



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

The Niger

# DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 10

Results and recommendations  
October 2024

## Key highlights

- > The tenth round of Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) took place in the Niger at the start of the irrigated cropping season, between 10 September and 8 October 2024.
- > The collection period coincided with some of the most severe flooding in 20 years, affecting more than a third of the households surveyed (39 percent).
- > Among the reported shocks affecting households were abnormally high food prices – particularly cereal prices – linked to the reduction in Beninese imports, flooding and the security situation. The conflict, which is part of the daily lives of the exposed populations, does not stand out among the reported shocks.
- > Harvests fell for half the households (53 percent), while the area under cultivation remained the same for the majority. This decline could be attributed to flooding, difficulties accessing affordable agricultural inputs and damage caused by crop pests.
- > The rainy season was favourable to the regeneration and development of pastoral resources, with surplus biomass production across all pastoral zones, where there had been a shortage of pasture in all previous rounds. Nevertheless, the availability of feed for livestock remained limited.
- > The level of food security in the country seems to have improved following the harvests in the months preceding the survey, in line with the gradual normalization of agricultural conditions following a prolonged break in rainfall.
- > The main recommendations relate to activities aimed at increasing the availability of animal feed and veterinary services. Fertilizer should be distributed, and phytosanitary treatments should be developed in areas heavily infested by pests to support crop production.

## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) carried out the tenth round of DIEM-Monitoring between 18 October and 13 November 2024 to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security in the Niger.

Data were collected through face-to-face interviews and reached 3 583 households across all regions of the Niger (Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder), except for the urban region of Niamey. In each region (administrative level 1), one or two departments (administrative level 2) were over-sampled to obtain results in sensitive areas or areas of particular interest in anticipation of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis, in particular.<sup>1</sup> Weights were applied on the basis of population size and a wealth indicator (access to drinking water).

Data collection took place at the start of the irrigated cropping season. The results of this tenth-round survey have been compared throughout this brief to those of the ninth round (June 2024, start of the wet season), the eighth round (November 2023, irrigated cropping season) and the seventh round (July 2023, end of the wet 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. 2025. Map of the World. In: *United Nations*. [Cited 1 February 2025]. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world-1>

<sup>1</sup> Six departments were oversampled: Goudoumaria (in the Diffa region), Dakoro (Maradi), Madarounfa (Maradi), Madaoua (Tahoua), Ouallam (Tillabéri) and Gouré (Zinder). The other departments in each region were aggregated to form separate strata.

### 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.

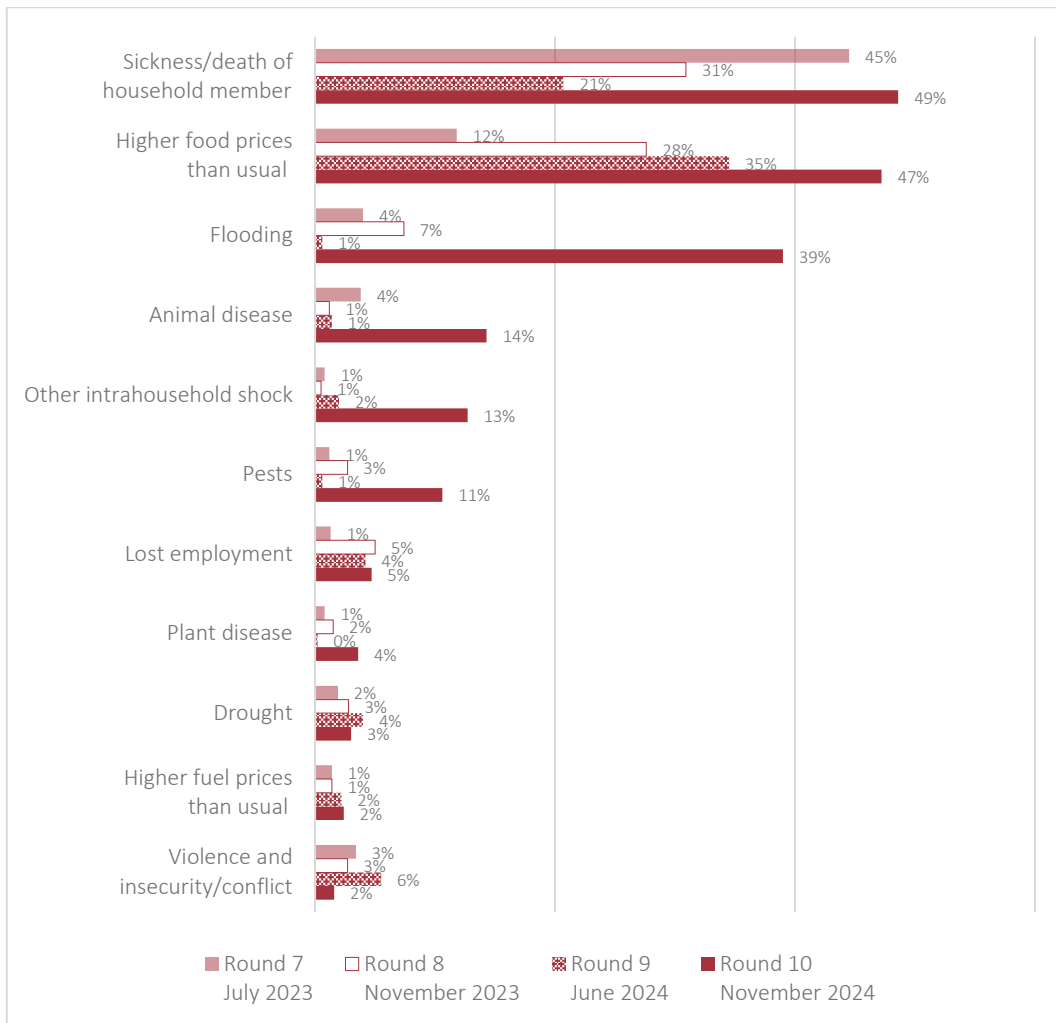
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of the Niger and other countries.

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

## Income and shocks

The data collection period coincided with some of the worst flooding in 20 years, which affected 39 percent of the surveyed households (Figure 2), particularly in Tahoua (49 percent), Zinder (45 percent) and Diffa (43 percent). Flooding was one of the shocks reported by 87 percent of households, along with illness or death in the household (49 percent), and unusual increases in food prices (47 percent).

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



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 January 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hq.fao.org/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Wholesale prices for locally produced sorghum and millet – the cereals most consumed in the country – rose by between 40 and 70 percent between March and September 2024, due to a reduction in Beninese imports, the floods and the security situation (FAO, 2024). Since September 2024 – as supply has increased – prices have fallen, but remain higher than at the same time in the year preceding the survey. Conflict, which is an integral part of the daily lives of the populations exposed to it, was rarely mentioned.

Compared to a typical year, almost half of the surveyed households (56 percent) reported that their main income fell. This decrease was more marked among households involved solely in livestock production (64 percent). In Agadez, a predominantly pastoral region, 63 percent of households reported a fall in their main income.

## Crops

Figure 3. The Niger agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2024. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System Country Briefs: The Niger. In: FAO. Rome. [Cited 21 January 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=NER&lang=en>

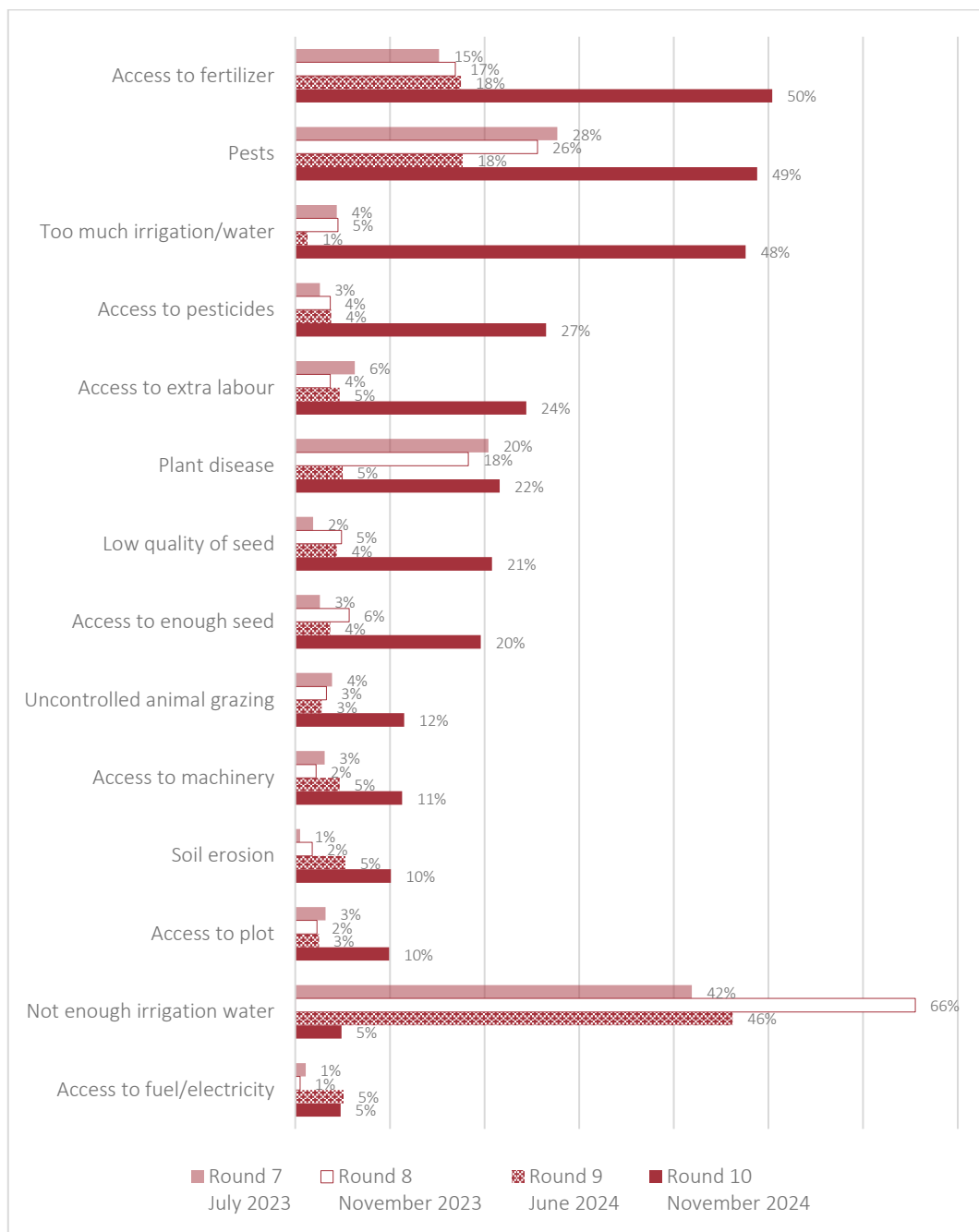
Difficulty finding agricultural inputs at the market or buying them at an affordable price increased compared with previous harvesting rounds. In fact, half the surveyed households reported difficulties accessing fertilizer (Figure 4), especially in Maradi (71 percent), but also in Agadez, Diffa and Tahoua, despite state subsidies. The Niger is an importer of fertilizer, and the closure of the border with Benin may have disrupted supplies. In addition, due to a lack of



financial resources, crop producers were unable to obtain mineral fertilizer to fertilize the soil. This would explain why harvests have fallen for half of the respondent households (53 percent), while the area planted remained the same over the three months preceding the survey for the majority (63 percent).

Pest outbreaks also limited crop production, particularly in Diffa and Agadez, but also in Maradi, where the millet earworm has been restricting millet cultivation for decades (ICRISAT, 2024). Cowpea cultivation was affected by various pests, including floral insects, caterpillars and grasshoppers, requiring the use of pesticides (Ministère de l’agriculture et de l’élevage, 2024).

Figure 4. Crop production difficulties (percentage of crop producers)



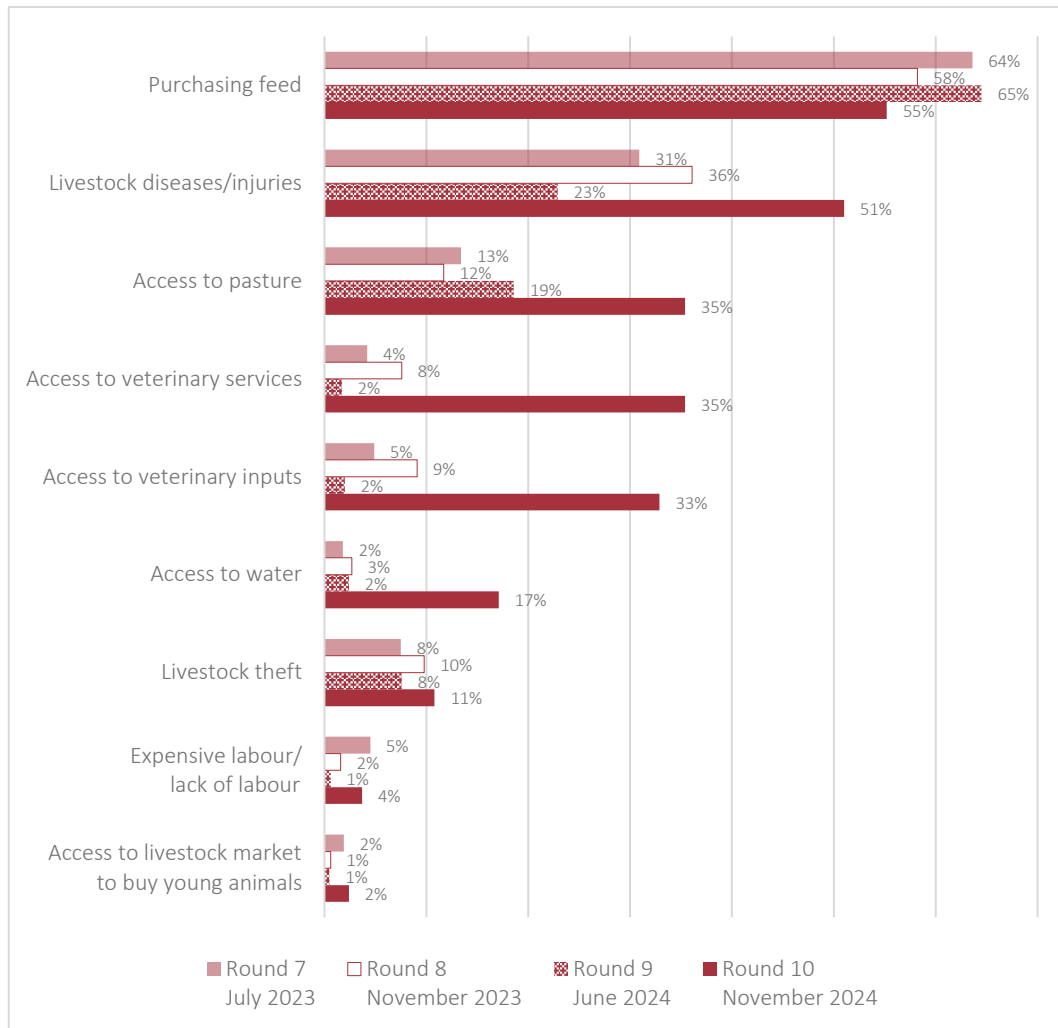
Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 21 January 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Sales were limited by falling prices due to increased supply and transport costs (35 percent of respondent households), as well as a reduction in the number of regular customers (28 percent).

## Livestock

The rainy season was favourable for the regeneration and development of pastoral resources, resulting in surplus biomass production in all pastoral zones, whereas there had been a shortage of pasture across all previous rounds. Nevertheless, the availability of pasture remained insufficient, and a third of the farmers surveyed (35 percent) had difficulty accessing it (Figure 5). This rate rose to 46 percent in Maradi and 65 percent in Diffa, as a result of a negative anomaly in vegetation cover along the grazing strip over the first few months of 2024, compared with the same two months over the previous 20 years (ACF, 2024). In addition, the availability of feed for livestock remained limited, particularly in Diffa, Dosso and Tillabéry, a difficulty already observed in previous survey rounds.

Figure 5. Livestock production difficulties (percentage of livestock producers)



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

Fifty-one percent of households reported cases of animal disease, particularly in Agadez and Zinder, an increase compared with previous rounds. Animals have had a difficult dry season, and despite the onset of the winter season, they were weakened and more prone to disease. Distress sales increased in Agadez and Tahoua, most likely due to the need for frequent destocking in pastoral regions. Access to veterinary services was limited in several regions (Agadez, Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder), but was particularly acute in Diffa, an area only partially covered by the local private veterinary services. Access to veterinary services and inputs has become more difficult, probably due to the increase in violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups in the regions of Diffa and Tillabéry, in the northwest of Tahoua and the southwest of Maradi.

Livestock selling prices were down, but there were disparities between regions and categories of livestock.

## Food security

According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES),<sup>2</sup> 40 percent of households were moderately or severely food insecure, particularly in Agadez (56 percent), Maradi (47 percent) and Tahoua (44 percent) (Figure 6). Severe food insecurity affected 4.2 percent of households overall. Food security looks to have improved in the country thanks to the harvests obtained in the months preceding the survey, in line with the gradual normalization of agricultural conditions following a prolonged break in rainfall.

The household dietary diversity score (HDDS) confirmed an improvement in food security, with an increase in the percentage of households with medium or high dietary diversity. The household hunger scale (HHS) also indicated that most surveyed households (84 percent) experienced little or no hunger (Figure 7).

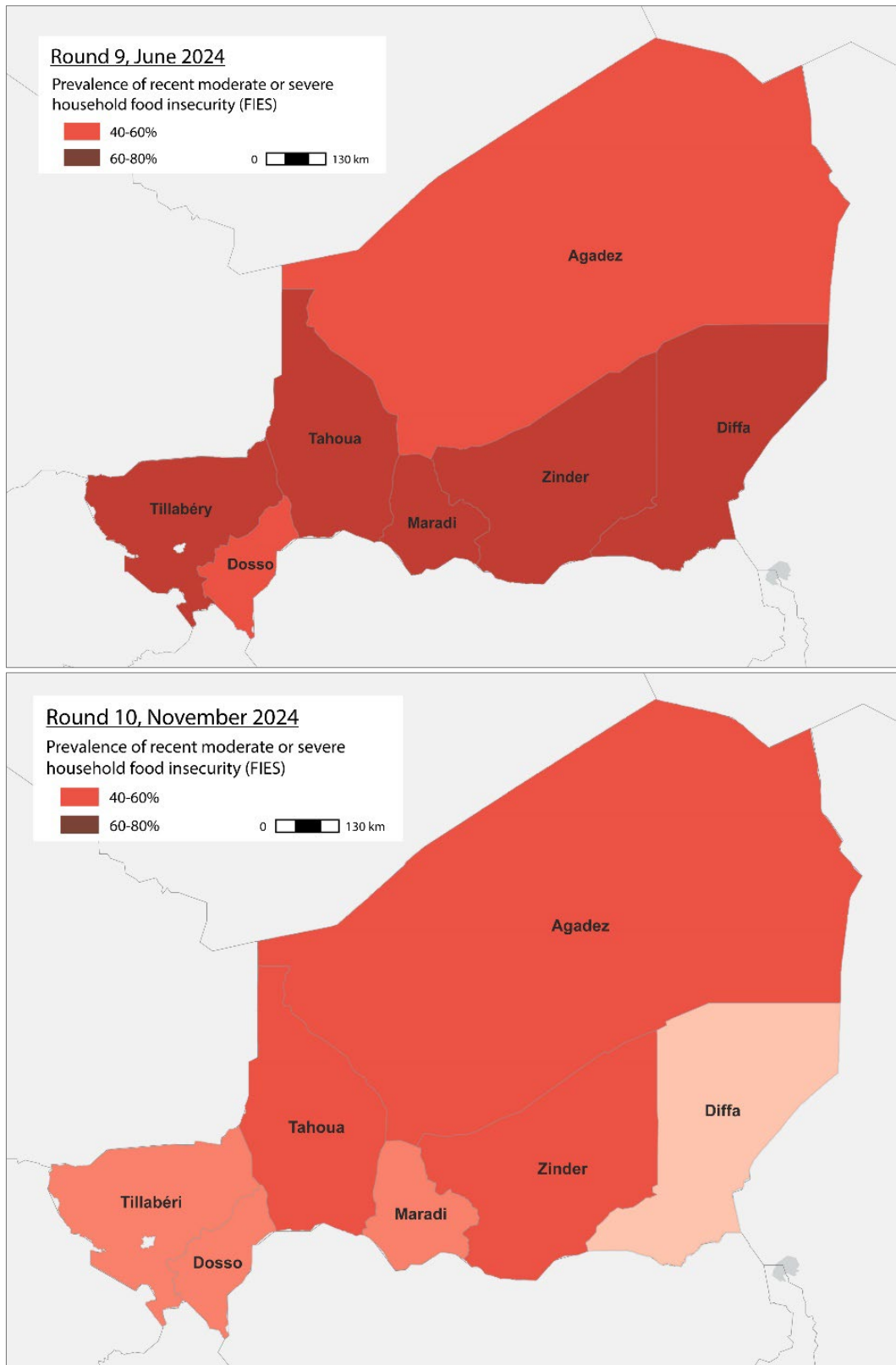
Coping strategies, as measured with the livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI), were mainly oriented towards stress (42 percent), emergency (18 percent) and crisis (17 percent) strategies. Only 23 percent of the surveyed households did not use any coping strategies.

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



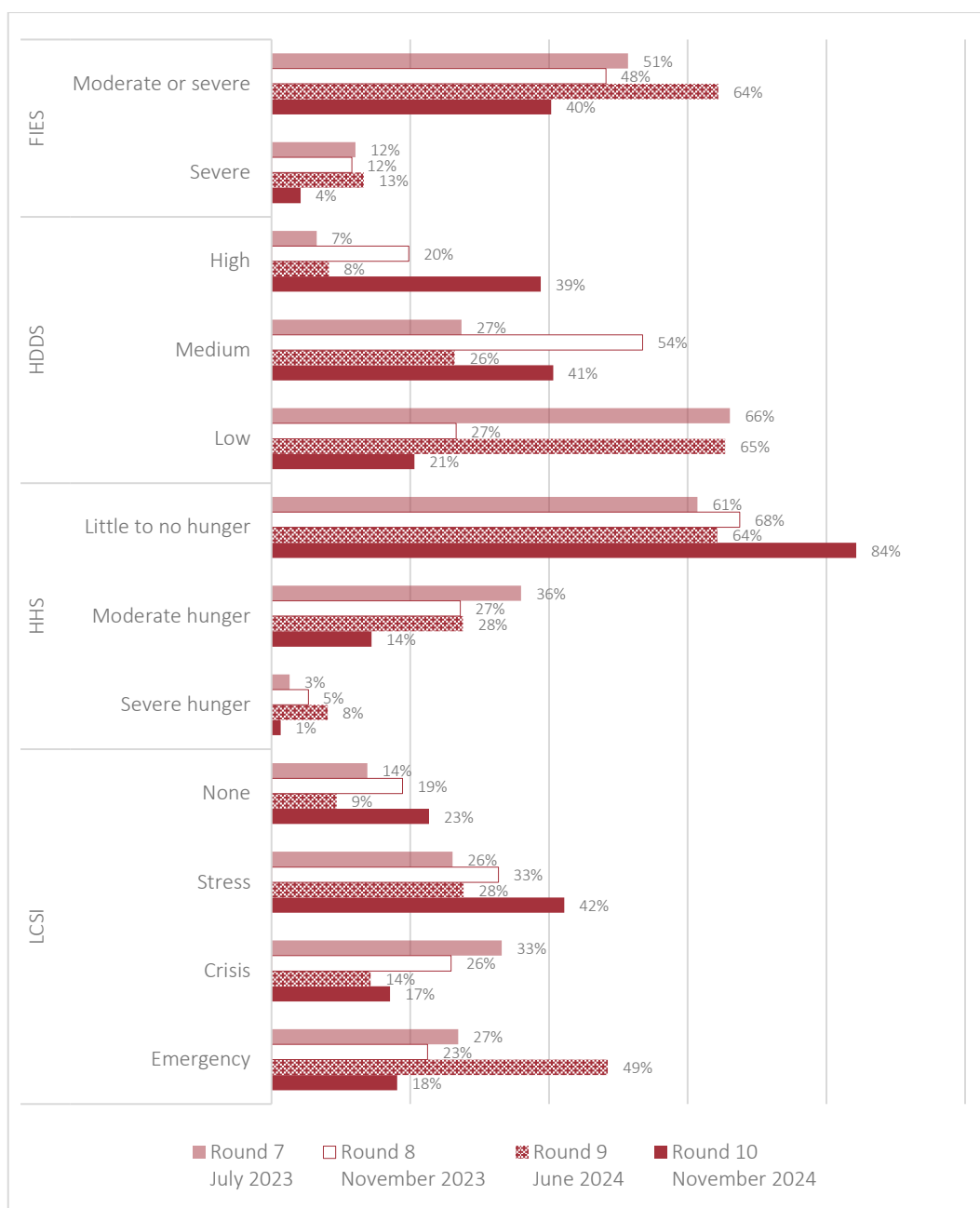
Figure 6. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe household food insecurity (percentage of households)



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

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

Figure 7. Food security indicators (percentage of respondent households)



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

## Needs

Eighty-five percent of surveyed households reported the need for food assistance and 59 percent reported the need for financial support in the form of cash. Among crop producers, the priorities were food assistance (87 percent), financial assistance (66 percent), agricultural inputs (61 percent) and infrastructure for crop production (47 percent). Livestock producers, on the other hand, prioritized food assistance (80 percent), livestock feed (46 percent), cash (44 percent), livestock infrastructure (36 percent) and veterinary services (34 percent).

## Recommendations

### Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

- > Continue to promote diversified seeds.
- > Continue to distribute cash, together with seeds and agricultural kits.
- > Review the arrangements for distributing or selling fertilizer and livestock feed.

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

- > Promote nutrition education, through the formulation of specific programmes and the development of agropastoral schools relating to the preservation of local crop species.
- > Encourage the sale of livestock feed at moderate prices. Anticipate the response to the pastoral hunger gap by planning distributions.
- > Strengthen livestock feed production capacity (fodder crops, urea straw treatment and preparation of multinutritional blocks). Introduce fodder crops on reclaimed and developed sites.
- > Plan the strategic sale and destocking of livestock to prevent losses.
- > Improve the coverage of veterinary services by strengthening the establishment of local private veterinary services, particularly in regions where coverage is poor, such as Diffa. Improve management of soil-borne diseases.
- > Intensify phytosanitary treatments in regions heavily infested by pests and reinforce the training of phytosanitary workers by giving communities a sense of responsibility. Develop producers' plant health management skills.

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