



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Yemen

# DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 19

Results and recommendations  
August 2024

## Key highlights

- > Nationwide, food security remained stable compared to the previous month. However, in areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities there was a marginal increase across most food insecurity measures, while food insecurity decreased in areas controlled by the Government of Yemen. At governorate level, Al Bayda, Al Dhalee, Al Jawf and Hajjah had higher prevalences in three out of five food insecurity indicators compared to the previous 12-month averages. The proportion of households using crisis or emergency coping strategies increased by nearly 3 percent, while households frequently using food-based coping strategies decreased by around 2 percent compared to May 2024.
- > The marginal deterioration in food security in areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities is largely due to humanitarian and economic factors. Moreover, reporting of shocks and decreases in main income sources was considerably higher in the Sana'a-based authority-controlled areas, while Government of Yemen controlled areas experienced improvement.
- > Crop production difficulties (86 percent) and livestock production difficulties (71 percent) were almost at the same level as the last DIEM survey in March 2024. Lack of water and access to fertilizer remained the major difficulties for crop producers. For livestock producers, access to pasture and feed, and livestock death and disease were the major difficulties, similar to previous rounds.
- > It is recommended that emergency food distribution, livelihood and resilience-building programmes are scaled-up in the areas and governorates most in need.

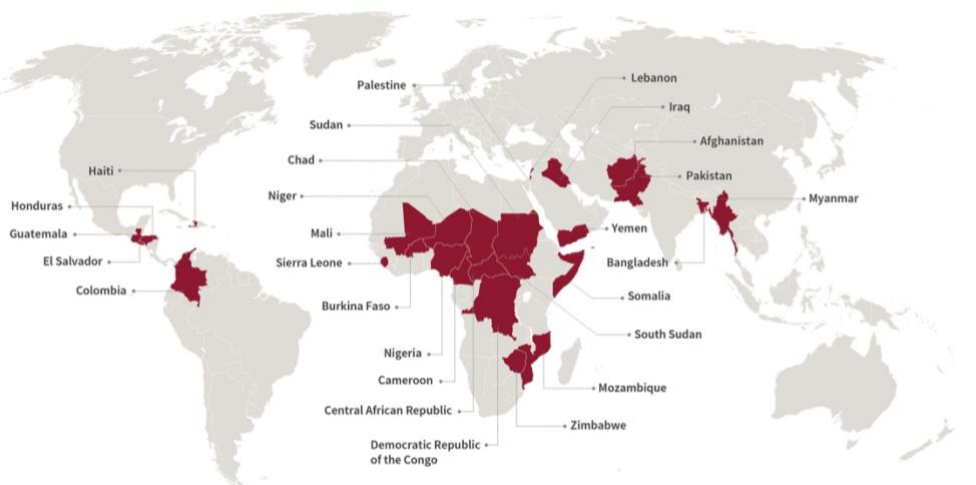
## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the nineteenth round of household surveys in Yemen through computer-assisted telephone interviews from 6–20 June 2024. Initially, the sample was designed with 110 households in each of the 22 governorates, amounting to 2 420 households nationally. The sample was representative of the population of Yemen and of the governorates (administrative level 1), with a 95 percent confidence level and a 10 percent margin of error. Eventually, 2 500 households were interviewed, of which 54 percent were engaged in agricultural activities (crop, livestock and both), and 2 percent were engaged in fish production and sales in the 12 months preceding the survey. The data were weighted during the analysis to ensure proportionate representation. Weights were computed based on population size and a wealth proxy (access to drinkable water).

This brief presents a comparison of the key findings of the nineteenth round with previous survey rounds. In Yemen, a total of 19 rounds have been conducted since August 2020. Nine of these surveys were conducted through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System and ten were conducted through High Frequency Monitoring (HFM). While DIEM-Monitoring surveys are more comprehensive and cover five thematic areas – income and shocks, crops, livestock, food security and needs – HFM surveys utilize the same methodology with a subset of indicators on income and shocks, and food security outcomes. The sampling frame for the first three rounds of DIEM-Monitoring surveys was not representative of the population of Yemen and these surveys have not been cited for national-level information and comparison purposes.

Comparisons related to agricultural livelihoods have been drawn from past DIEM-Monitoring surveys: the sixth round conducted in March 2023, the tenth round conducted between July and August 2023, and the sixteenth round conducted in March 2024. To understand the impacts of agricultural seasonality along with other economic factors affecting food insecurity and livelihoods, the HFM surveys conducted in March and June 2023, and May 2024 have also been drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with an established DIEM-Monitoring System



**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. 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. 2023. 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.

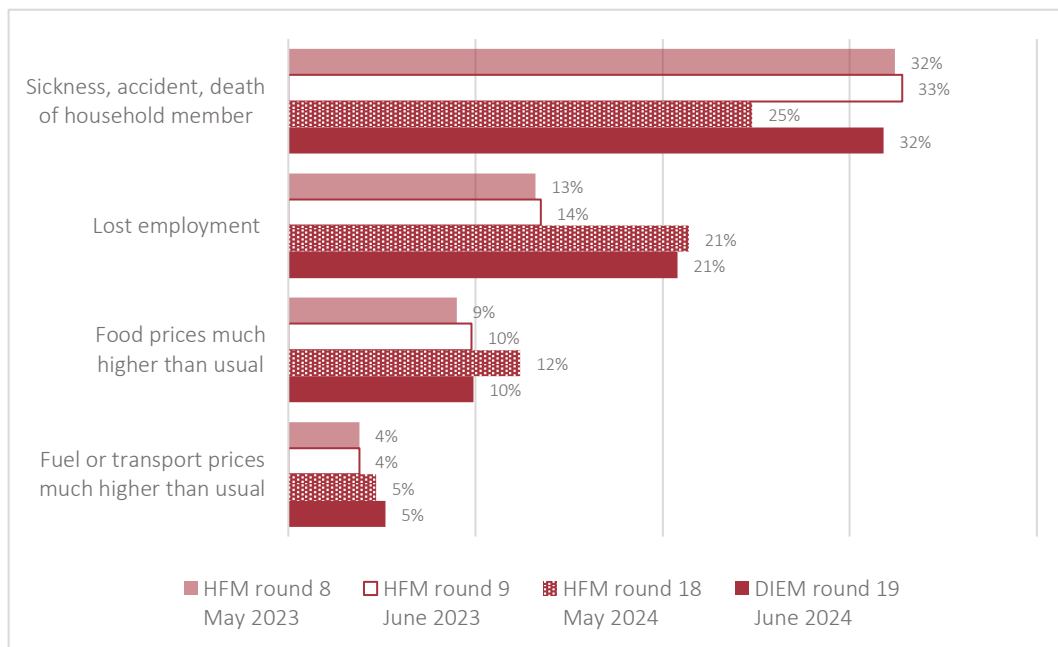
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of Yemen and other countries.

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

## Income and shocks

Fifty-seven percent of the surveyed households reported facing shocks that affected their ability to raise an income in the three months prior to the survey. This figure is slightly higher than the previous month (May 2024) and the same period in 2023. The top shocks reported were sickness or death of household members and income earners (32 percent), and loss of employment (21 percent) (Figure 2). The number of households that reported high food prices as a shock was at the lowest level since June 2023. FAO's Market Information System in Yemen confirmed that the real price of a minimum food basket was stable in the months preceding the survey (FAO, 2024a).

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)

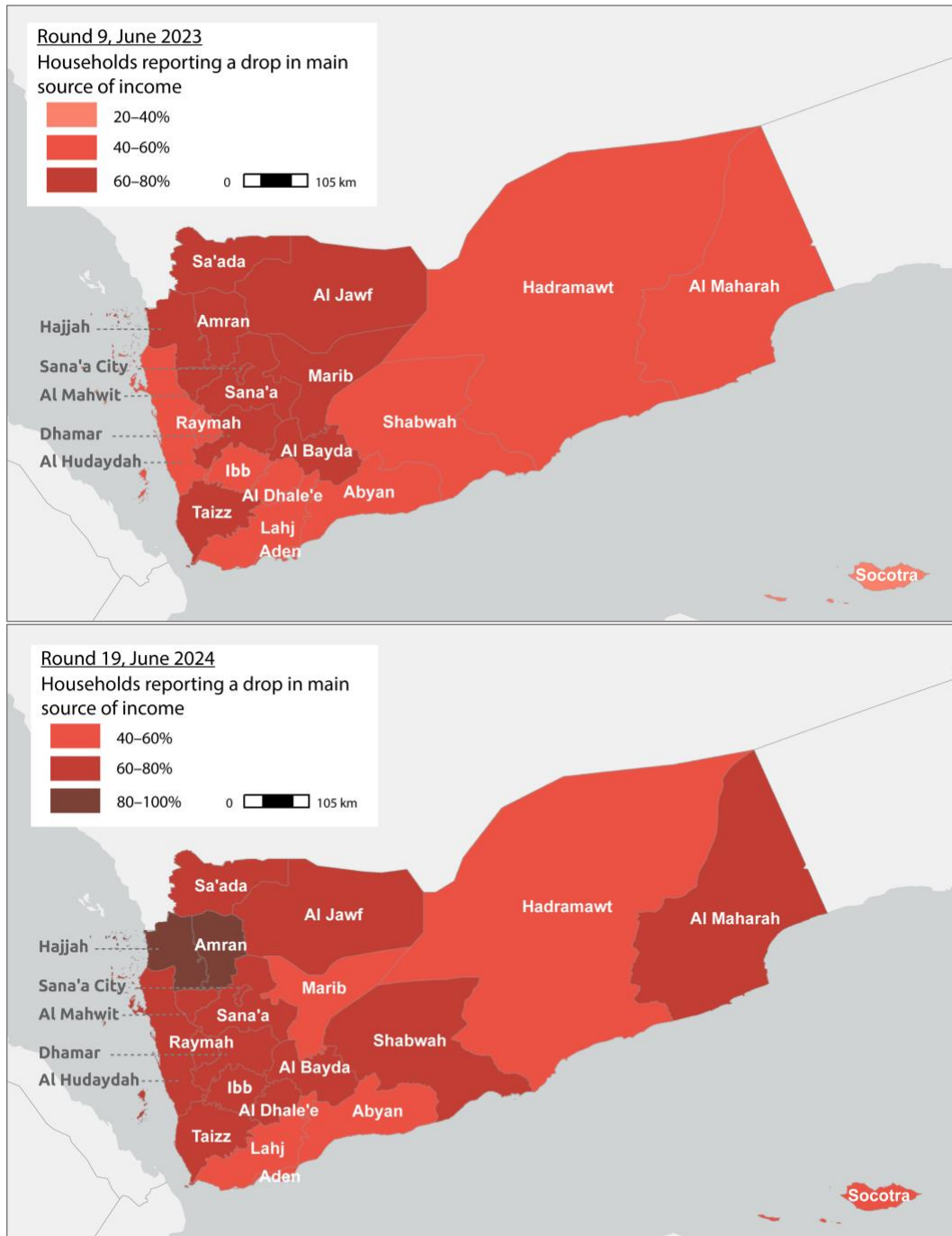


Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Yemen assessments results (May and June 2023, and May and June 2024). [Accessed on 30 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Seventy percent of households reported a decrease in income from main sources compared to the same period in 2023. This has been the highest reporting of an income decrease across all surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024. In Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahara, Al Mahwit, Amanat Al Asimah, Amran, Hajjah, Ibb, Raymah, Sadah and Sana'a, over 70 percent of households reported a decrease in income. Except for Al Bayda and Sana'a, reporting on income decrease in all of these governorates was substantially higher (5 percent and above) in

June 2024 compared to June 2023 (Figure 3). In most of these governorates, a large majority of the households reported experiencing shocks.

Figure 3. Households reporting a drop in main source of income (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Yemen assessments results (June 2023 and June 2024). [Accessed on 30 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

It is worth noting that reporting of shocks and decreases in income was considerably higher in areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities, which raised the national averages. In areas controlled by the Government of Yemen the proportion of households experiencing shocks and decreases in income was the lowest it has been since April and May 2023.

# Crops

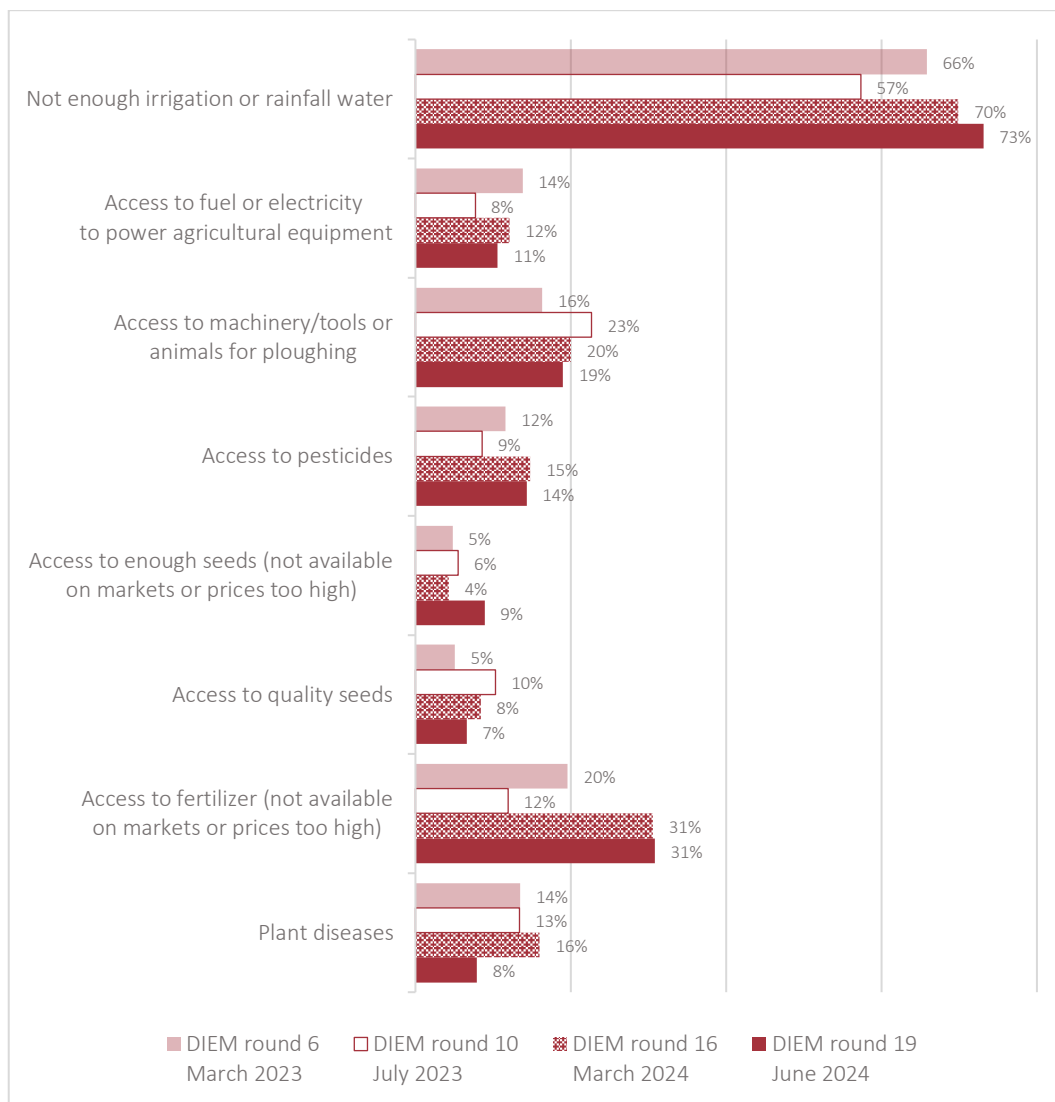
Figure 4. Yemen agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2023. GIEWS Country Briefs: Yemen. In: *FAO*, 30 May 2023. Rome. [Cited 30 April 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?lang=en&code=YEM>

Eighty-six percent of surveyed crop producers were facing crop production difficulties in the ongoing season during data collection. While this was no major change from the previous DIEM survey in March 2024, reporting increased by around 10 percentage points compared to July 2023. Similarly to previous surveys, insufficient irrigation or rainwater (73 percent), and access to fertilizer (31 percent) were cited as major difficulties (Figure 5). Reporting on lack of water was higher (>80 percent) in western governorates: Al Bayda, Al Dhalee, Amran, Hajjah, Lahj, Raymah and Taizz. From March to May 2024, rainfall was often below long-term averages in the western governorates, causing water scarcity for farmers (FAO, 2024b). Of crop producers who planted crops, 30 percent reported a decrease in the plantation area, and 71 percent expected a reduced harvest compared to last year. Among the crop sellers, 81 percent faced difficulties. Low selling price (68 percent), low demand (39 percent) and markets flooded with products (23 percent) were the most cited difficulties. Insufficient supply of products and low demand from the usual buyers were interlinked and contributed to the low selling prices.

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

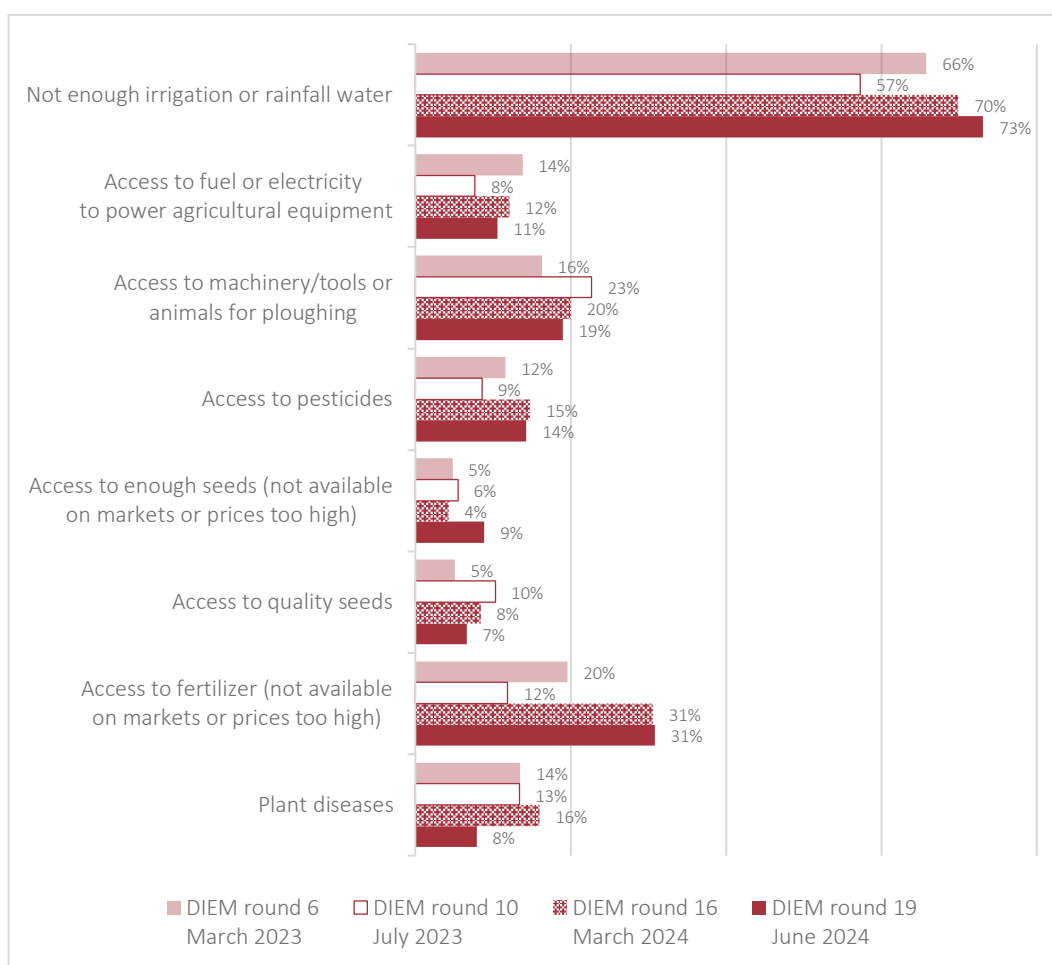


Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Yemen assessments results (March and July 2023, and March and June 2024). [Accessed on 30 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

## Livestock

Most livestock producers (59 percent) saw a reduction in livestock numbers compared to the previous year, which is marginally more than previous DIEM surveys in March 2024 and October 2023. Distress selling of animals (39 percent) and death of animals (21 percent) were cited as the main reasons for the decrease in livestock. Seventy-one percent of the livestock producers reported facing difficulties. Accessing feed from markets (67 percent) animal diseases/deaths (29 percent), access to pasture (32 percent), access to veterinary services (23 percent) and access to water (21 percent) were the main difficulties (Figure 6). FAO’s Market Information System confirmed that fodder prices were higher in the months preceding the survey (FAO, 2024a). Around 46 percent of the livestock producers mentioned experiencing unusual livestock mortality, which corroborates the findings on animal disease/death. Of the producers selling livestock and livestock products, around 71 percent faced difficulties. Low selling prices (81 percent) was the most reported difficulty. Over a quarter of the livestock selling households also reported low demand from traders and buyers as a difficulty, which could be a reason for the low selling prices.

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



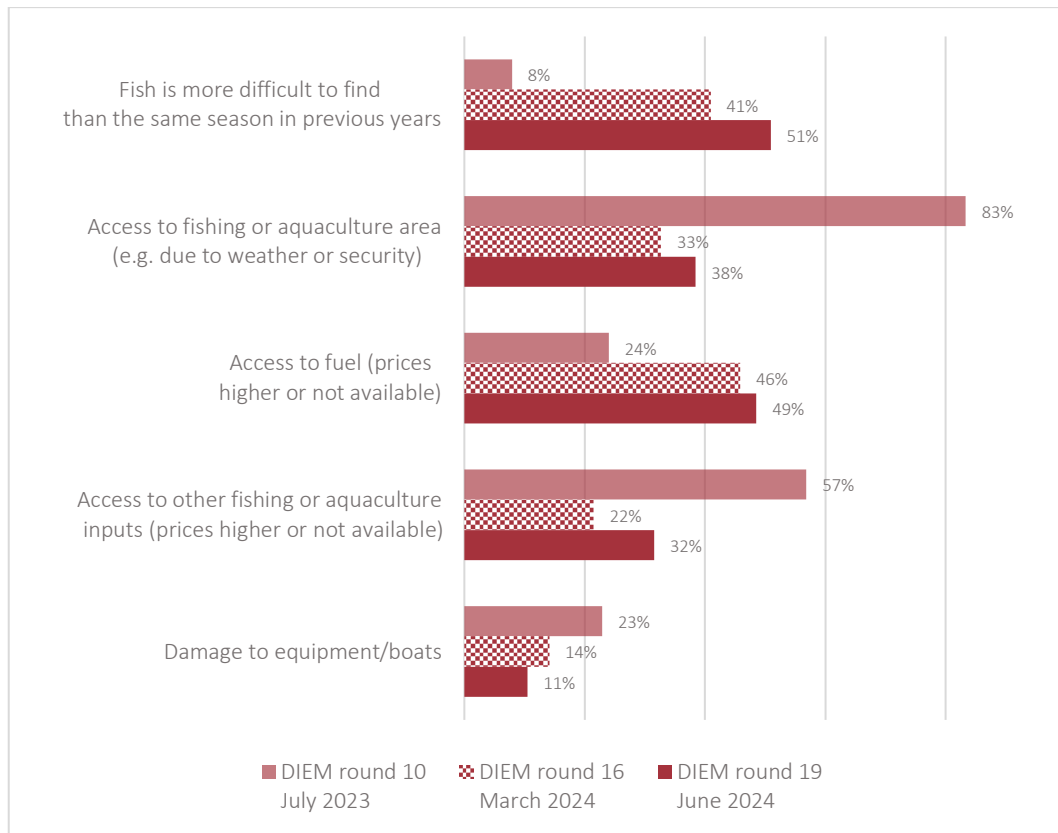
Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Yemen assessments results (March and July 2023, and March and June 2024). [Accessed on 30 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Forty-seven percent of fish producers reported difficulties with fishery and aquaculture production in the three months preceding the survey. The most reported difficulties were fish being difficult to find in the fishing areas (51 percent), access to fuel (49 percent), access to



fishing grounds (38 percent) and access to fishing inputs (32 percent) (Figure 7). March to May is usually a favourable season for fishing. Despite this, there was relatively higher reporting on difficulty finding fish than in previous rounds. Thirty-two percent of fish sellers faced difficulties while selling fish. The lower selling price of fish was the most reported difficulty, followed by high marketing costs and lack of demand from usual traders and buyers.

Figure 7. Fishery production difficulties (percentage of fisherfolk)



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Yemen assessments results (March and July 2023, and March and June 2024). [Accessed on 30 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

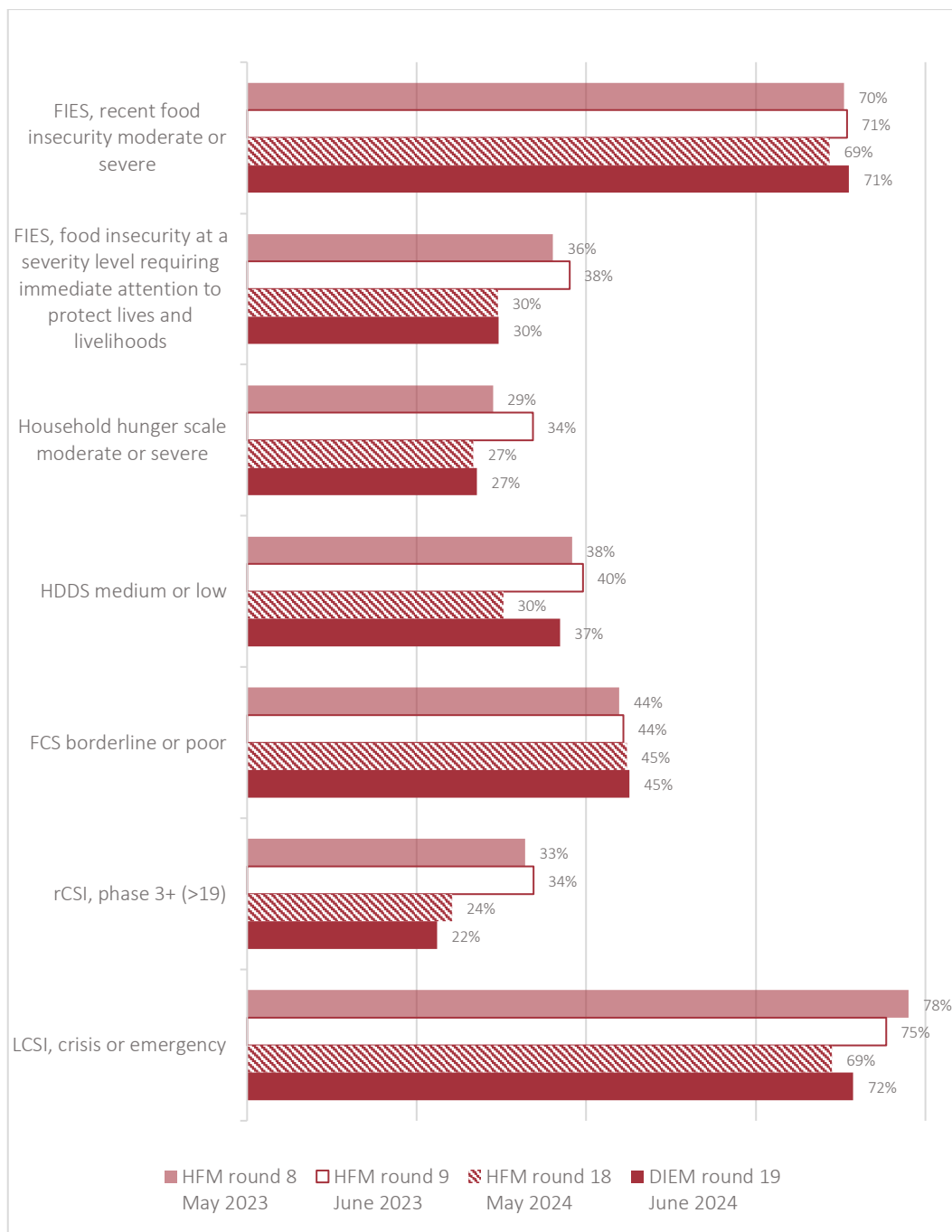
## Food security

The prevalence of food insecurity measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and other food security indicators remained unchanged compared to the month preceding the survey (May 2024) (Figure 8).<sup>1</sup> The major change reported was for medium to low household dietary diversity score (HDDS), which significantly deteriorated by 7 percent. Nearly 72 percent of households resorted to crisis-to-emergency livelihood coping strategies as measured by the livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI), a slight increase from May 2024 (69 percent). This is due to a higher percentage of households using crisis coping strategies in June than in May. However, there was no change in the usage of emergency coping strategies. Around 22 percent of households frequently resorted to food consumption related coping strategies as measured by the reduced coping strategies index (rCSI), which was an improvement from the previous month. Inadequate food consumption scores (FCS) were consistently above the 12-month

<sup>1</sup> FIES results are subject to change. The national scale evolves over the data collection cycles, making it easier to compare them with each other.

averages in Abyan, Al Bayda, Al Dhalee, Al Jawf, Hajjah, Lahj, Raymah, Shabwah and Taizz. Of these governorates, Al Bayda, Al Dhalee, Al Jawf and Hajjah had higher prevalences in three out of five food security outcome indicators compared to the previous 12-month averages. Reporting on shocks and decrease in income were higher in most of these governorates.

Figure 8. Food security indicators



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Yemen assessments results (May and June 2023, and May and June 2024). [Accessed on 30 July 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific/>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Between May and June 2024, the areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities experienced a slight deterioration across most food security indicators. On the other hand, in Government of Yemen controlled areas, food security indicators saw an improvement. The usage of coping strategies in Government of Yemen and Sana'a-based authority-controlled areas was aligned

with levels of food security. The proportion of households resorting to severe food-based coping strategies was around 6 percent lower in Government of Yemen areas this round compared to May 2024, whereas the figure remained stable in Sana'a-based authority areas. The adoption of crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies decreased by 5 percent in Government of Yemen controlled areas and increased by 3 percent in areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities. The utilization of emergency coping strategies was more prevalent in Sana'a-based authority areas.

Economic and humanitarian factors largely drove the increase in food insecurity in areas controlled by the Sana'a-based authorities. The pause in the World Food Programme's general food assistance in Sana'a-based authority-controlled areas has continued (WFP, 2024). According to FAO Yemen market monitoring, the nominal price of the minimum food basket was higher in Sana'a-based authority areas between March and May 2024 than in June, while in the Government of Yemen areas, there was an inverse trend (FAO, 2024a). There were also consequences from the escalating instability in the Red Sea and a persistently larger share of households experiencing shocks, employment and income loss in Sana'a-based authority-controlled areas than in Government of Yemen controlled areas.

## Needs

Ninety-five percent of agricultural households surveyed reported needing assistance in the coming three to six months. The major needs cited were crop inputs (49 percent), livestock feed (44 percent), crop infrastructure (36 percent), food (25 percent), cash (27 percent) and livestock veterinary services (22 percent). The reported needs aligned with the difficulties cited by the crop and livestock producers.

Ninety-two percent of agricultural households reported not receiving assistance in the last three months. Food was the most reported assistance received by nearly 6 percent of agricultural households. The 2024 DIEM surveys have shown that households receiving food as assistance have substantially reduced compared to 2023. This could be due to the pause in food assistance particularly in the north of Yemen since December 2023 (WFP, 2024).

## Recommendations

### Short-term recommendations

- > Scale up emergency food distribution and livelihood and resilience-building interventions in Al Bayda, Al Dhalee, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf and Hajjah, where higher levels of food insecurity were identified than other governorates.
- > Surveyed households, particularly from the western governorates, reported scarcity of irrigation and rainwater as major difficulties during crop production. Provide solar water pumps to irrigation-dependent farmers.
- > Distribute crop inputs/tools and livestock feed to crop and livestock producers, particularly small farmers.

### Medium- to long-term recommendations

- > Scale up livestock vaccination and livestock input programmes, particularly in governorates with higher reporting on livestock death and diseases.
- > Prioritize western governorates with persistent water scarcity and rehabilitate traditional local water harvesting schemes, such as cisterns or ponds, terraces and watershed management. Construct new water tanks and small reservoirs for water harvesting in rural areas.
- > Conduct assessments to understand market dynamics that contribute to the low sale prices of crop and livestock products.

## References

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**WFP.** 2024. WFP Yemen Food Security Update, July 2024. In: *WFP*. [Cited 30 July 2024]. <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/wfp-yemen-food-security-update-july-2024>



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