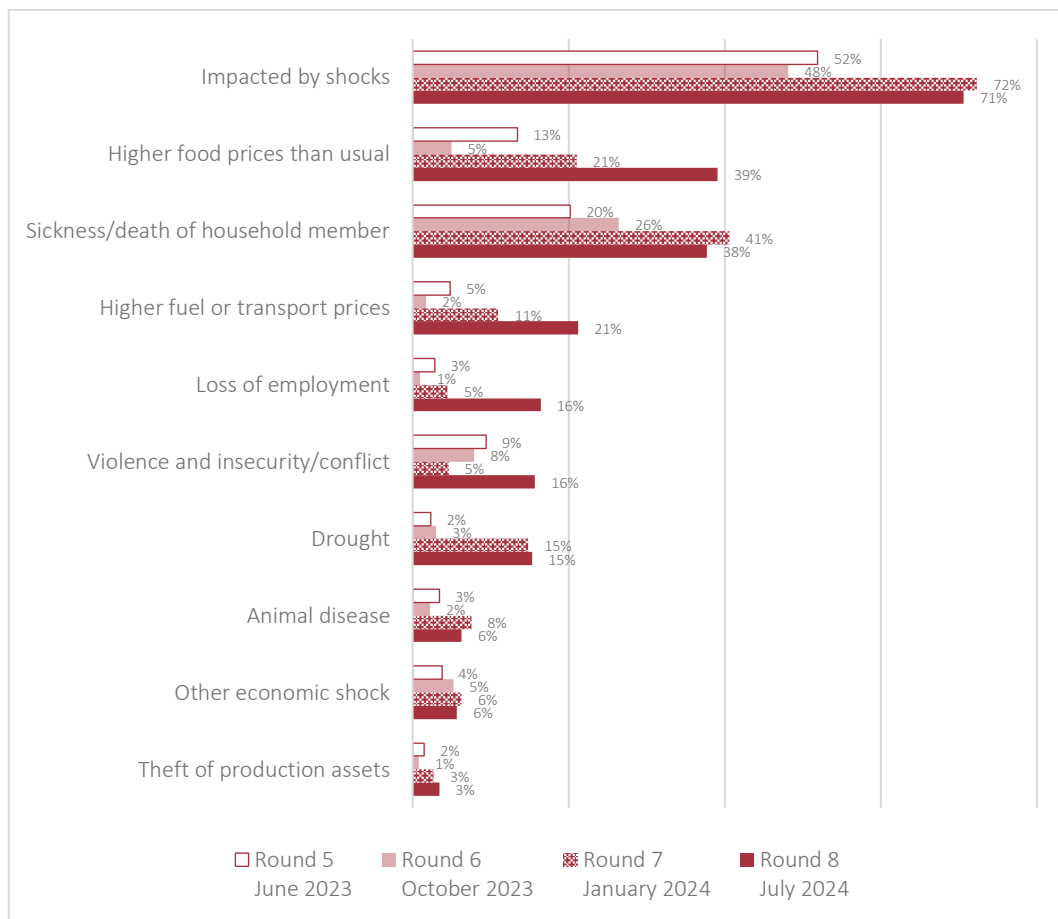
Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

¹ As in the seventh round, the quota of households required in Kidal could not be met due to the security situation.

Income and shocks

Seventy-one percent of households were affected by at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey (Figure 2). The main shock reported was the rise in food prices (39 percent), particularly in Tombouctou (75 percent), Ménaka (71 percent) and Gao (64 percent). The second most reported shock was illness or death of one or more household members (38 percent) – particularly in Tombouctou (78 percent) – followed by high fuel or transport prices (21 percent), and loss of employment (16 percent). Drought was reported by 15 percent of the surveyed households, reaching 57 percent in Tombouctou and 49 percent in Ménaka.

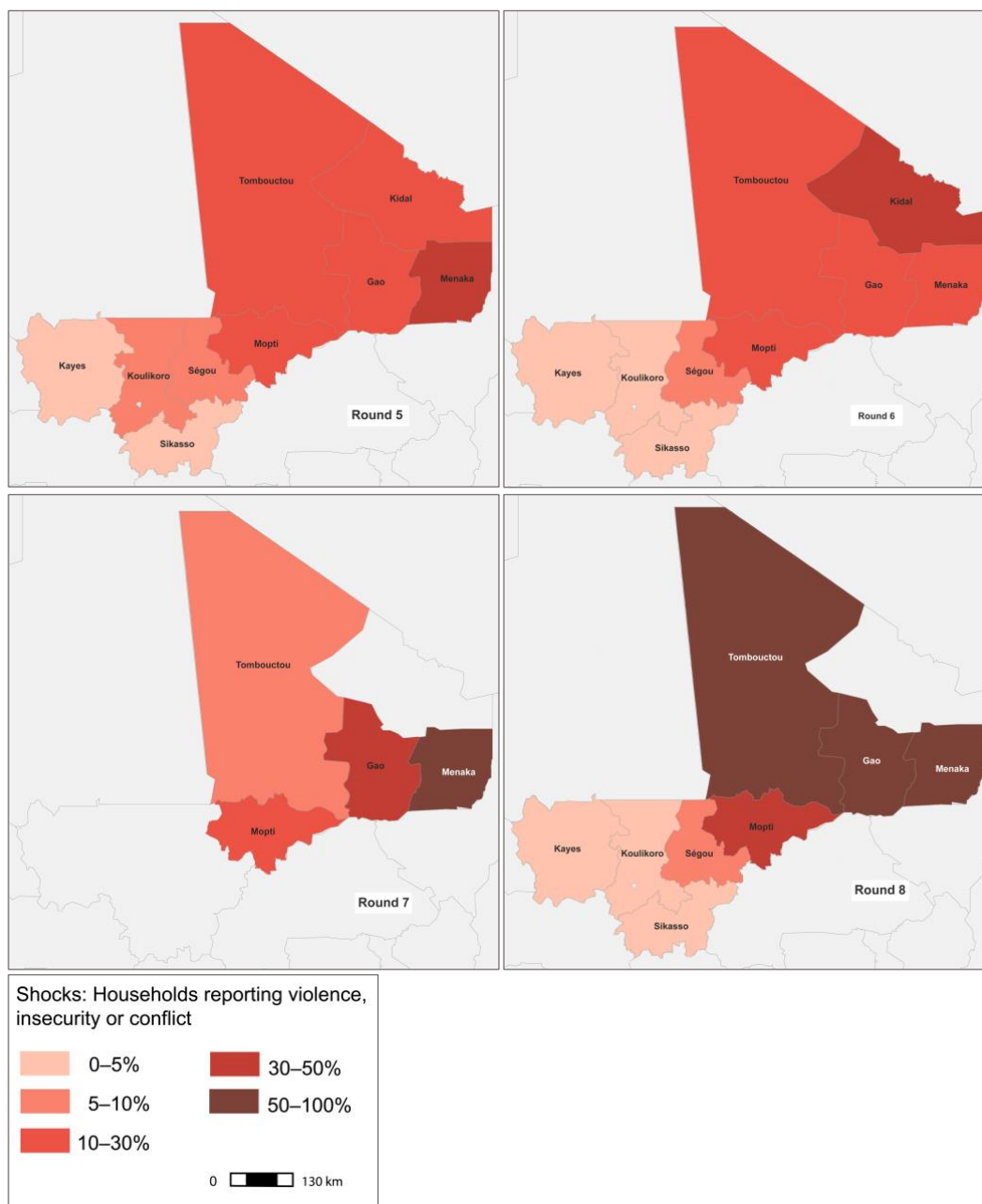
Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results. (June and October 2023, and January and July 2024). [Accessed on 12 August 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Insecurity in the north and centre of the country has worsened due to the intensification of conflict between armed groups and military forces in Ménaka, Gao, Tombouctou and Mopti regions. While 16 percent of households surveyed in the current round reported insecurity, this rate increased to 80 percent in Ménaka, 68 percent in Tombouctou and 58 percent in Gao (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Households reporting violence, insecurity or conflict (percentage of households surveyed)



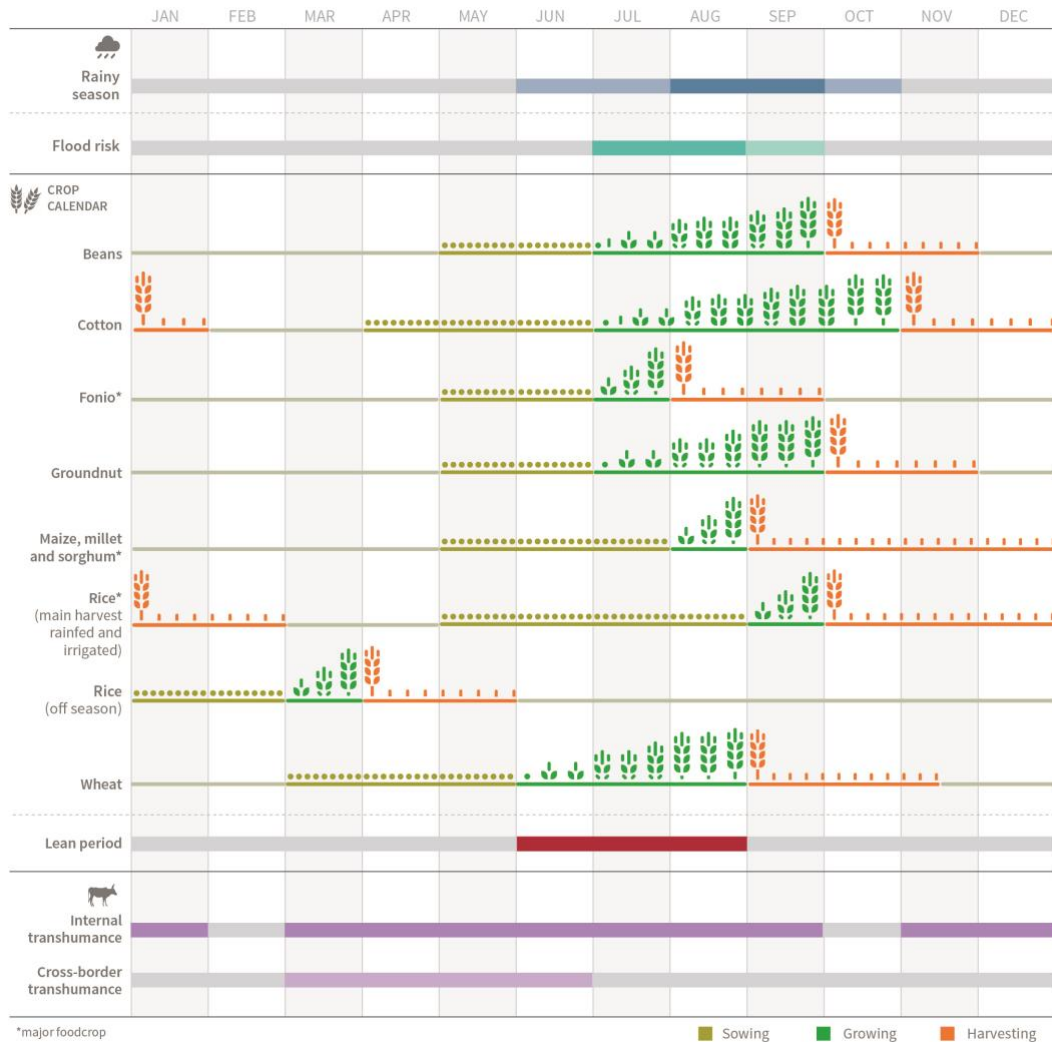
Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results. (June and October 2023, and January and July 2024). [Accessed on 12 August 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

The direct consequences of insecurity included the disruption of economic activities, job losses, theft of productive assets (25 percent of households in Ménaka and 15 percent in Gao), and a general increase in food and fuel prices. The percentage of households reporting an increase in food prices has risen by 26 percentage points since the fifth round in June 2023 and the percentage of households reporting an increase in fuel prices has increased by 16 percentage points.

In addition, 51 percent of households reported a decrease in their main income in the three months preceding the survey, further limiting purchasing power.

Crops

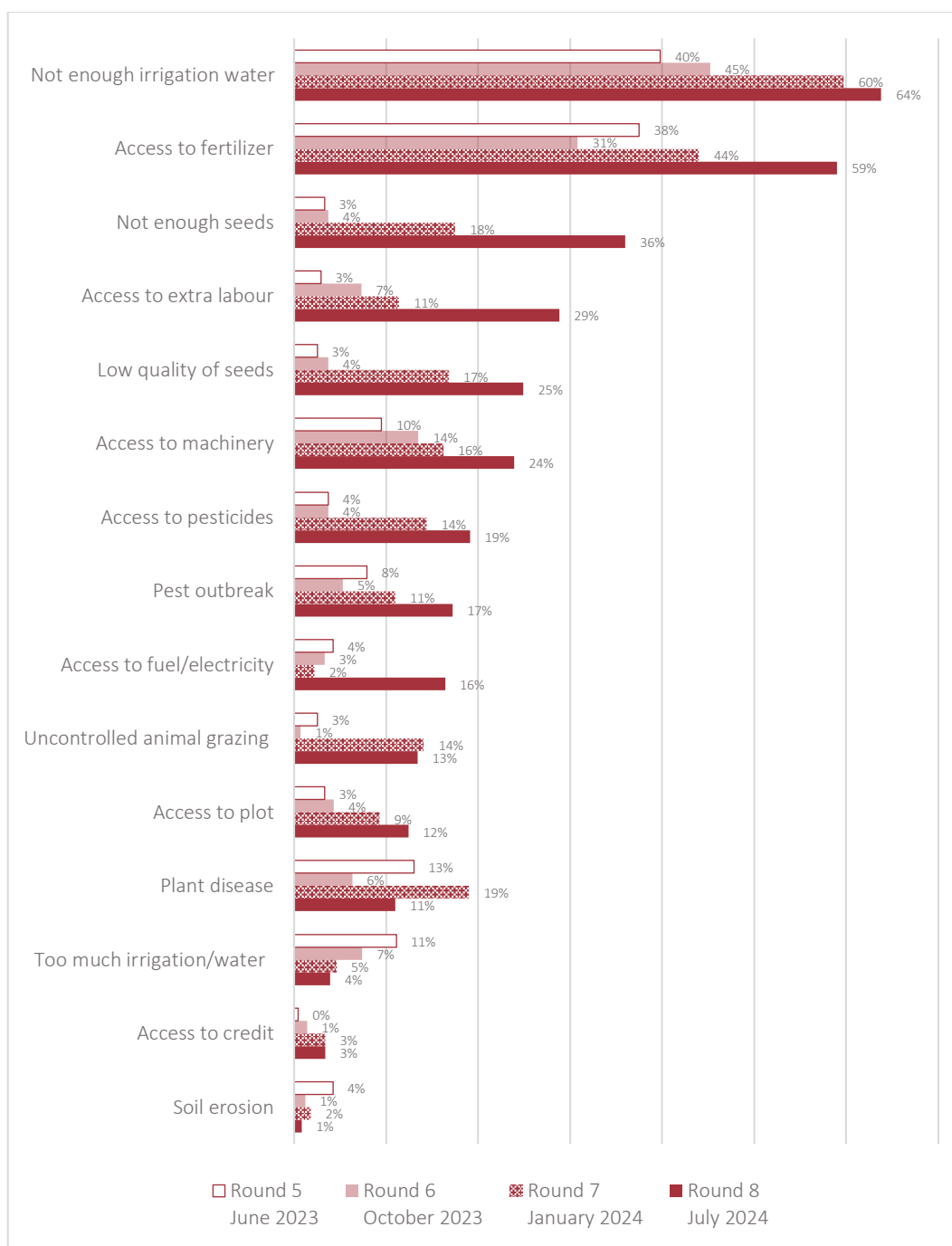
Figure 4. Mali agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2023. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System Country Briefs: Mali. In: *FAO*, 7 May 2024. Rome. [Cited 12 August 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MLI&lang=en>

Fifty-nine percent of the surveyed households produced crops. Of these, 91 percent reported production difficulties over the past season, mainly due to lack of water (64 percent), particularly in Sikasso (93 percent), Ménaka (75 percent) and Mopti (74 percent) (Figure 5). Access to fertilizer remained difficult for 59 percent of households (rising to 89 percent in Tombouctou), similar to access to sufficient seed (36 percent, rising to 62 percent in Tombouctou), labour (29 percent), quality seed (25 percent), machinery or tools (24 percent), and pesticides (19 percent).

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



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results. (June and October 2023, January and July 2024). [Accessed on 12 August 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Compared to a normal year, 49 percent of surveyed households reported a reduction in their harvest, mainly due to drought, higher fuel prices, restrictions on movement and insecurity. A significant relationship was identified between the fall in harvest and these indicators. The area planted was the same for a majority of households (68 percent) as in a normal year. However, 15 percent of households reported a reduction in the area planted, particularly in Ménaka, due to conflict.

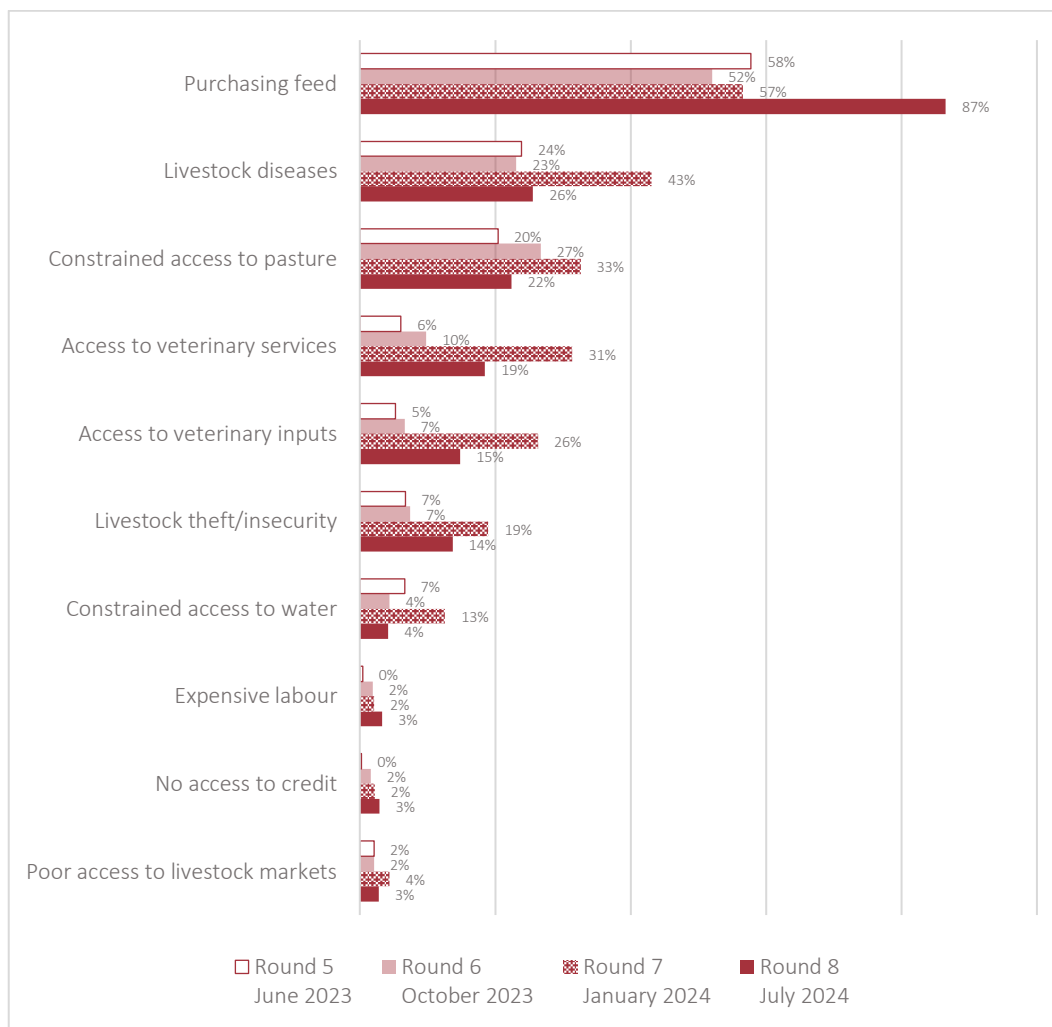
Compared to previous data collection rounds, the percentage of households reporting crop production difficulties continued to rise, particularly with regard to access to seeds, labour and fuel.

Marketing difficulties affected 49 percent of growers in the three months preceding the survey. The main difficulties reported were low selling prices (49 percent), high transport or other marketing costs (35 percent), and reduced demand from traders or regular customers (31 percent). Households affected by conflict were among those reporting the greatest marketing difficulties.

Livestock

Forty-eight percent of surveyed households produced livestock. Seventy-nine percent encountered production difficulties in the three months preceding the survey. Purchasing feed (87 percent), livestock disease or injury (26 percent), access to pasture (22 percent) and access to veterinary services (19 percent) were frequently reported (Figure 6). Over one year, the amount of farmers reporting difficulties purchasing feed has risen by 30 percentage points.

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



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results. (June and October 2023, and January and July 2024). [Accessed on 12 August 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

The reduction in grazing areas caused by the drought, coupled with the difficulties encountered purchasing feed for livestock, has led to difficulties controlling animal grazing, especially in Gao and Ménaka regions. The drought has also weakened the animals, making them more susceptible to disease.

The decline in livestock numbers, which affects more than half of households (57 percent), can be explained by distress sales (28 percent), the death of animals mainly due to disease (25 percent) and animal theft (7 percent). Gao, Ménaka and Tombouctou regions were among the most affected. This latest round of data collection showed a significant worsening of the situation in Tombouctou compared to the previous round. Theft of livestock, for example, rose from 10 to 52 percent over the course of six months as a result of conflict.

Fifty-two percent of livestock producers experienced marketing difficulties in the three months preceding the survey, mainly due to selling prices being too low (71 percent), reduced demand from traders or buyers (28 percent), and high transport costs (26 percent). In terms of livestock price trends, 46 percent of farmers believed that livestock prices had fallen compared to the previous year. A low selling price was recorded in Sikasso and Koulikoro, two regions where transport and market access costs were lower.

Food security

According to the FIES scale, 32 percent of households were recently moderately or severely food insecure, and 6.4 percent were severely food insecure (Figure 7).² The increase in recent levels of food insecurity can be linked to drought, rising food prices and conflict.

According to the household dietary diversity score (HDDS), 67 percent of households had high dietary diversity, 25 percent had medium dietary diversity and 8 percent had low dietary diversity, particularly in Gao, Kayes, Ménaka and Mopti regions. Food diversity is particularly sensitive to conflict.

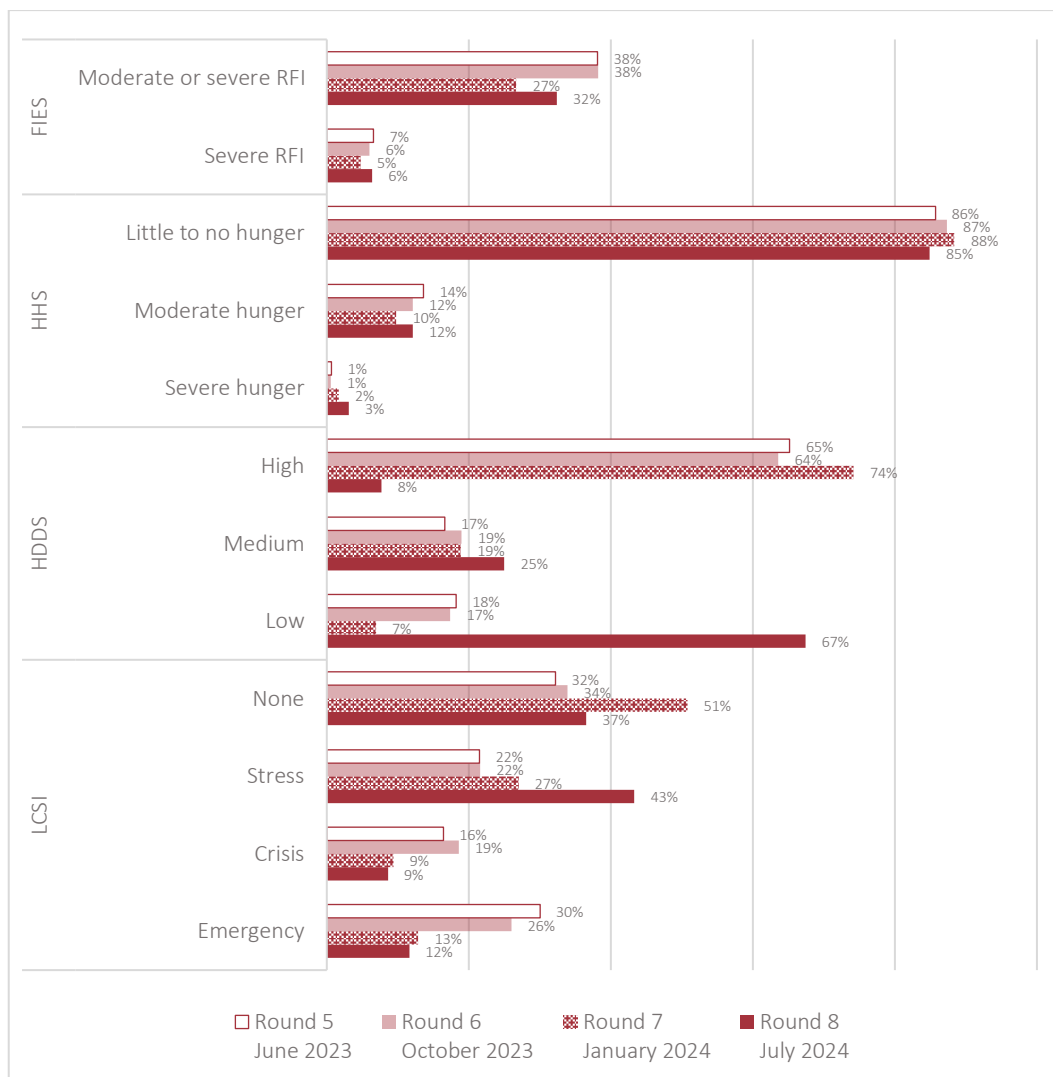
Analysis of the household hunger scale (HHS) indicates that 85 percent of households experienced little or no hunger, 12 percent experienced moderate hunger and 3 percent experienced severe hunger.

Coping strategies, as measured with the livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI) were mainly oriented towards stress strategies (43 percent), followed by emergency strategies (12 percent

² FIES results are subject to change until the country scale is established for more consistent comparability across rounds.

overall, but 38 percent in Ménaka, 28 percent in Tombouctou and 21 percent in Gao) and crisis strategies (9 percent). Thirty-seven percent of households did not use any coping strategies.

Figure 15. Food security indicators (percentage of households surveyed)



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results. (June and October 2023, and January and July 2024). [Accessed on 12 August 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Needs

The majority of households surveyed (84 percent) reported that they had not received any assistance in the three months preceding the survey. Only 5 percent of households received financial assistance and 5 percent received food assistance.

When asked what they would need to continue their farming activities (crops, livestock and fishing/aquaculture) over the coming three to six months, almost all households (98 percent) reported needing assistance in order to do so. The main needs reported by crop producers were inputs for crop or vegetable production (60 percent), cash (60 percent), foodstuffs (57 percent) and production-related infrastructure (30 percent). Livestock producers reported needing food (70 percent), cash (56 percent), feed (54 percent) and infrastructure for livestock production (35 percent).

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

- > Distribute cash and food vouchers to the most vulnerable households in Tombouctou, Gao and Ménaka regions to immediately boost purchasing power and food security.
- > Distribute livestock feed and drought-resistant vegetable seeds to support livestock breeders and farmers in Ménaka, Gao and Tombouctou regions.
- > Provide fertilizer and agricultural inputs adapted to the lean season to support farmers in Tombouctou and Menaka.
- > Promote resilient farming techniques and the use of drought-resistant seeds.
- > Distribute veterinary vaccines and treatments to prevent the spread of animal diseases in Gao, Ménaka and Tombouctou regions.

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

- > Promote fodder crops to improve livestock feed and reduce dependence on natural resources in times of drought.
- > Develop sustainable water supply systems (boreholes, large-diameter wells, etc.) to increase the resilience of crops to water shortages in Tombouctou and Ménaka regions.
- > Support alternative income-generating activities for households affected by job loss or conflict in Mopti, Ménaka, Gao and Tombouctou regions.
- > Include communities in the implementation of projects to reduce tensions and improve security in conflict-affected regions (Tombouctou, Gao, Ménaka and Mopti).



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