



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Mali

# DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 6

Results and recommendations  
December 2023

Data collection 21 September to 17 October 2023

## Key highlights

- > Forty-eight percent of respondent households experienced at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey. After illness or death of household members, violence, insecurity and conflict was the most significant shock. The most affected regions were Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, Mopti and Tombouctou.
- > Seventy-six percent of crop producers faced production difficulties, the most frequent of which were lack of irrigation water or rain, and access to fertilizer.
- > Half of the respondent livestock producers faced production difficulties, the most frequent were access to feed and pasture.
- > According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), 38 percent of households recently experienced moderate or severe food insecurity and 6 percent experienced severe food insecurity, with slight improvement over one year.
- > According to the household hunger scale (HHS), 77 percent of households experienced little or no hunger, 15 percent experienced moderate hunger and 8 percent experienced severe hunger.
- > Analysis of the household dietary diversity score (HDDS) indicates that 64 percent of households had high dietary diversity, 19 percent had moderate diversity and 17 percent had low dietary diversity.
- > Coping strategies were mainly emergency strategies (26 percent), followed by stress strategies (22 percent) and crisis strategies (19 percent).
- > In the short term, it is recommended to assist vulnerable households in situations of moderate and/or severe food insecurity across all regions, to support farmers by providing them with inputs and facilitating access to irrigation water, and to guarantee feed and access to pasture to livestock producers affected by a drop in production.

## Methodology

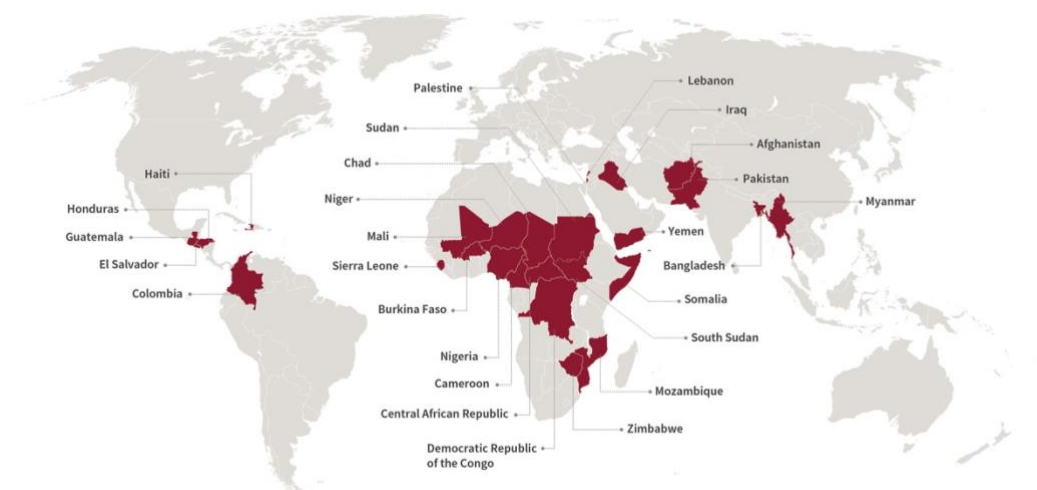
Between 21 September and 17 October 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the sixth round of the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) household survey to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security in Mali.

This sixth-round survey reached 1 490 households through computer-assisted telephone interviews. Data were collected across nine regions: Gao, Kayes, Kidal Koulikoro, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso and Tombouctou. The targeted number of respondents were reached in all regions except for Kidal where only 51 percent of the targeted households were interviewed.

The survey is representative at the regional level and the sampling plan was designed with a 10 percent margin of error. Weights were applied based on population size, the percentage of agricultural households and wealth indicators (access to toilets and level of education). Data collection took place during the winter season.

The third (March 2022), fourth (September 2022) and fifth (June 2023) data collection rounds were drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries benefiting from the DIEM-Monitoring system



**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 1 July 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

**Source of map:** United Nations Geospatial. 2023. Map of the World. In: *United Nations*. [Cited 12 January 2023]. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world-1>

The dotted lines correspond approximately to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed by India and Pakistan. The parties have not yet settled the final status of Jammu and Kashmir. The final delineation of the border between Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been defined.

### About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO has set up the DIEM-Monitoring system to collect, analyse and disseminate data on shocks, livelihoods and food security in countries affected by multiple shocks. DIEM-Monitoring aims to support decision-making by providing regularly updated information on how different shocks affect the livelihoods and food security of populations involved in agriculture.

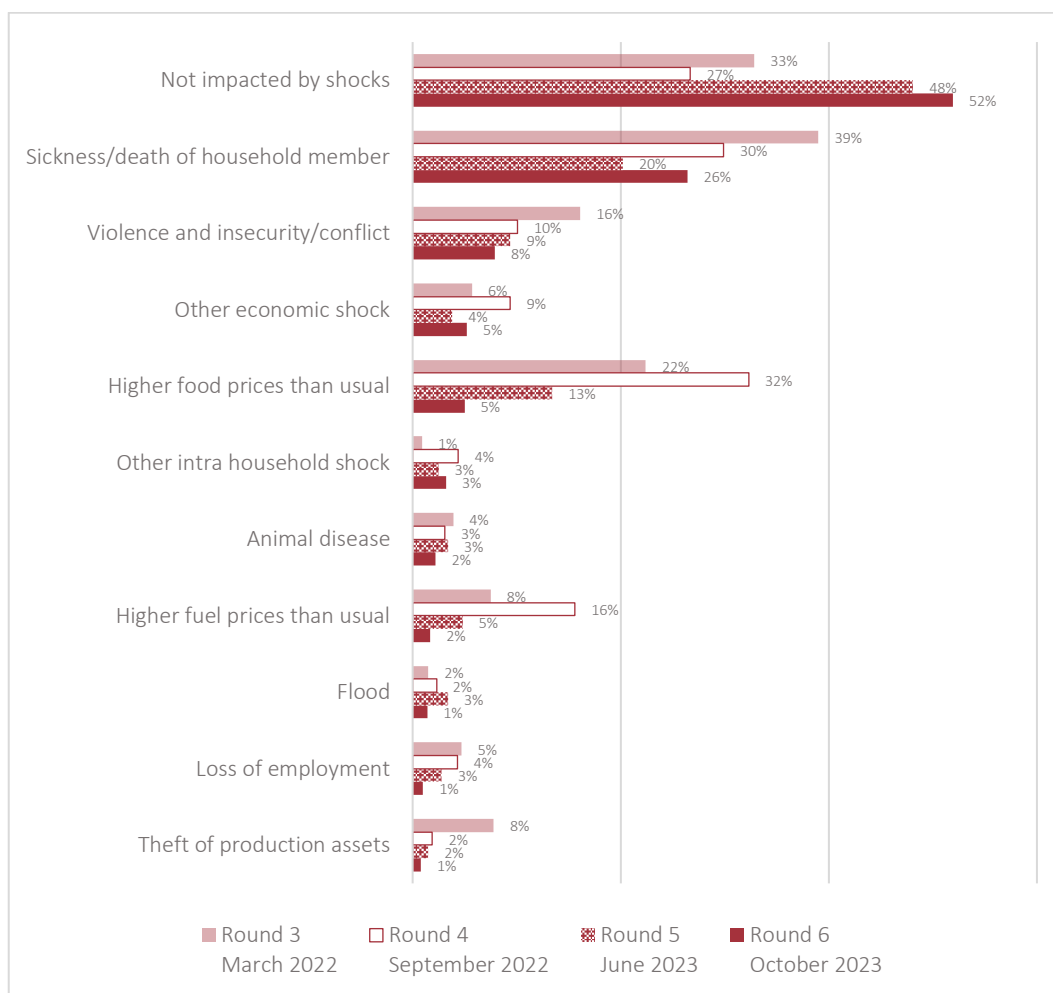
DIEM-Monitoring is based on dashboards presented by country. Readers are invited to explore these tables for more information on the context in Mali and the other countries monitored.

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

## Income and shocks

Forty-eight percent of the surveyed households experienced at least one shock in the three months preceding the interview, four percentage points lower than the fifth round. The most frequently reported shock was illness or death of one or more household members (26 percent) – particularly in Koulikoro (33 percent), Kayes (31 percent) and Ménaka (27 percent) – followed by violence, insecurity and conflict (8 percent) (Figure 2).

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



Source: FAO. 2023. Mali: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March and September 2022, and June and October 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 2 November 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

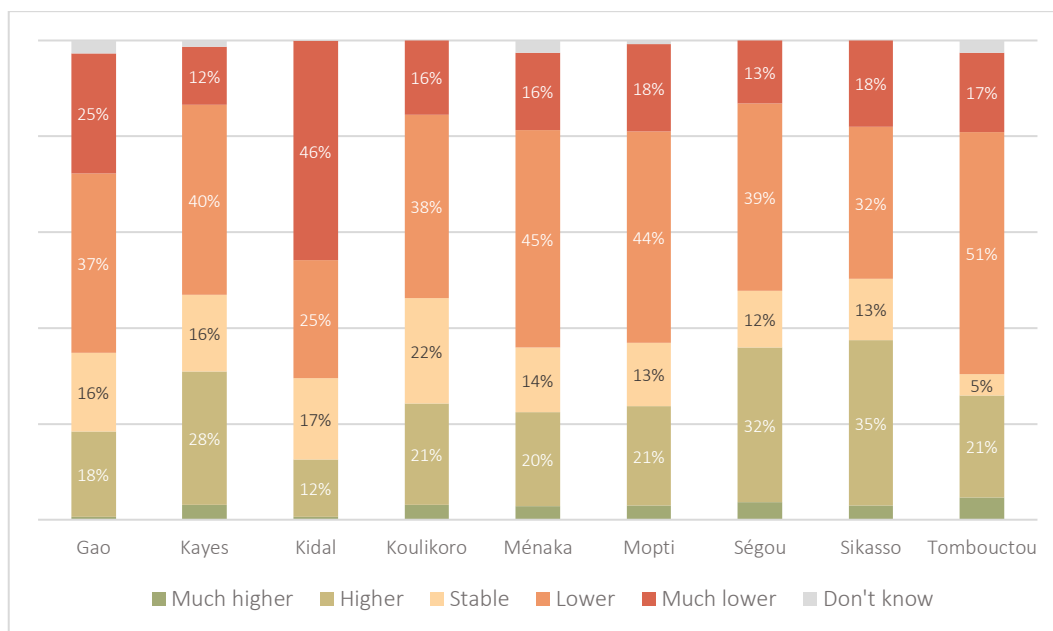
Overall, the regions most affected by shocks were Kidal (34 percent), Tombouctou (26 percent), Ménaka (24 percent) and Gao (24 percent), mainly because of the prevailing insecurity. In Kidal, the survey period coincided with the resurgence of clashes between state military forces and armed groups. In Ménaka and Gao, persistent insecurity has led to population displacement, reduced animal mobility and grazing areas. In Tombouctou, the blockade imposed by armed groups for several weeks in August and September 2023 led to a spike in food and livestock prices.

A reduction in main income in the three months preceding the survey was reported by 55 percent of the households surveyed (Figure 3). However, this rate reached 71 percent in

Kidal, 68 percent in Tombouctou and 62 percent in Gao, Ménaka and Mopti. The trend was the same for the second source of income, which decreased for 48 percent of respondent households.

The fall in income could be explained by the strengthening and prolongation of the blockade linked to insecurity in the northern regions, particularly Tombouctou. This situation has had a significant impact on the supply of foodstuffs to markets, which is dependent on the flow of food products from the south of the country, and imports from Mauritania and Algeria.

**Figure 3. Change in the main source of income in the three months preceding the survey (percentage of households)**



**Source:** FAO. 2023. Mali: DIEM-Monitoring assessment result (October 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 2 November 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/>

## Crops

Figure 4. Mali agricultural calendar

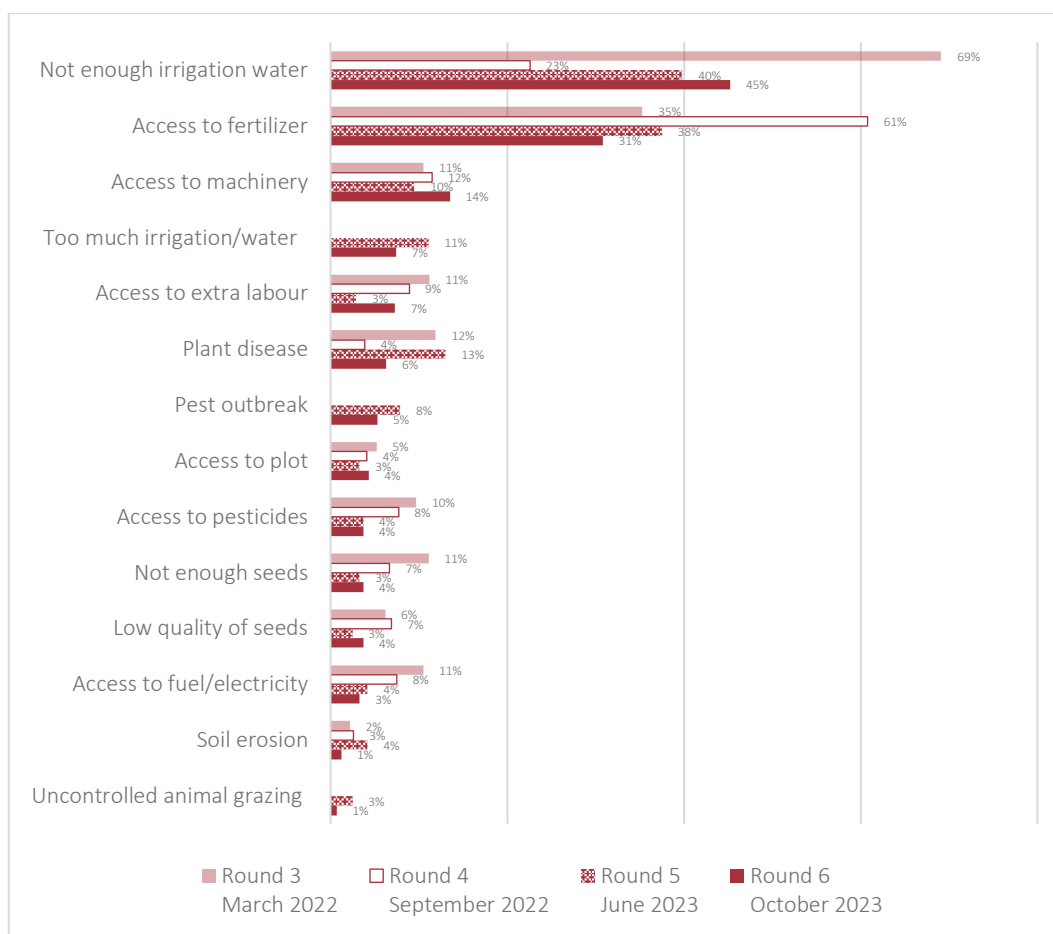


Source: FAO, 2023. GIEWS Country Briefs: Mali. In: FAO, 5 June 2023. Rome. [Cited 7 June 2023].  
<http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MLI>

Nearly three quarters of the households surveyed in the current round produced crops. Fifty-two percent reported an increase in production compared to a typical year. However, this percentage was lower in the northeastern regions (24 percent in Tombouctou and 25 percent in Ménaka). Nearly 45 percent of households in Ménaka reported a reduction in the area under cultivation.

Seventy-six percent of crop producers reported production difficulties, particularly in Ménaka (90 percent), Tombouctou (85 percent), Gao (79 percent), Koulikoro (79 percent) and Ségou (76 percent). The main difficulties were lack of water (45 percent) and access to fertilizer (31 percent), which was either unavailable on the market or too expensive (Figure 5). The winter season was marked by poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall, with cumulative rainfall for 2023 equivalent to or lower than that for 2022 over most of the country. In addition, water levels in lakes and other surface water are below average, and lower than 2022.

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



Source: FAO. 2023. Mali: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March and September 2022, and June and October 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 2 November 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

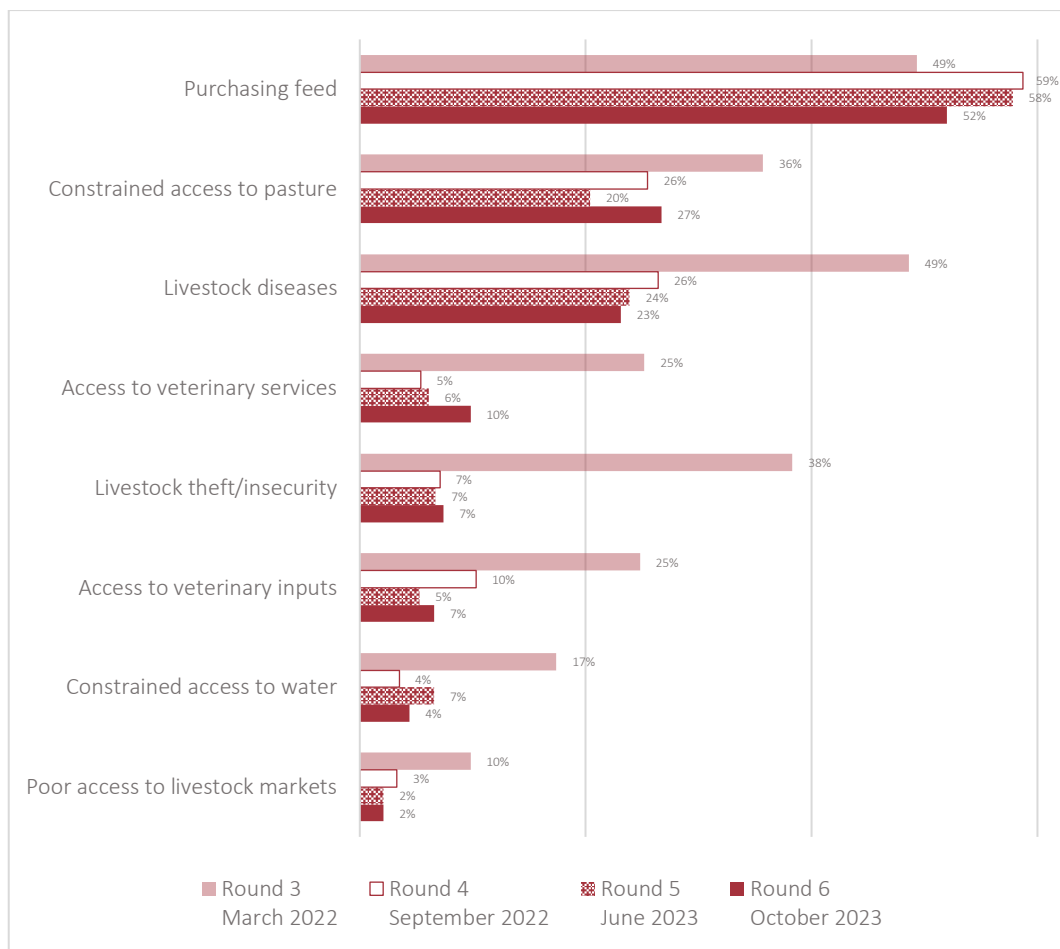
Changes to the response options in the fifth-round questionnaire make it impossible to compare certain data with previous rounds.

Marketing difficulties were reported by 31 percent of crop producers, including low selling prices (39 percent), high transport costs (27 percent) and difficulties accessing markets (16 percent). This is, in particular, due to the increase in fuel prices and the security crisis in certain areas of the country, which prevent markets from operating normally by limiting their accessibility.

## Livestock

Of the households surveyed, 56 percent were involved in livestock production. Half of them had encountered production difficulties, particularly in Ménaka (68 percent), Gao (64 percent) and Mopti (62 percent). The main difficulties were access to feed (52 percent) and access to pasture (27 percent) (Figure 6) – particularly in Ménaka (68 percent), Gao (64 percent), Mopti (62 percent) and Tombouctou (59 percent). Other difficulties included animal diseases or injuries (23 percent) – particularly in Ménaka (68 percent), Gao (64 percent) and Mopti (62 percent). This situation was probably due to insecurity, which limits the movement of livestock producers and their animals to areas with better grazing.

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



Source: FAO. 2023. Mali: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March and September 2022, and June and October 2023). In: FAO Data in Emergencies Hub, Rome. [Cited 2 November 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Fifty-seven percent of livestock producers reported a reduction in the number of heads of cattle compared to the previous year. In addition, 33 percent encountered difficulties marketing their produce, due to lower selling prices (44 percent) and higher transport costs (30 percent) – particularly in Tombouctou (61 percent), Gao (55 percent) and Kayes (49 percent). These results are attributable to the security situation and the increase in livestock theft. The analyses also show that some livestock producers have resorted to coping strategies such as distress sales.

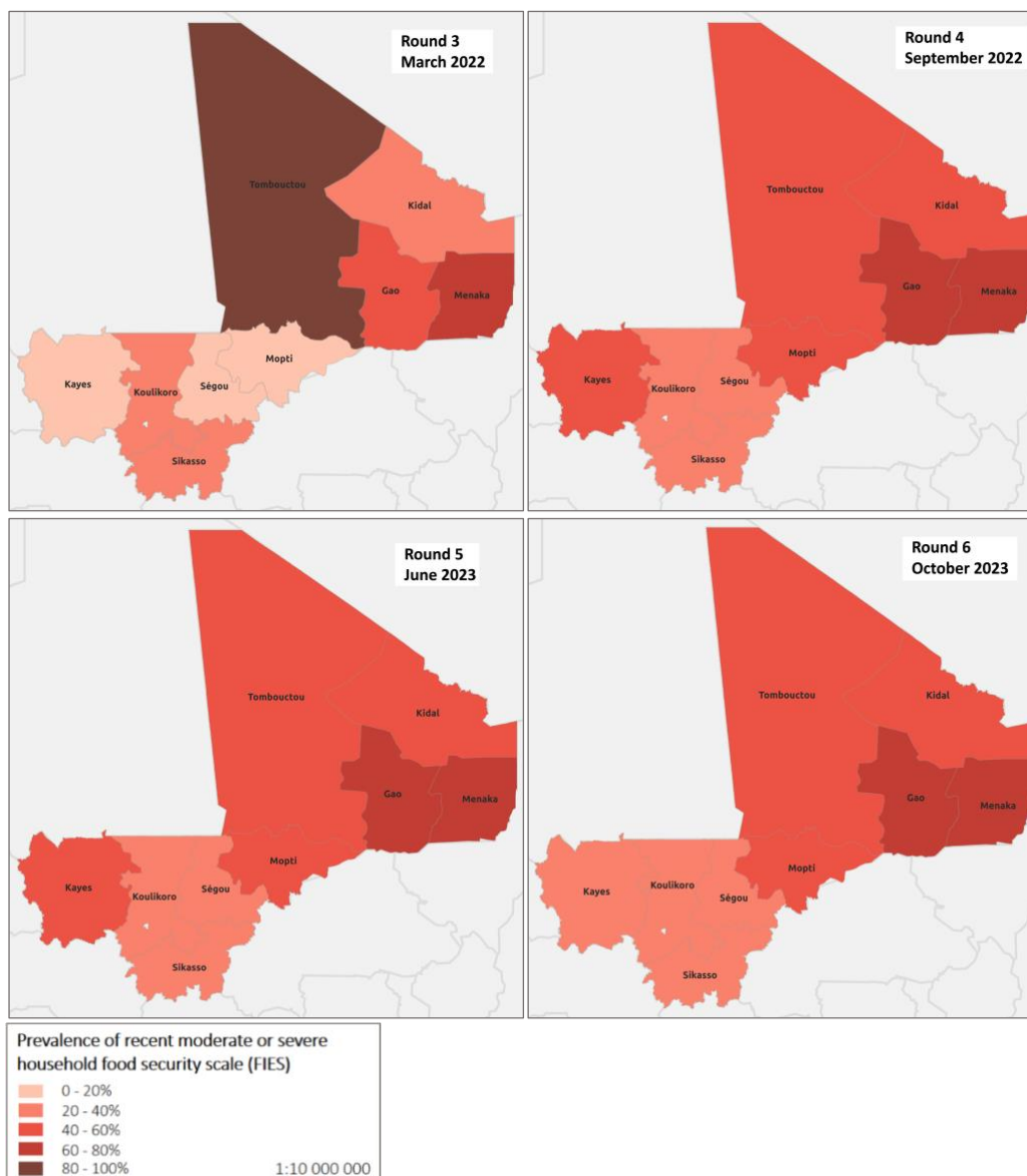
## Food security

According to the FIES analysis, 38 percent of households were recently moderately or severely food insecure, and 6 percent were severely food insecure (Figure 7).<sup>1</sup> These levels have shown a slight improvement over one year, but conceal major disparities between regions. In Gao and Ménaka, moderate or severe food insecurity is 68 and 60 percent respectively, and severe insecurity is 20 and 12 percent, identical to the levels recorded in September 2022.

<sup>1</sup> FIES results are subject to change, until the country scale is established for more consistent comparability across rounds.



Figure 7. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe household food insecurity (FIES) over four rounds (percentage of households)

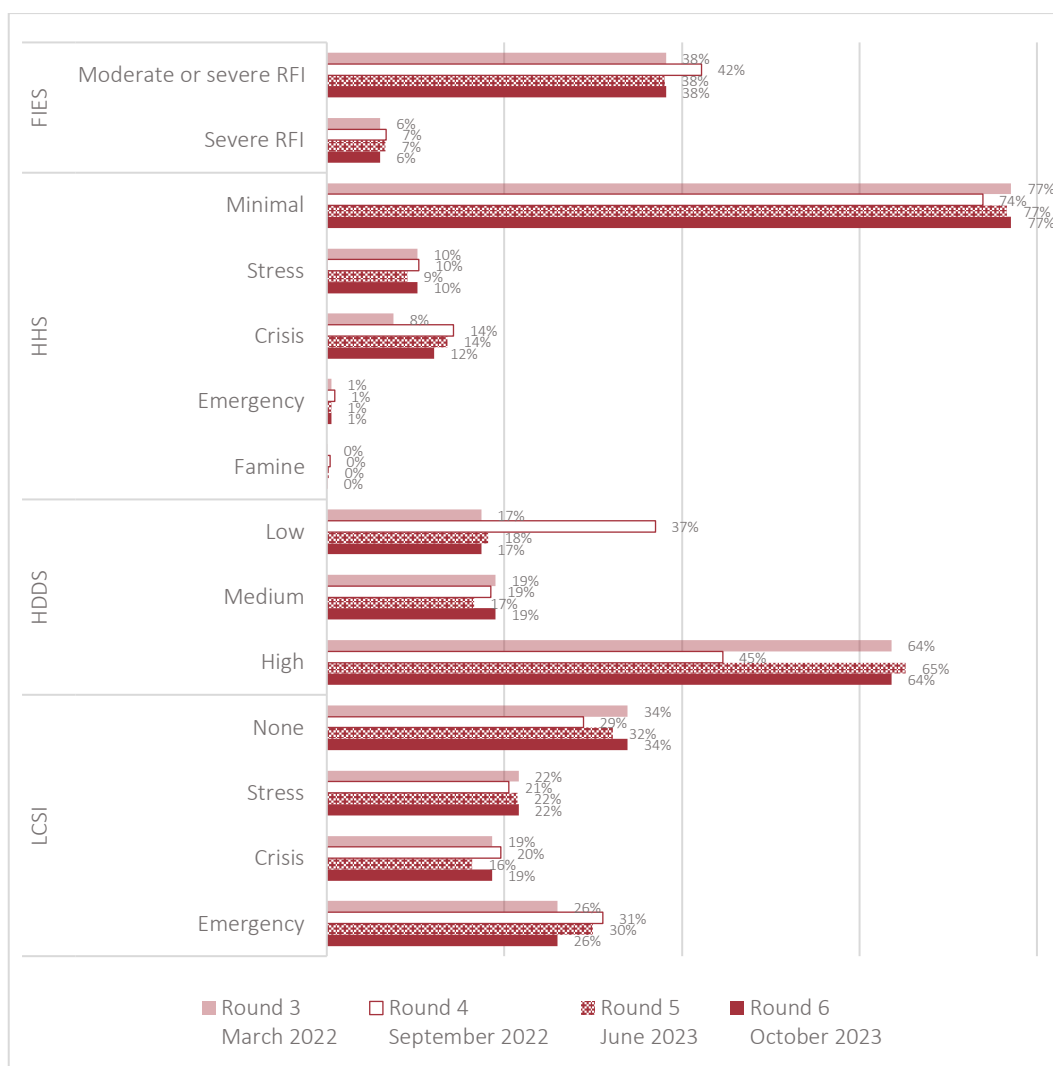


Source: FAO, 2023. Mali: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March and September 2022, and June and October 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*, Rome. [Cited 2 November 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

According to the HHS, 77 percent of households experienced little or no hunger, 15 percent experienced moderate hunger and 8 percent experienced severe hunger. The HDDS indicates that 64 percent of households had high dietary diversity, 19 percent had moderate dietary diversity and 17 percent had low dietary diversity.

According to the livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI), the coping strategies employed by 26 percent of the respondent households were emergency strategies, including selling the last female animals (15 percent) and begging (10 percent). Crisis strategies were used by 19 percent of households (reducing health spending was reported by 28 percent and taking children out of school by 9 percent), and stress strategies were employed by 22 percent (borrowing food was reported by 35 percent, spending savings by 34 percent and selling non-breeding animals by 27 percent).

Figure 8. Food security indicators (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2023. Mali: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March and September 2022, June and October 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 27 June 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/>

## Needs

Ninety-eight percent of respondents reported a need for assistance in the three to six months following the survey. Most households require inputs for crop and vegetable production (46 percent), food (42 percent) and cash (40 percent) assistance, infrastructure for crop production (32 percent) and livestock feed (23 percent).

## Recommendations

- > Provide food assistance – in kind and/or in cash in the form of vouchers – to moderately and/or severely food insecure households in all regions, and specifically in Gao and Ménaka regions.
- > Provide emergency assistance to crop producers to prepare for the off-season, and develop market gardening by making inputs available (short-cycle seeds for rice, organic fertilizer) while facilitating access to irrigation water.
- > Ensure that vulnerable livestock producers have access to feed and pasture, by facilitating the transport of feed to areas with limited access, while at the same time developing suitable fodder crops. Provide support for the reconstitution of livestock through the distribution of cattle, goats and sheep.
- > Develop emergency food production programmes for local populations and internally displaced persons affected by armed conflict, particularly in the central and northern parts of the country.



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### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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