



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## The Philippines

# Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief – round 1

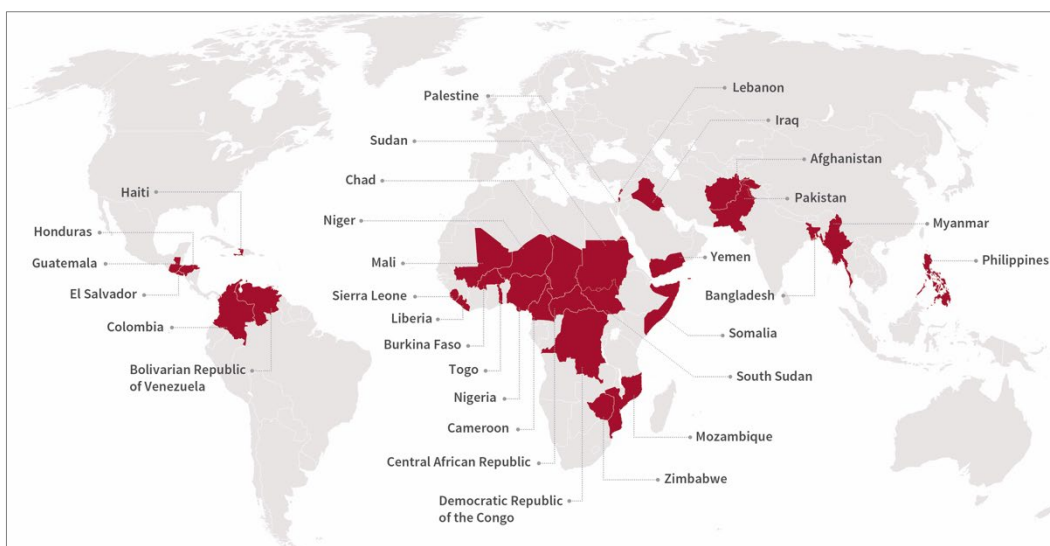
Results and recommendations  
January 2022

## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System on 13 August 2021 to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security in the Philippines. This first round of data collection was based on a random sample of 2 087 households that was representative at the regional level for seven of the country's 18 regions. The survey was undertaken through telephone interviews using random digital dialing in Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Central Luzon, Ilocos, Soccsksargen, Western Visayas and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Findings from the household survey were triangulated with key informant interviews with input providers, traders and other key agricultural value-chain actors. While the country's cropping seasons vary by region, data collection generally coincided with the harvest for maize and rice.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring System



Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World*. [online]. [Cited 6 December 2021]. [www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world](http://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world)

### About DIEM-Monitoring

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

At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insights on the context in the Philippines and other countries.

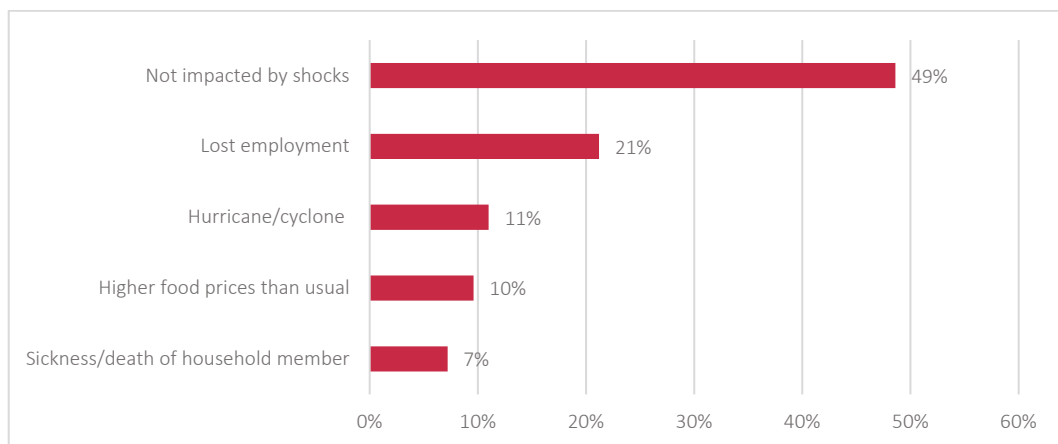
> Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

## Income and shocks

Overall, approximately half of surveyed households reported being affected by shocks, although there was significant variation by region. For example, in BARMM and Western Visayas, these percentages much higher than in areas adjacent to the metropolitan area that includes Manila.

There was also a high degree of heterogeneity in the shocks reported. At the aggregate level, no one shock stands out as having been experienced by a sizable majority of households. The most-cited shock was the loss of employment, which was mentioned by 21 percent of respondents (Figure 2). Cyclones and increased food prices were cited by 11 percent and 10 percent of respondents respectively (the figure for cyclones can be expected to increase significantly in the next round of data collection). Other shocks were reported by no more than 10 percent of respondents.

Figure 2. Most-cited shocks experienced (percentage of respondents)



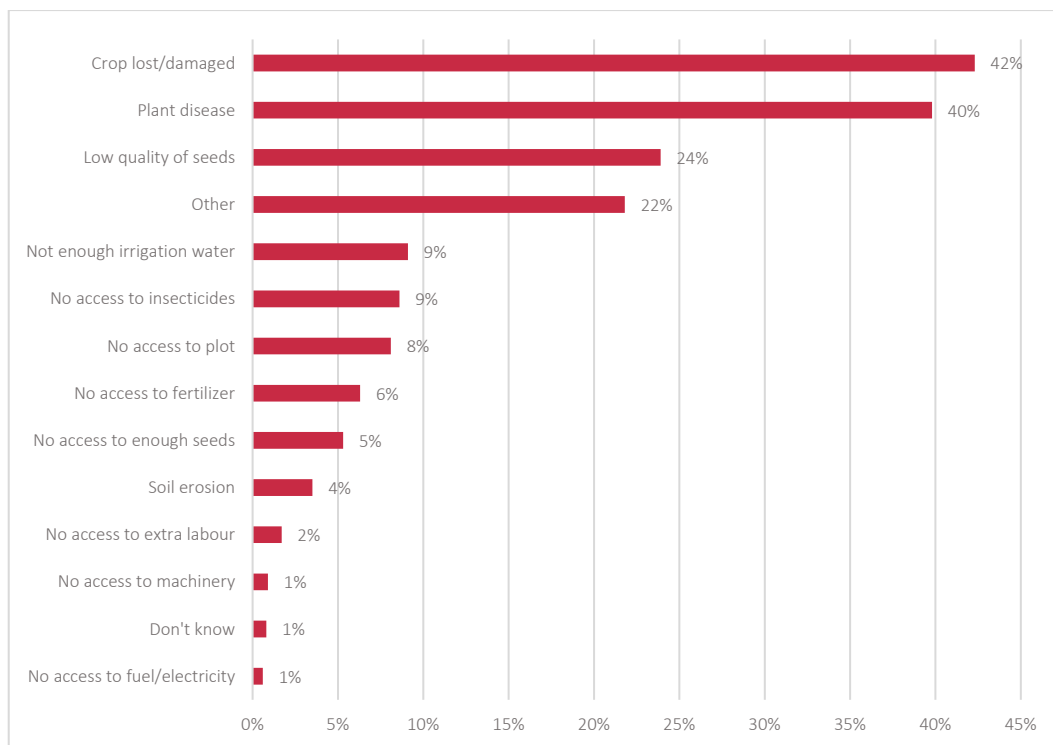
Source of data: FAO. 2021. The Philippines: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–October 2021).

## Crops

In the surveyed areas, most-cited difficulty with crop production was crop loss or damage due to pests or hazards, by 42 percent of respondents (Figure 3). The relatively high percentage of crop farmers citing pest outbreaks as a shock suggest that pests could have been the main reason for the loss of crops, particularly in the regions of Ilocos, Calabarzon and BARMM. The percentage of cereal producers that planted less and expected less production was higher than that of vegetables and fruit producers. Plant diseases and a loss of crops were more frequently associated with a decrease in harvest for these crops than vegetables and fruit. The most-cited marketing difficulties were higher marketing costs (including transportation) and low farm-gate prices. Vegetable and fruit producers cited higher marketing costs more often than producers of other crops.

COVID-19 restrictions could have contributed to marketing difficulties: the share of producers citing marketing challenges was much higher among those affected by restrictions such as the closure of markets, processors, borders, and movement restrictions.

Figure 3. Crop production difficulties (percentage of respondent crop producers)



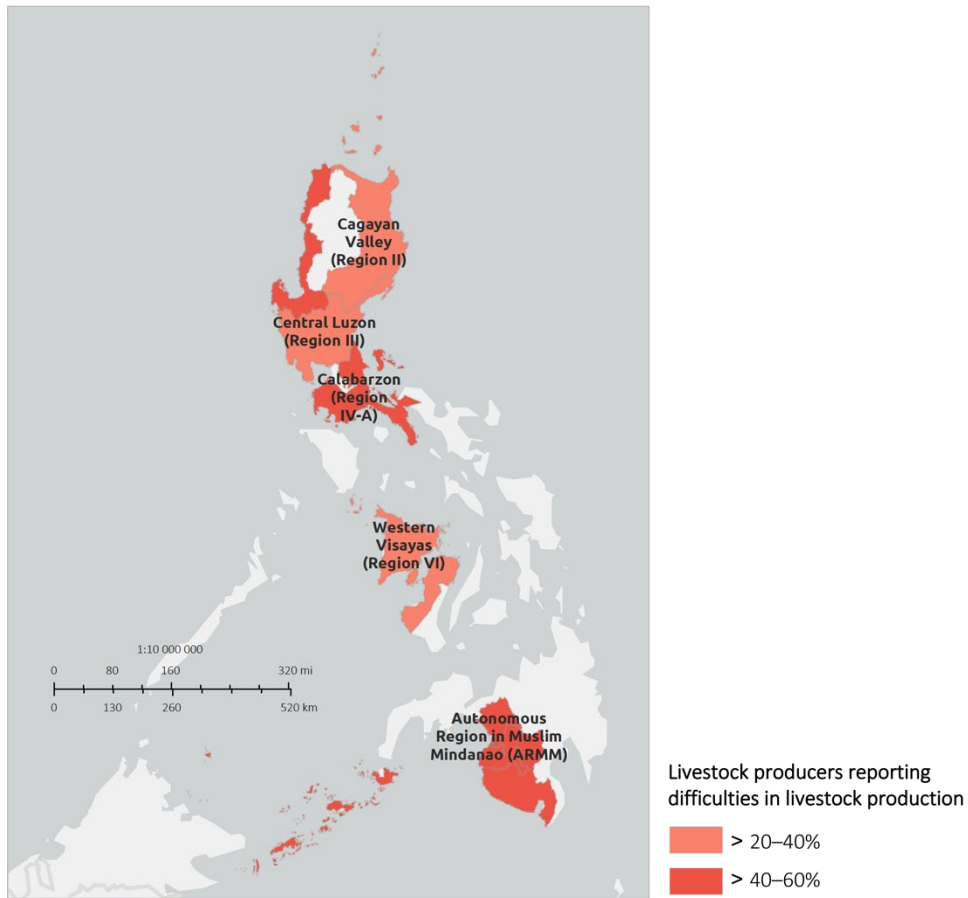
Source of data: FAO. 2021. The Philippines: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–October 2021).

## Livestock

Producers in Cagayan and BARMM reported more difficulties with livestock production than those in other regions (Figure 4). Among poultry producers, the most frequently reported production difficulties were a limited ability to purchase feed and animal diseases. Producers of goats, sheep and small mammals such as rabbits appear to have been affected by more animal deaths, although the small sample size requires caution in interpreting these results.

Amid the country's ongoing recovery from the July 2019 African swine fever outbreak, pork producers have benefited from high prices for their animals, but only 4 percent in this sample purchased more animals than one year ago. Difficulties selling livestock were reported by 46 percent of livestock keepers. These difficulties included low prices and high marketing costs (Figure 5).

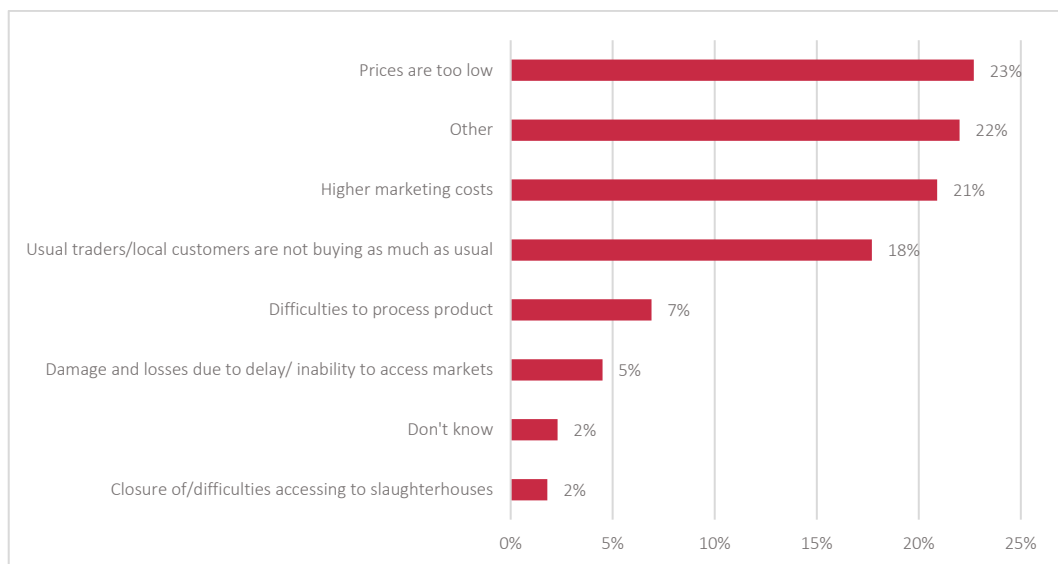
Figure 4. Difficulties reported with livestock production (percentage of respondent livestock producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. The Philippines: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–October 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of the Philippines* [online]. [Cited 13 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Figure 5. Livestock sales difficulties (percentage of respondent livestock producers)



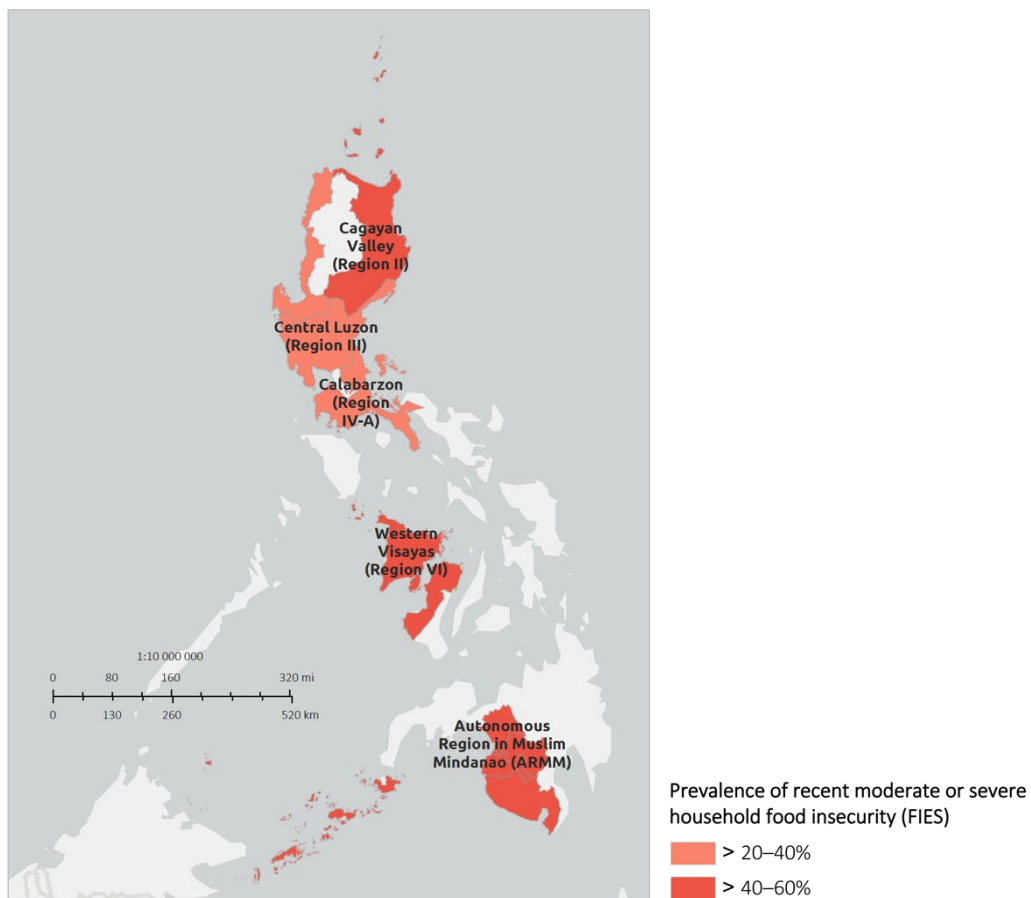
Source of data: FAO. 2021. The Philippines: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–October 2021).

## Food security

The prevalence of recent food insecurity, as assessed with the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was slightly higher among agricultural households than non-agricultural households. By region, recent severe and moderate food insecurity was highest in Soccsksargen (49 percent, with 7 percent severe), BARMM (42 percent with 6 percent severe), Cagayan (41 percent with 5 percent severe) and Western Visayas (41 percent with 6 percent severe) (Figure 6).

The prevalence of moderate and severe recent food insecurity was 58 percent among those affected by shocks versus 34 percent among those who were not affected (the average was 46 percent across the sample). Severe recent food insecurity among those who experienced shocks was 14 percent, compared to 5 percent for those who did not experience shocks.

Figure 6. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity (FIES) (percentage of respondents)



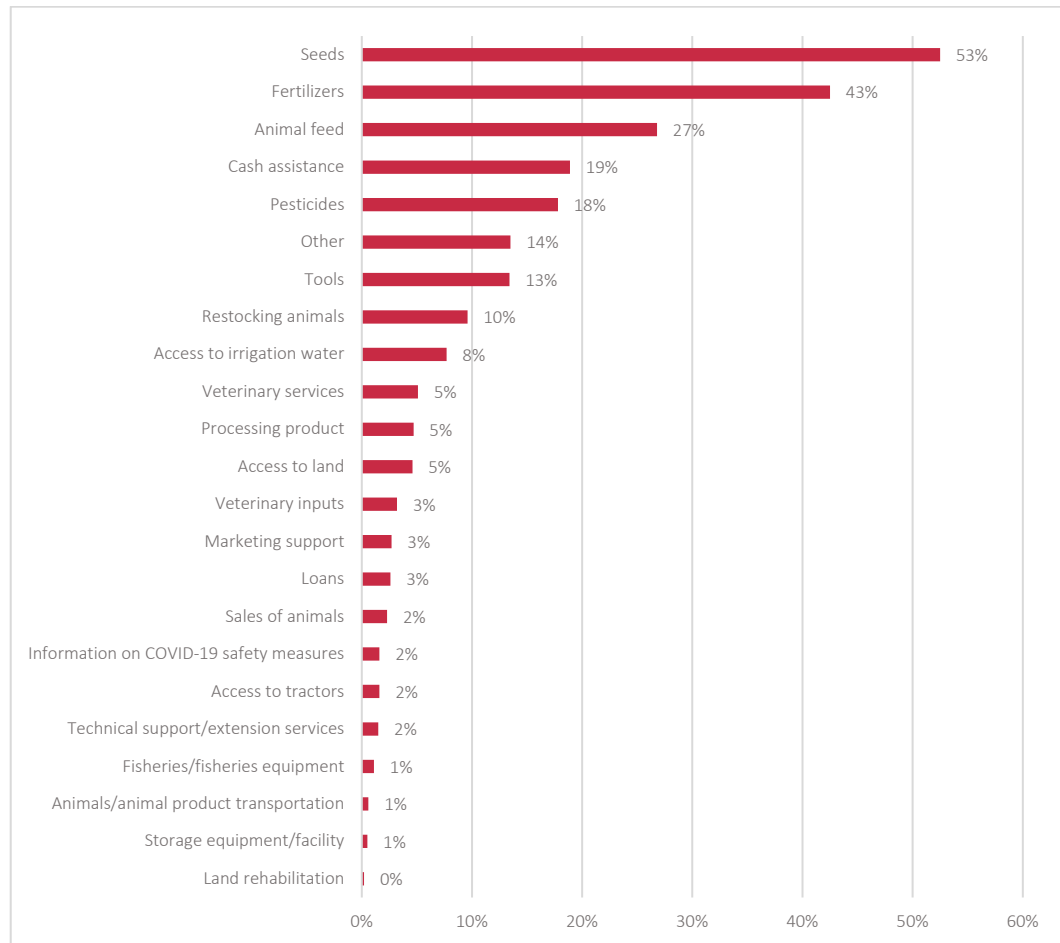
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## Needs

The needs most frequently reported by respondents were related to productive assets: seeds, fertilizers and animal feed (Figure 7). The need for cash assistance was reported less frequently by respondents – even among those experiencing food insecurity.

Figure 7. Needs for assistance (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. The Philippines: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–October 2021).

## Recommendations

- > Support programming on disaster risk reduction and management, focused on vulnerable communities in BARMM and Western Visayas. In BARMM, ensure that these efforts complement activities focused on peacebuilding and expanding economic activity. Provide food vouchers or in-kind assistance to agricultural producers after a market assessment to identify areas where these interventions would be appropriate
- > Given the prevalence of crop-related pests and diseases in the surveyed area, crop producers should be involved in disease surveillance programmes. In the short term, producers should be linked more closely with markets while longer-term structural improvements are enacted to integrate smallholders into value chains.
- > Sustain efforts to eradicate African Swine Fever, with an emphasis on strengthening local capacities to control the disease in hotspots. Support livestock insurance programmes and other efforts to encourage production.
- > Given the association between experiencing shocks and the severity of food insecurity, priority should be given to promoting livelihoods that are sustainable and resilient to shocks commonly experienced in the region. Regular monitoring of areas at risk of severe food insecurity is also recommended.





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