



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 3

Results and recommendations
July 2022

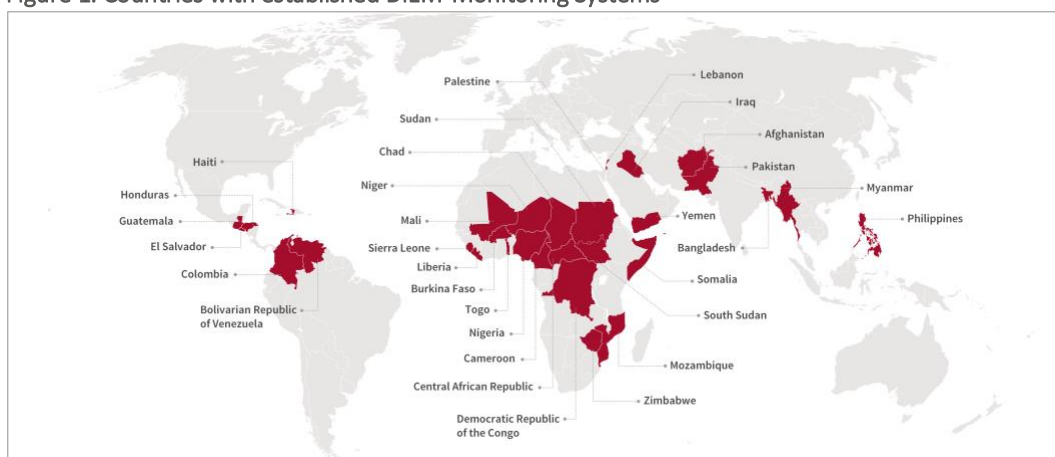
Data collection 5 April to 7 May 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a household survey in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 5 April and 7 May 2022 to monitor changes in agricultural livelihoods and food security.

Data were collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews with 2 110 households in nine of the country's 26 provinces (Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, North Kivu, North Ubangi, South Kivu, South Ubangi, and Tanganyika). Respondents were randomly selected according to a stratified simple random sampling design.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *DIEM-Monitoring*. Rome. Cited 6 April 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World*. Cited 6 April 2022. un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

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. Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

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 Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries.

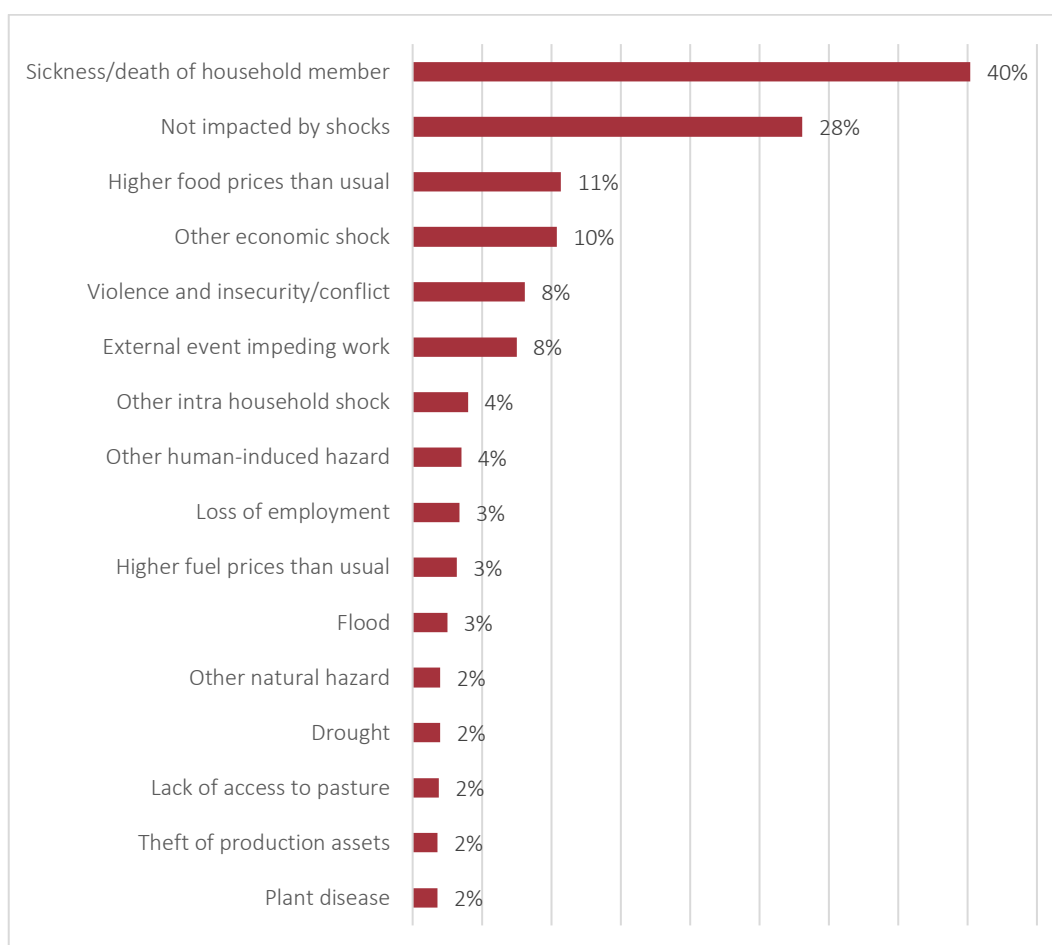
Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

Approximately 60 percent of households experienced at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey, with large disparities between provinces. North and South Ubangi (55 percent) and Central Kasai (48 percent) were the most affected.

The main shocks reported by households (Figure 2) included sickness or death of a household member (40 percent), higher food prices than usual (11 percent), and violence and insecurity/conflict (8 percent). The provinces of Central and Eastern Kasai and Ubangi have been heavily affected by these different shocks. This is due to the displacement during February 2022 of a large portion of the population of Greater Kasai and the east of the country to neighbouring provinces due to food insecurity, violence and armed conflict that forced households to abandon their land.

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



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Forty-nine percent of households reported a decline in their primary and secondary income. The provinces of South Ubangi and Central Kasai were most affected (58 percent). Of the households surveyed, 41 percent derived their main source of income from the production and/or sale of agricultural products, 18 percent from government employment, and 15 percent from entrepreneurship or self-employment. There were some disparities between provinces, with 44 percent of households in Tanganyika reporting reliance on food crop production as their main source of income (see Table 1). Tanganyika province is reputed to be the breadbasket for maize and cassava crops, which were produced in the various territories such as Moba, Nyunzu, and transported to South Kivu province via Lake Tanganyika. In terms of income diversification, only 31 percent of households had a second income-generating activity.

Table 1. Main sources of household income (percentage of households surveyed)

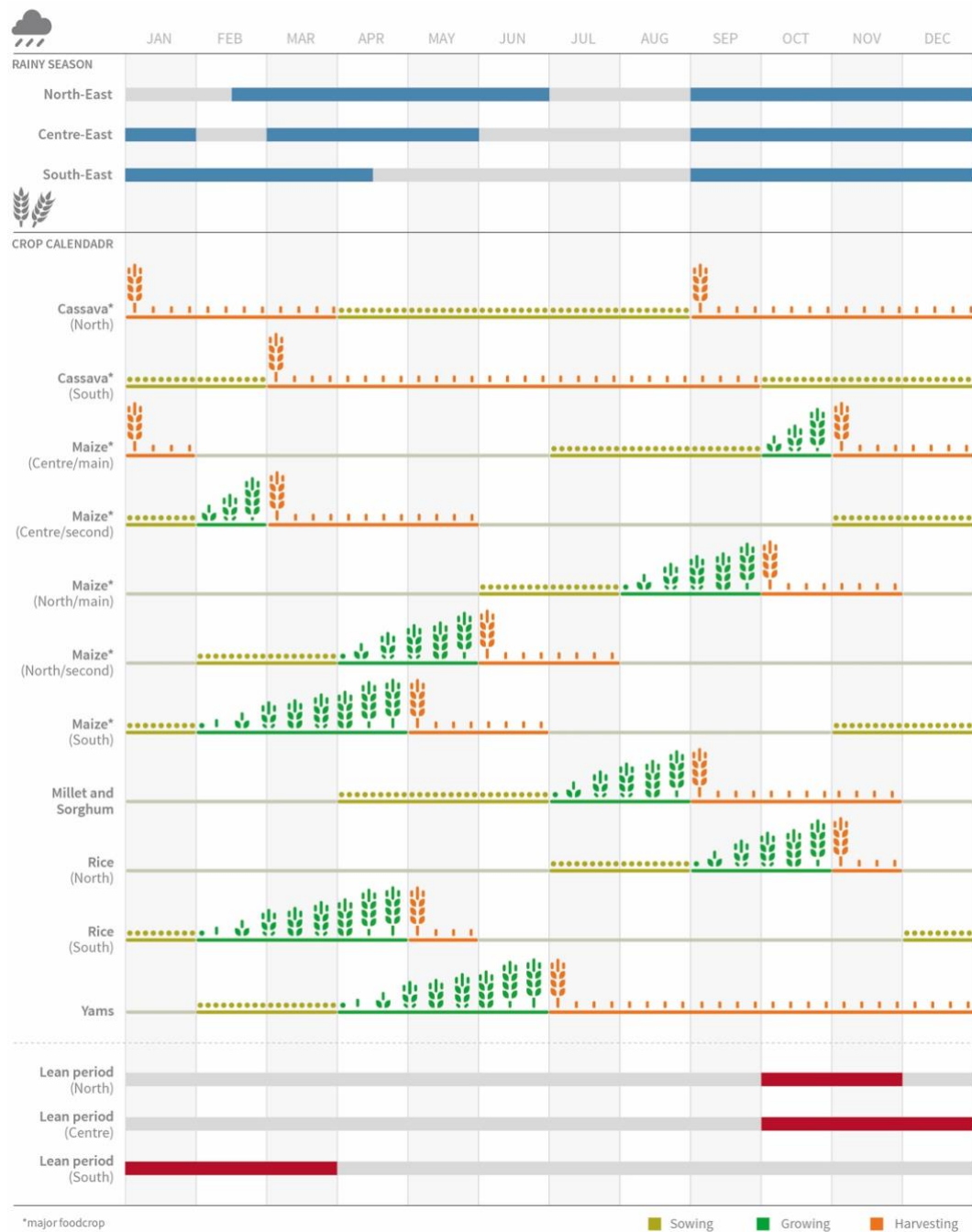
	Food crops	Production of fruits and vegetables	Production and sale of cash crops	Sale of livestock and livestock products	Informal agricultural trade (excluding producers)	Public employment	Independent work (non-agricultural)	Other professions (non-agricultural)	Creating debt	Spending savings	Welfare, remittances, etc.	Other
Ituri	24	7	1	2	7	18	13	12	6	0	5	5
Kasai	33	9	1	4	7	19	9	4	1	1	2	10
Kasai Central	33	3	2	5	4	21	17	3	2	0	3	7
Kasai Oriental	30	5	1	4	7	18	14	8	2	5	1	5
North Kivu	19	2	0	3	4	13	27	14	3	3	5	7
North Ubangi	29	6	1	7	1	25	16	11	0	0	2	2
South Kivu	28	4	1	5	7	16	13	7	3	2	3	11
South Ubangi	30	7	0	5	3	15	17	5	4	2	3	9
Tanganyika	44	8	5	4	5	16	7	4	2	0	4	1

Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Crops

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there are generally two distinct major cropping seasons – the rainy season and the dry season. The lean season usually lasts from two to three months, between October and April, depending on the region. The country's cereal production is mainly composed of corn, cassava and rice. Planting takes place between April and July, and harvesting takes place between September and December (Figure 3). This year, the rains were slow to arrive in the east of the country, specifically in the Ruzizi plain of South Kivu province, which disrupted the growing season. Damage was recorded, particularly the consequences of the drought on seedlings and the delay in planting, which affected crop production.

Figure 3. Crop calendar

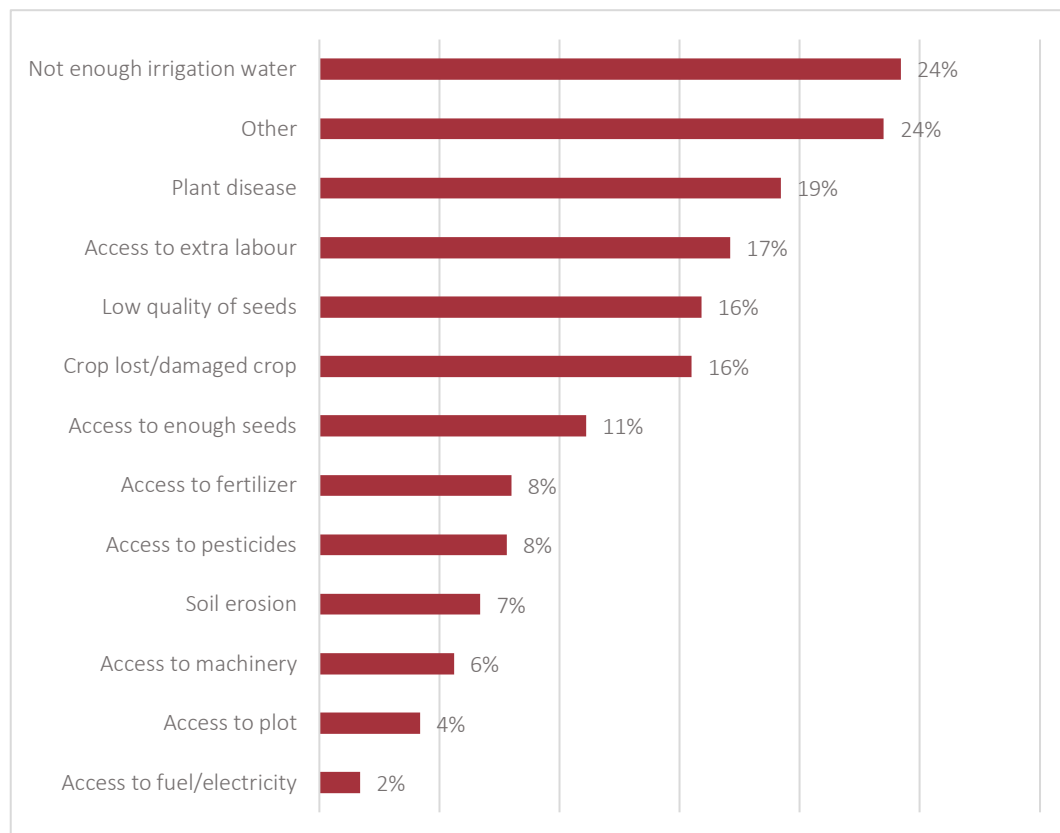


Source: FAO. 2021. *Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) – Democratic Republic of the Congo*. Cited 11 August 2022. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=COD>

Food crops were the main source of income for 30 percent of surveyed households, of which more than 69 percent reported difficulties in crop production and 52 percent in marketing. Households in South Ubangi (78 percent), South Kivu (76 percent), Ituri (76 percent), North Kivu (72 percent) and North Ubangi (71 percent) were strongly affected by these difficulties.

The main factors leading to production difficulties cited by households included lack of access to irrigation water (24 percent), plant diseases (19 percent), access to farm labour (17 percent), and the low quality of seeds and losses due to crop damage (16 percent) (Figure 4). In addition to these constraints, the insecurity context aggravated the situation in provinces with high agricultural production, which are also characterized by the impracticality or near-inexistence of agricultural feeder roads.

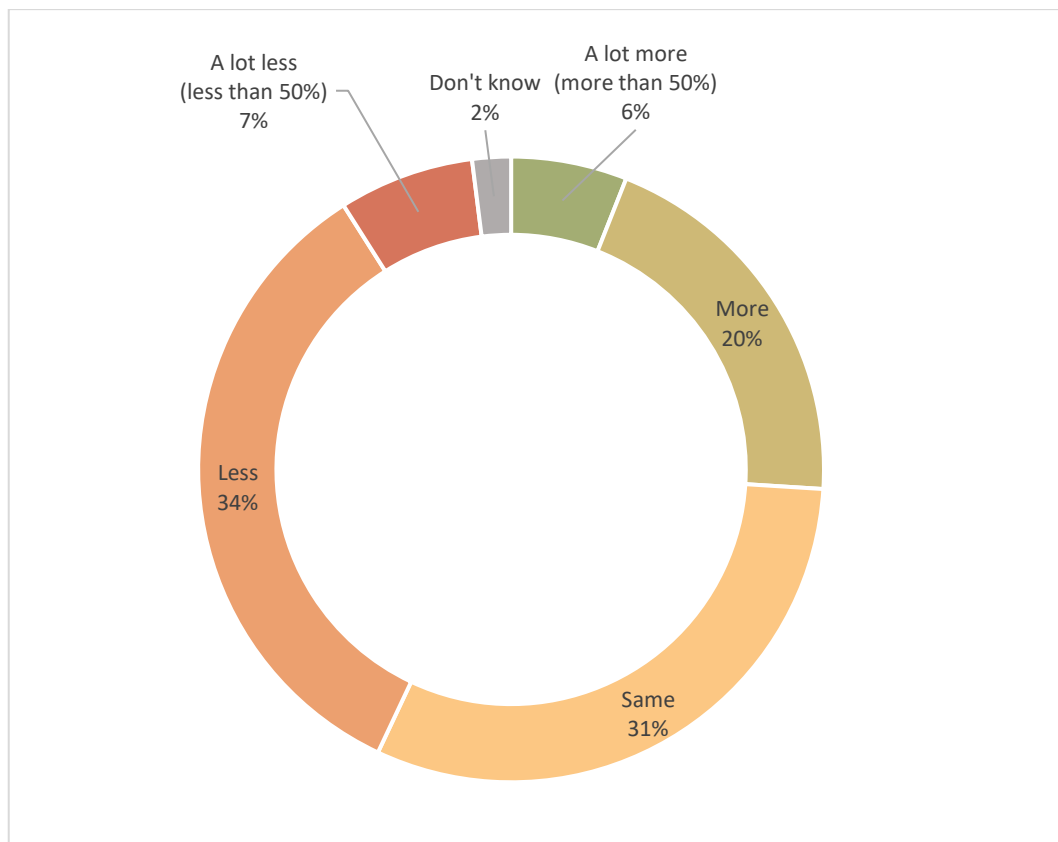
Figure 4. Difficulties in crop production (percentage of households surveyed)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

For 41 percent of households, the area under cultivation decreased from the previous year and 31 percent maintained the same area (Figure 5). This was due to poor accessibility to land in some areas, notably because of socio-cultural barriers – specifically imposed on women – such as inheritance or land purchase and decision-making in the supply of agricultural inputs, for example. The majority of arable land in the country is owned by chiefs or politicians and is not developed.

Figure 5. Change in cultivated area compared to the previous year (percentage of farming households surveyed)



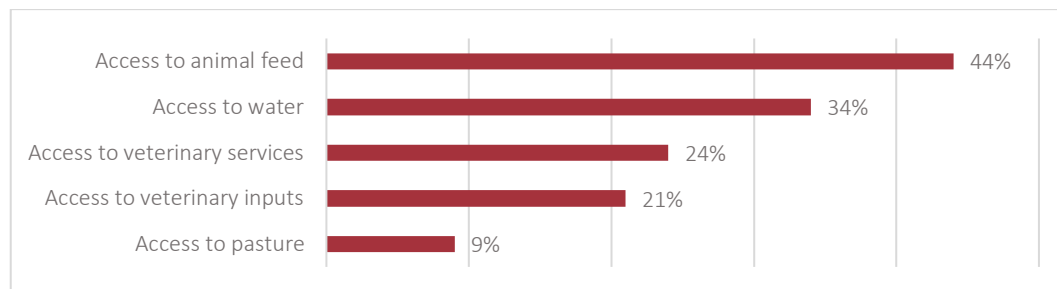
Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Livestock

Livestock activities are poorly developed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, partly due to natural conditions that are not conducive to large-scale livestock production in much of the country. The survey results revealed that approximately 68 percent of livestock keepers encountered difficulties in livestock production during the three months preceding the survey (Figure 6). Low livestock production is generally related to disease and death of animals (47 percent), access to feed (30 percent), theft of livestock (20 percent), access to veterinary inputs and services (19 percent and 17 percent respectively), and access to pasture (14 percent).

Most of the herders faced difficulties accessing feed and were forced to practice transhumance in search of public pastures. The mountainous regions of the east and southeast (Kivu), on the other hand, are suitable for livestock rearing. Cattle were introduced by Tutsi populations from neighbouring countries. This livestock breeding is practiced by specialized pastoralist populations. The dense forest has no pasture, and trypanosomiasis, carried by the tsetse fly, is endemic in most of the lower regions of the country.

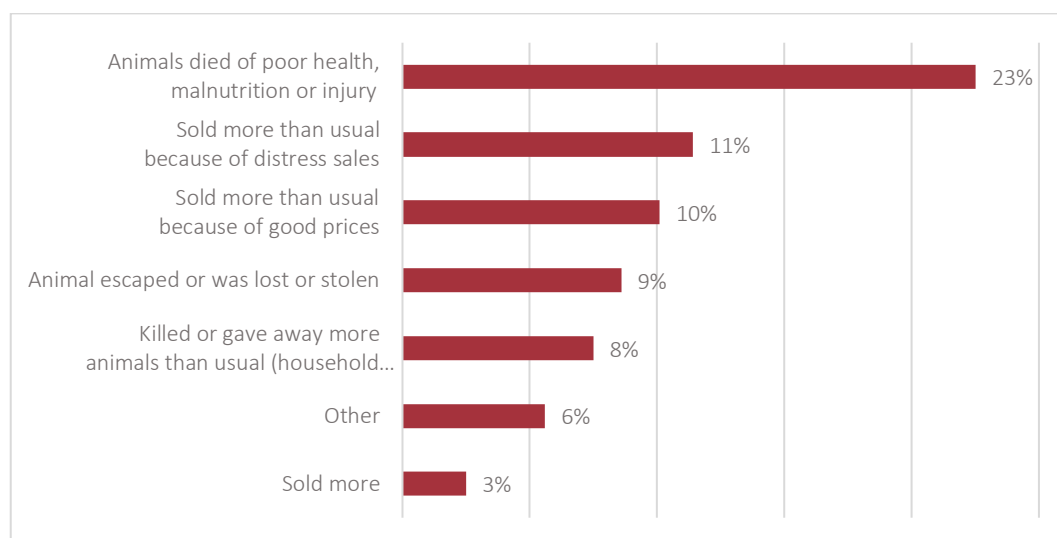
Figure 6. Difficulties in livestock production (percentage of farming households surveyed)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Among livestock producers, 48 percent reported a decrease in livestock numbers from the previous year. This decline was generally related to animal deaths due to disease or injury (23 percent), distress sales (11 percent), improved selling prices (10 percent), and the theft or loss of livestock (9 percent) (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Factors related to the average decrease in the number of animals held compared to the previous year (percentage of farming households surveyed)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Thirty-one percent of farmers reported difficulties in selling livestock and livestock products. Deteriorating prices (57 percent), difficulty accessing markets (25 percent), transportation costs (19 percent) and delays in payments (17 percent) were the main marketing difficulties reported by livestock producers.

Food security

According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES),¹ 57 percent of households reported being moderately to severely food insecure and 25 percent reported being severely food insecure. The highest rates of food insecurity were found in North Ubangi (64 percent), Central Kasai (63 percent) and Tanganyika (61 percent) provinces.

An analysis of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicated that 44 percent of households were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher levels of acute food insecurity, with North Ubangi, Central Kasai and Tanganyika provinces being the most affected.

According to the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), 48 percent of surveyed households had high dietary diversity, 31 percent were medium, and 21 percent were low. Kasai Oriental, Tanganyika and Ituri provinces had the highest scores, while North Kivu, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental and South Kivu had the lowest HDDS.

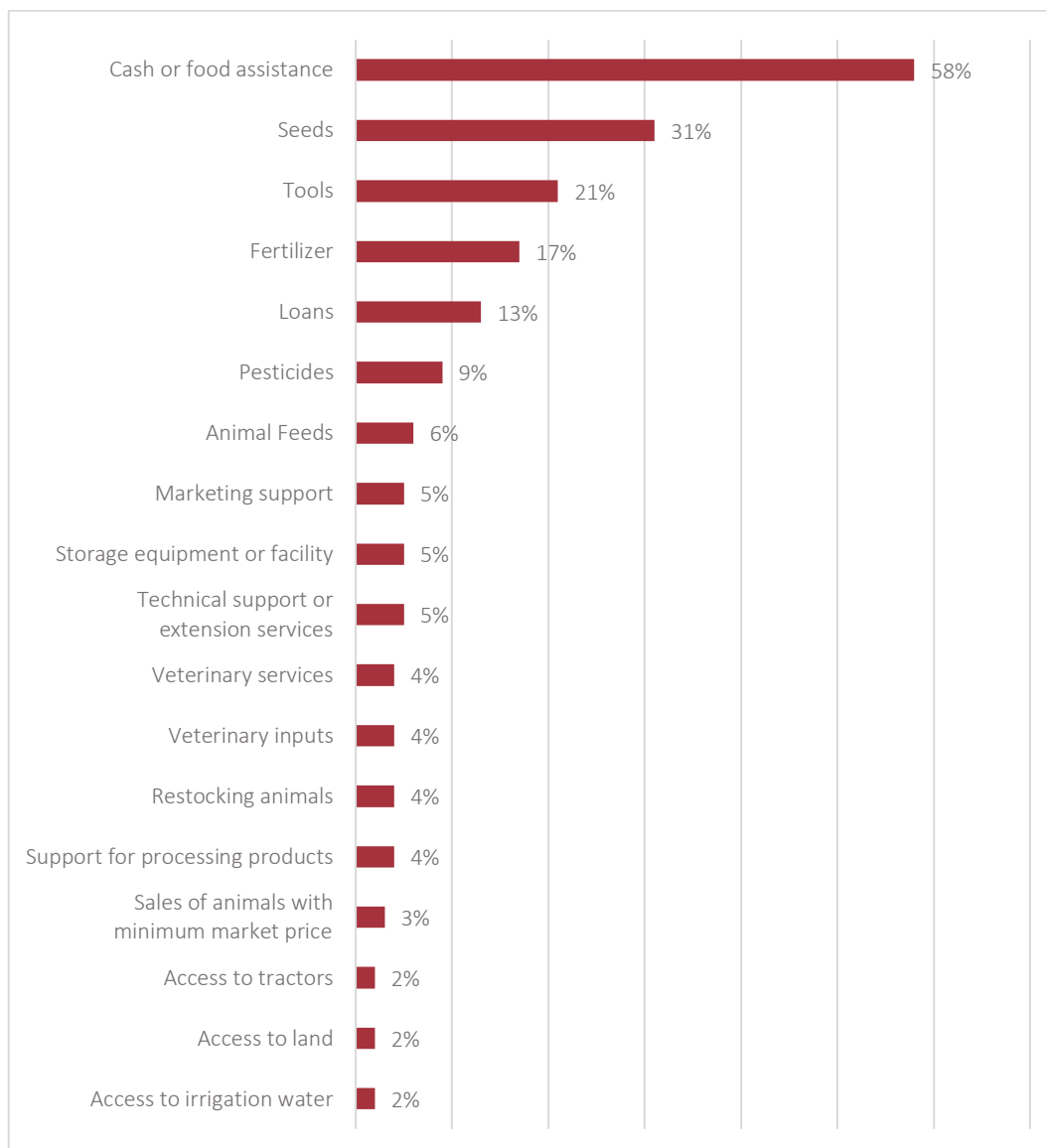
Livelihood coping strategies were mainly oriented toward crisis strategies, such as reducing health expenditures (59 percent), harvesting immature crops for consumption (43 percent), consuming seed stocks (47 percent), reducing expenditures on agricultural inputs (42 percent), withdrawing children from more expensive schools (37 percent), and selling productive assets or means of transport (28 percent). There were large disparities recorded between provinces, with 72 percent of households in Kasai Central reducing their spending on health care, 57 percent consuming their seed stocks and 52 percent reducing their spending on agricultural inputs.

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

A total 91 percent of surveyed households expressed a need for assistance. Financial or food assistance (58 percent), the provision of seeds (31 percent), tools and/or machinery (21 percent), fertilizer (17 percent), loans (13 percent), and pesticides (9 percent) were the most requested needs (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Main needs expressed (percentage of households surveyed)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022)*. Rome. Cited 3 August 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Recommendations

Short term recommendations (next three months):

- > Provide cash assistance to the most vulnerable households to ensure access to basic needs.
- > Develop income-generating activities, particularly for women, to ensure sustainable income.
- > Provide agricultural assistance to the most affected households (in Crisis or Emergency situations of acute food insecurity [IPC Phase 3+]), particularly in Central and Eastern Kasai, North and South Ubangi.
- > Encourage the regulation of market price systems by involving relevant government services.
- > Promote access to public pastures.
- > Improve the security situation in the various armed conflict zones in order to resume agricultural activities.



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