



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Honduras

# DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 3

Results and recommendations  
August 2024

## Key highlights

- > The third round of Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) was conducted across all departments of Honduras from 5 July to 2 August 2024.
- > Forty percent of households experienced some kind of shock in the three months preceding the survey. The most frequent shocks were high food prices, illness, accident or death of a household member, and job losses.
- > Seventeen percent of households had members who worked as day labourers of basic grains and coffee crops, and 56 percent were from an agricultural household. The departments with the highest percentage of households involved in agricultural work were Lempira (39 percent), Ocotepeque (33 percent), Intibucá (30 percent) and La Paz (28 percent).
- > Twenty-eight percent of households with day labourers working outside the household reported that income from day labour represented between 50 and 100 percent of their household's annual income.
- > Twenty-nine percent of agricultural households hired day labourers, mainly in the land preparation and planting season, and paid between HNL 200 and HNL 300 (USD 7.86 and USD 11.79 as at 17 January 2025, respectively) per day labourer.
- > For about half of the households marketing their main crop or animal product, the selling price remained the same compared to the previous year, and it improved for one third of the respondent households.
- > Fourteen percent of agricultural households had a member of their household who had migrated within or outside the country on a permanent basis.
- > In Cortés department, 19 percent of agricultural households reported that a member of their household had recently migrated. The main reason was unemployment, loss of livelihoods or insufficient livelihoods.
- > Plant diseases, pest outbreaks, water shortages and difficulties obtaining fertilizer were the most commonly reported problems for crop producers.
- > Forty percent of livestock producers reported that availability of feed was the main problem for animal production, especially for cattle, poultry and pigs.
- > Food security indicators related to food consumption did not indicate an alarming situation at departmental level. However, the most vulnerable households, including households with income from daily wage labour, as well as female-headed households, suffered from more severe food insecurity than the rest of the population.

## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a household survey through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System, between 5 July and 22 August 2024, to assess the agricultural livelihoods and food security situation of the rural population in all departments of Honduras. Data were collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews. A total of 1 983 people were interviewed with an average of 110 households per department.

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: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) 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 March 2025]. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world-1>

### 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 Honduras and other countries.

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

## Income and shocks

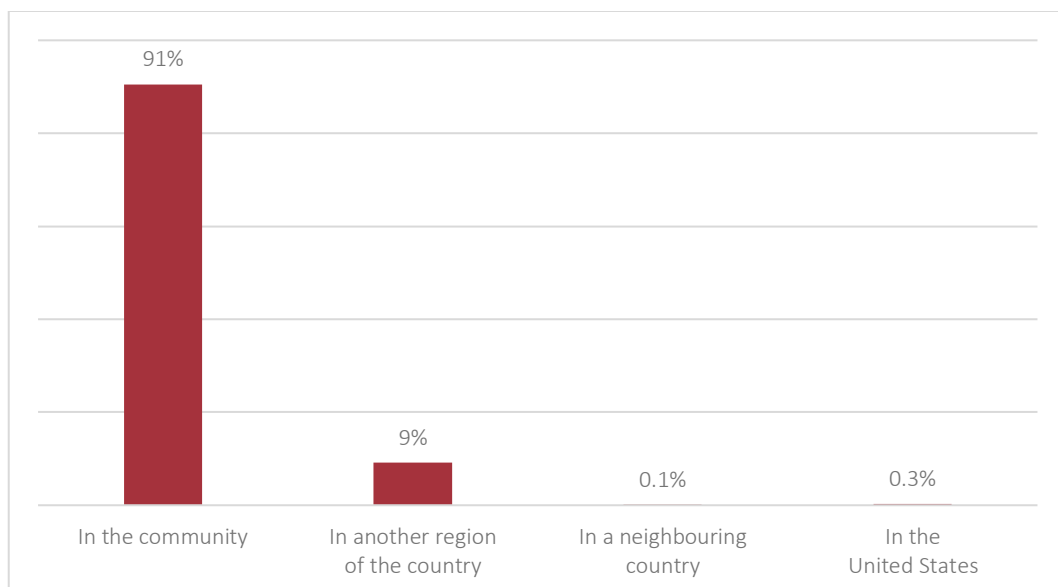
According to the data, forty percent of the country's households experienced some kind of shock in the three months preceding the survey. The most frequent shocks were high food prices, illness, accident or death of a household member, and job loss. These shocks tended to occur simultaneously in the same households. Moreover, the frequency of these shocks was significantly higher in populations with poverty indicators, such as lack of access to drinking water, electricity and sanitation. This suggests that the least well-off segments of the population were the most affected by these shocks.

## Working outside the home as a day labourer or seasonal agricultural worker

Seventeen percent of surveyed households had members who worked outside their household as a day labourer or seasonal agricultural worker for basic grains, and the harvesting of coffee, sugar cane or another cash crop within the previous year. Fifty-six percent of the day labourers were from agricultural or livestock-owning households, and 44 percent were from households that did not produce crops or keep livestock, but did have household members who in the previous year had worked as day labourers for basic grain cultivation, or as seasonal agricultural workers. This means that almost half of the households with income from agricultural work did not cultivate their own land or animals.

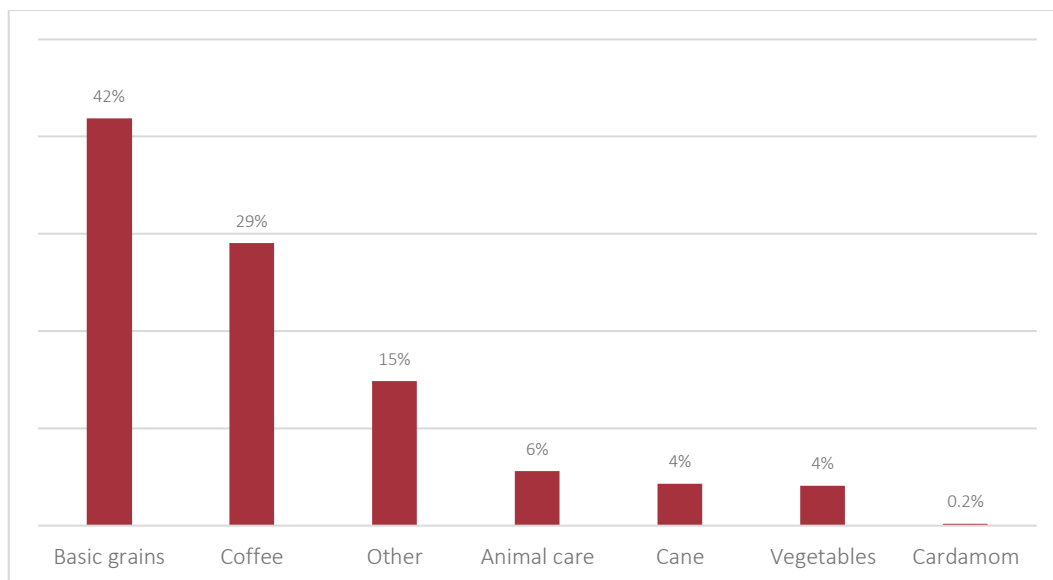
Day labourers primarily worked in the same community where they lived (Figure 2) in basic grain and coffee cultivation (Figure 3). Seventy percent of day labourers received a daily wage of HNL 175–320 (USD 6.88–12.57 as at 17 January 2025) (Table 1), with HNL 200 and HNL 250 the most frequently reported values within this range (USD 7.86 and USD 9.82 as at 17 January 2025, respectively).

Figure 2. Location of day labourer's work (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Figure 3. Crops or other activity for day labourers (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Table 1. Percentage of households with agricultural labourers working outside the household

Daily wage (HNL)	Households with agricultural day labourers working outside the household (%)
≥20–175	13
>175–320	70
>320–540	14
>540–1500	3

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Twenty-eight percent of households reported that the relative importance of income from day labour in relation to their total annual household income was higher than 50 percent, i.e. this percentage of households derived its most important income from day labour or temporary work. The departments with the highest percentage of households involved in agricultural day labour were Lempira (39 percent), Ocotepeque (33 percent), Intibucá (30 percent) and La Paz (28 percent).

### Households hiring day labourers

Twenty-nine percent of agricultural households hired day labourers, especially for basic grain crops (60 percent), and mainly during the land preparation and planting seasons (33 and 29 percent, respectively). The most common wages paid per day were HNL 200, HNL 250 and HNL 300 (USD 7.86, USD 9.82 and USD 11.79 as at 17 January 2025, respectively).

Eighty-eight percent of these households had up to four blocks of land to cultivate, similar to the cultivable area of households that did not hire labour. Agricultural households that reported a 50 percent increase in planted area compared to the previous year hired six people as day labourers, on average.

Statistical analyses found a strong association between planted area, harvest and the hiring of day labourers or seasonal workers. During the last agricultural season, as the sown area increased, so did labour recruitment.

### Households with members who had migrated in the six months preceding the survey

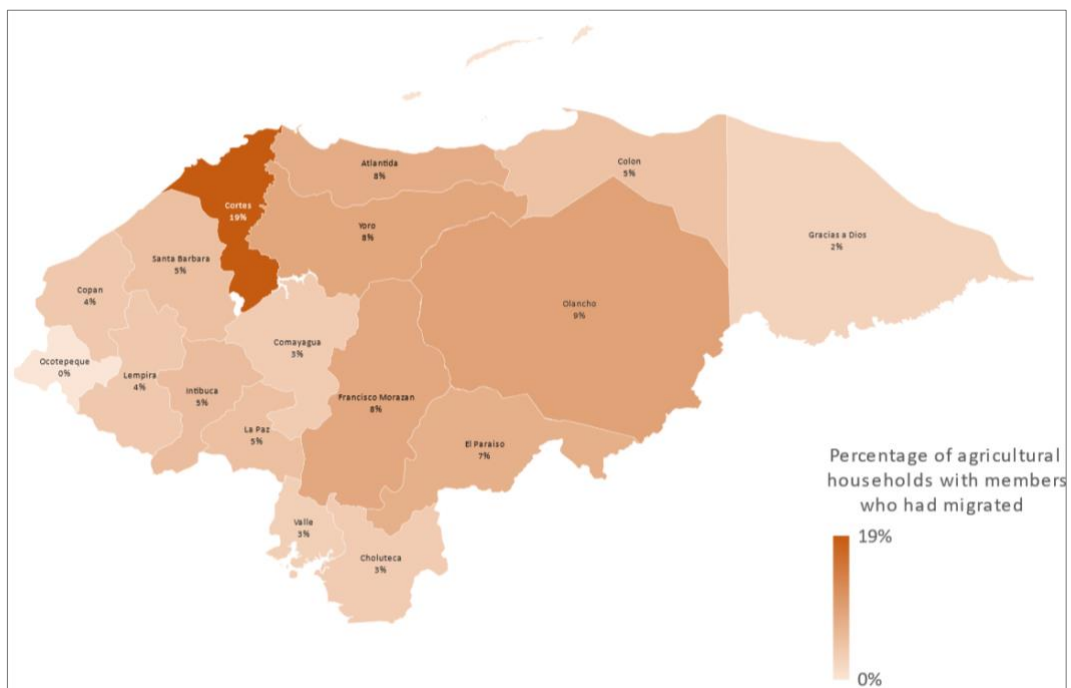
Fifteen percent of households had at least one member who had recently migrated permanently, either within or outside the country. Of these, 83 percent migrated to the United States of America or Canada, 7 percent to Europe, 6 percent to a neighbouring country and 4 percent to other destinations. In terms of reported reasons for migration, 81 percent reported migrating because of unemployment, loss of livelihood or insufficient livelihood, while 3 percent migrated because of losses in agriculture or the inability to continue farming.

Among households with members who had recently migrated, 32 percent were female-headed, and 68 percent were male-headed.

### Agricultural households with members who had migrated in the six months preceding the survey

Fourteen percent of agricultural households, of which 30 percent were female-headed, had a household member migrate within or outside the country on a permanent basis. Cortés department had the highest percentage (19 percent) of agricultural households with members who had migrated (Figure 4). Eighty-five percent migrated to the United States of America or Canada, and the main reason for 79 percent of them was unemployment, loss of livelihood or insufficient livelihood.

Figure 4. Percentage of agricultural households with members who had migrated

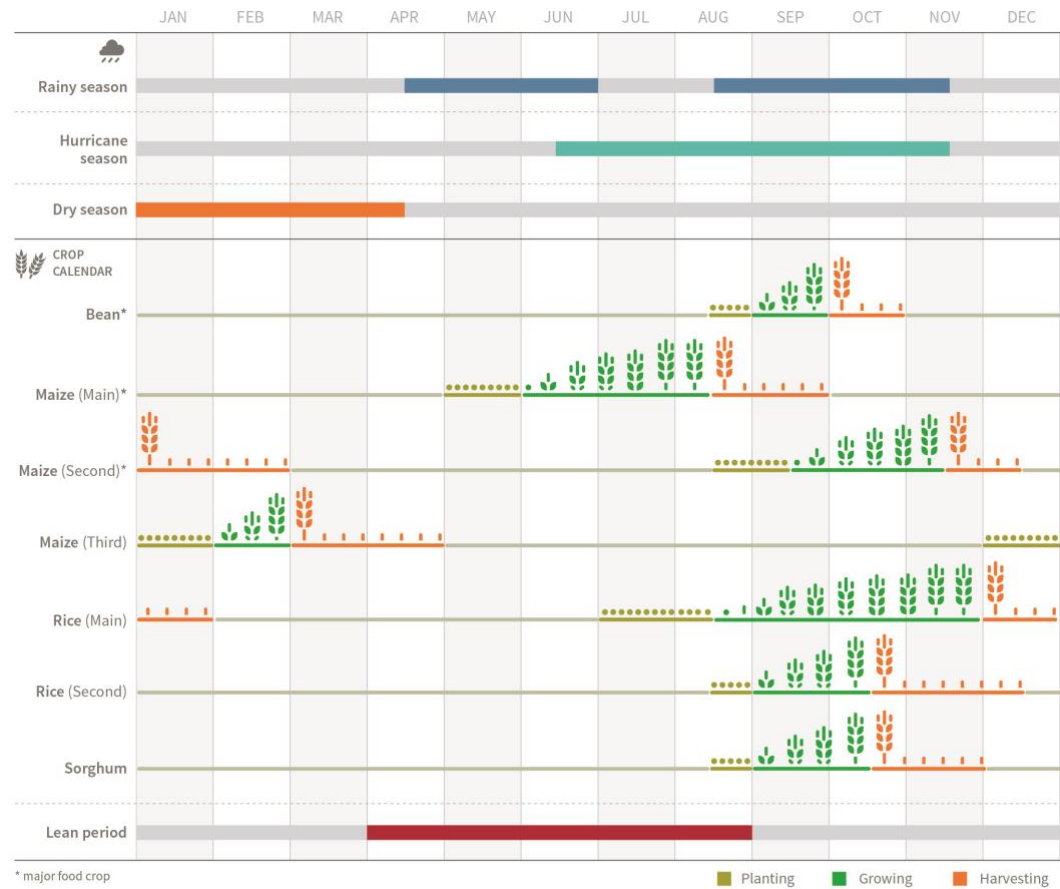


Note: Refer to the disclaimer on the back cover for the names and boundaries used in these maps.  
Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024].  
<https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Statistical analysis of the data revealed that much higher than usual food prices, and loss of employment or job opportunities were strongly associated with the migration of one household member within or outside the country on a permanent basis.

## Crops

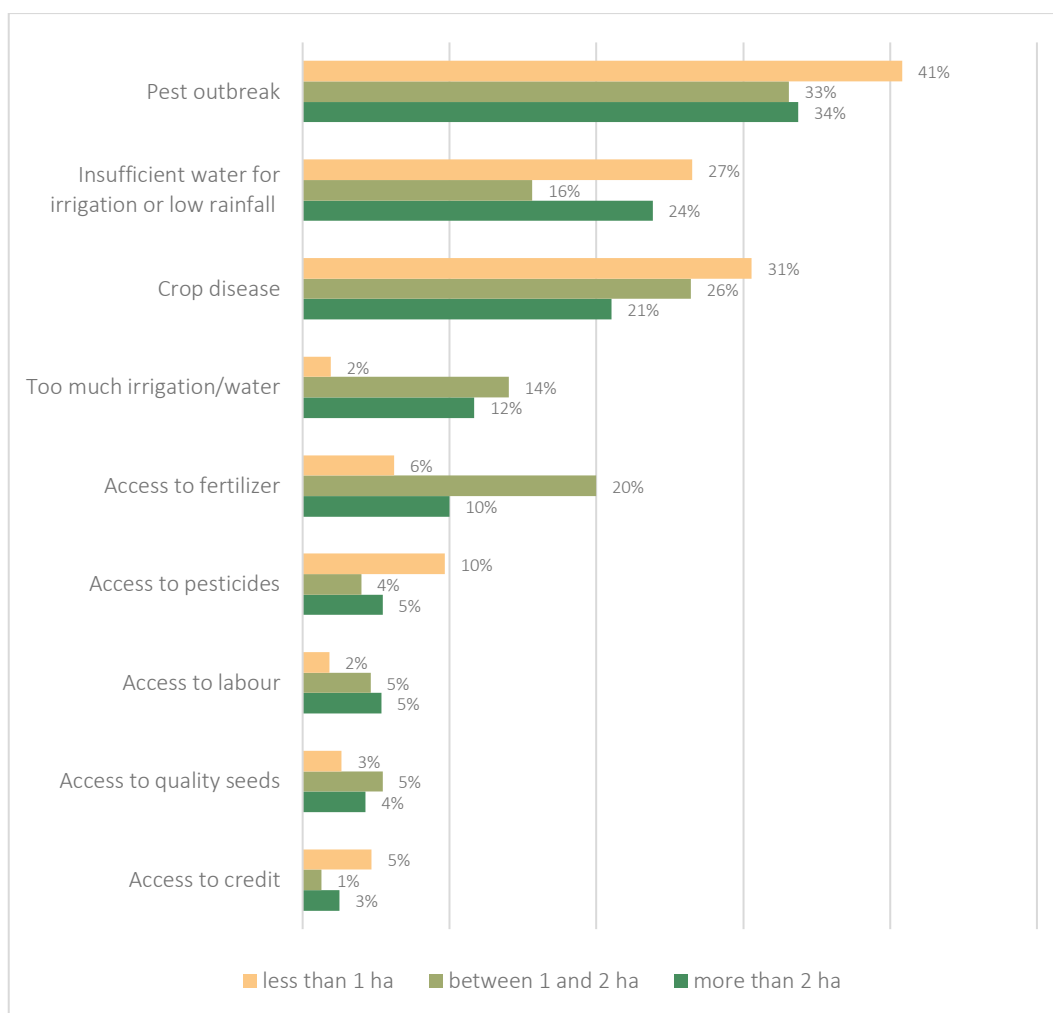
Figure 5. Honduras agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2024. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System Country Briefs: Honduras. In: FAO. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=HND&lang=es>

Production difficulties continued to impact smallholder producers, who reported problems such as crop diseases, pests, water shortages (largely related to El Niño conditions in early 2024) and limited access to fertilizer (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Production difficulties by land size (percentage of crop producers)

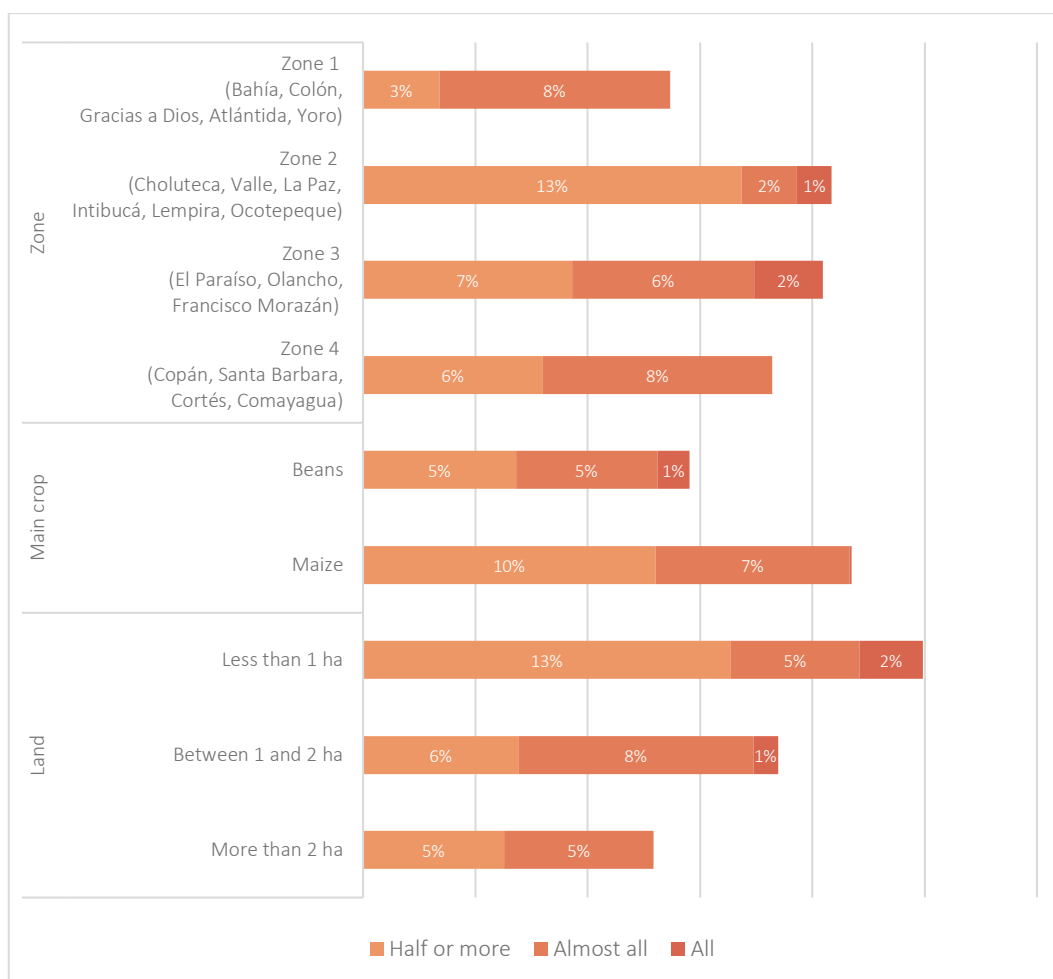


Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Post-harvest losses were highest in the departments of Choluteca, Valle, La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, El Paraíso, Olancho and Francisco Morazán, which are part of the dry corridor. Households growing maize and beans as their main crops were the most affected (Figure 7), with more than 50 percent of producers of these crops reporting post-harvest losses due to pests, rot and fungi. At national level, one third of producers reported changing the planting date largely due to the delayed onset of the rainy season related to El Niño.

The main crops marketed by households were maize (43 percent) and beans (29 percent). Marketing difficulties affected maize producers the most. For both crops, 25 percent of producers reported that marketing difficulties were associated with damages or losses due to storage and market access, 26 percent reported low selling prices, and 29 percent reported low demand from traders or buyers.

Figure 7. Post-harvest losses (percentage of crop producers)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

## Reserves

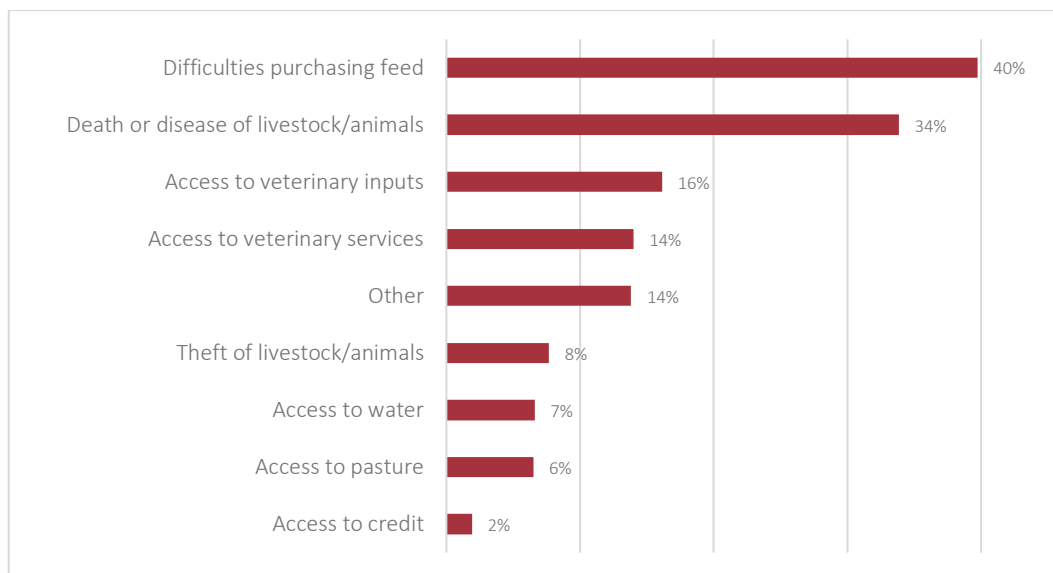
Of the total number of households surveyed, 18 percent had maize and 13 percent had bean reserves. According to statistical analyses, there was a relationship between maize or bean stocks, and some of the shocks suffered by households such as pest outbreaks, plant disease or drought. The season in which the survey was conducted was marked by dry agroclimatic conditions.

## Livestock

Forty percent of livestock farmers (Figure 8) reported that access to feed for animals was the main difficulty faced, especially for cattle. Thirty-four percent of households indicated that their animals – mainly poultry and to a lesser extent, cattle – were affected by diseases.

Most households that owned animals for sale or consumption considered poultry as the most important species (47 percent) followed by cattle (33 percent). For households involved in the sale of animals or animal products, cattle represented the main species for 43 percent of households, followed by poultry and eggs, which were also an important commercial activity for 32 percent of households.

Figure 8. Livestock production difficulties (percentage of livestock producers)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

## Food security

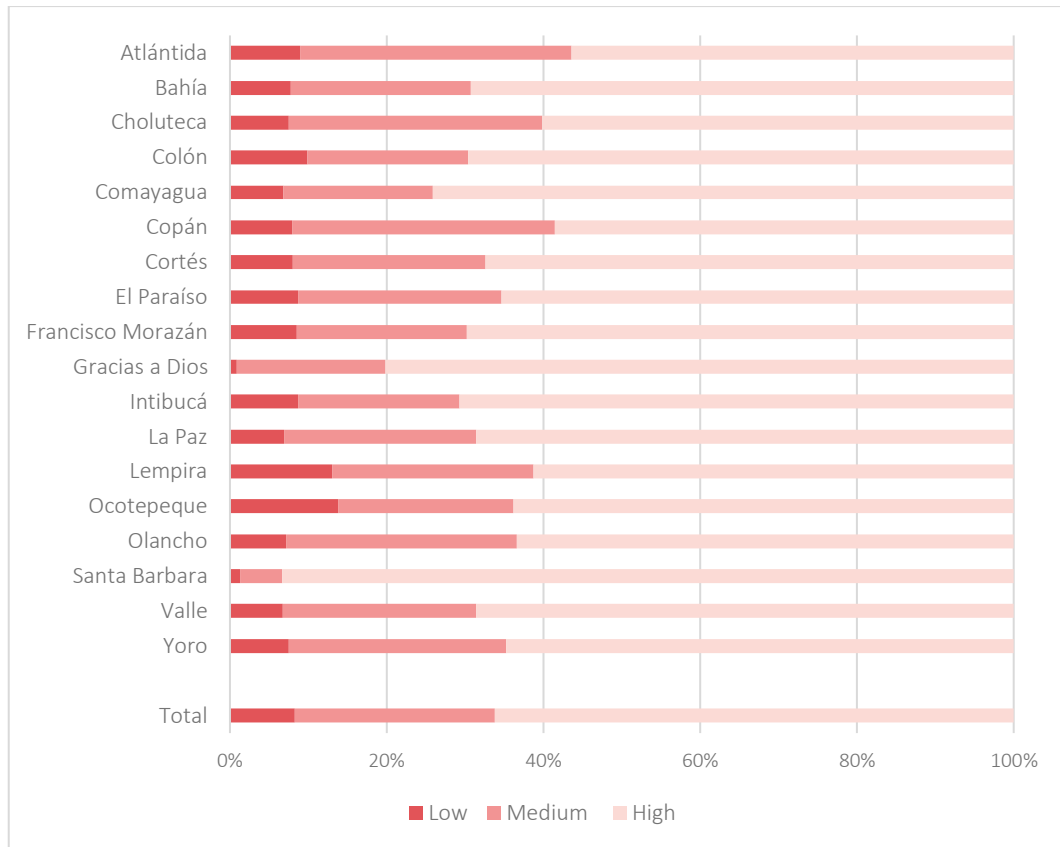
Of the total number of agricultural households surveyed, 51 percent reported maize as their main crop and 25 percent reported beans. Among maize producers, 38 percent of the households reported having one to three months' worth of grain reserves, and 62 percent had more than three months of grain reserves.

With beans, 32 percent had a reserve for one to three months and 68 percent for more than three months. This indicated that the previous 2023 cycle was a good production year for basic grains, and allowed families to have food until the harvest of the first 2024 cycle.

The indicators related to dietary diversity showed a slight deterioration from February to August 2024. In this third round, 34 percent of the families were in the range between medium and low dietary diversity (Figure 9). In general, and at departmental level, an acceptable situation was observed in terms of food consumption indicators. However, a significant percentage of households had to make use of strategies that endangered their livelihoods, such as reducing expenditure on health and agricultural inputs, and engaging in risky activities.

It was also observed that female-headed households and households receiving income from agricultural work tended to be more food-insecure than other households. For example, almost 22 percent of female-headed households suffered from moderate or severe hunger according to the household hunger scale (HHS), whereas only 13 percent of male-headed households fell into the same category. Similarly, 22 percent of households receiving a daily wage were in the moderate or severe HHS category, but 14 percent of households not receiving a daily wage were in the moderate or severe category.

Figure 9. Household dietary diversity score (by department)

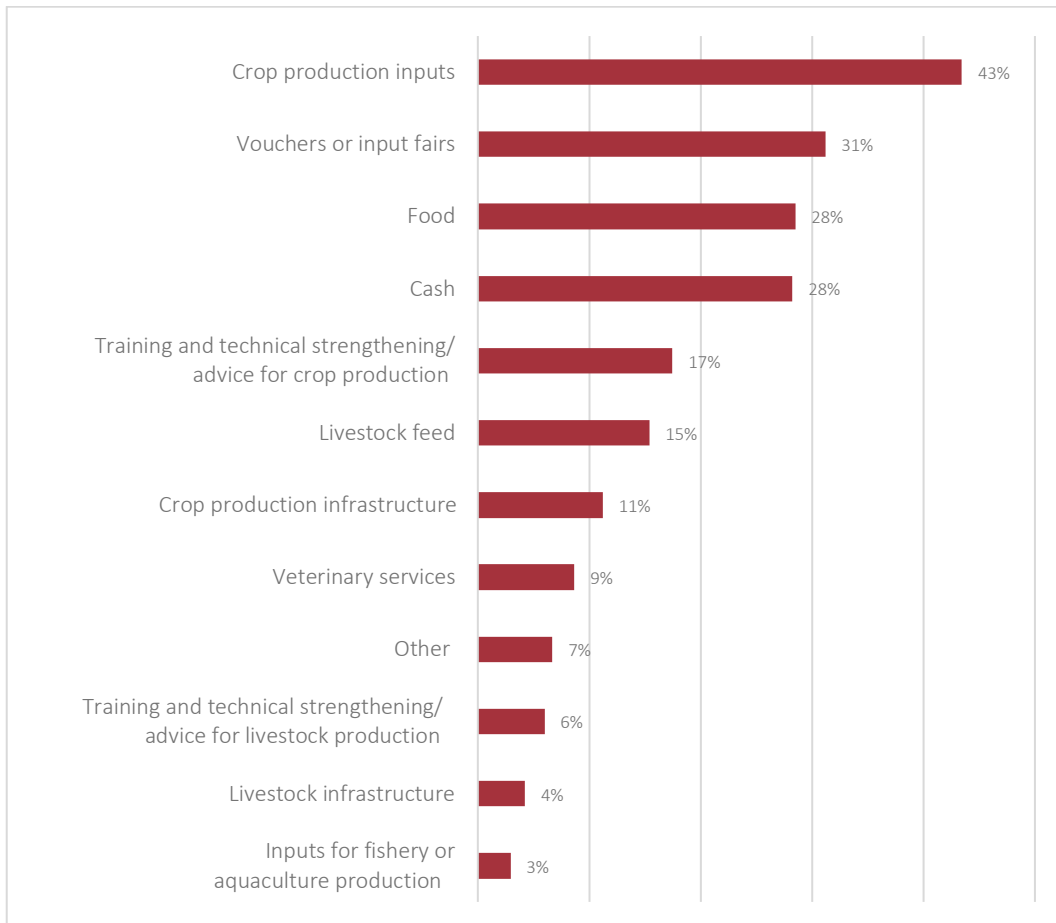


Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024].  
<https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

## Needs

Among the main needs reported were inputs for crop production, vouchers or input fairs, food, cash, training and technical strengthening, livestock feed and infrastructure for crop production, among others.

Figure 10. Reported needs (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 December 2024].  
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## Recommendations

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

- > For the departments affected by drought (Choluteca, Copán, La Paz, Lempira and Ocotepeque), provide technical assistance for producers of basic grains (maize and beans), agricultural inputs, cash and productive infrastructure to strengthen the next sowing season.
- > Support maize and bean producers in the departments of Choluteca, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Olancho and Valle that experienced post-harvest losses, with a training programme for post-harvest handling and grain storage infrastructure.
- > For cattle and poultry producers, provide a technical assistance package that includes fodder storage, sanitary management, supplementation with minerals and feed of high nutritional value, inputs and infrastructure.

### Medium- and long-term recommendations (6 months and more)

- > Strengthen agricultural extension systems for the application of appropriate technologies and practices that increase yields and resilience to shocks for small-scale basic grain producers in the departments of the dry corridor.
- > Implement and articulate policies, programmes and projects for productive inclusion and food security aimed at reducing the vulnerability of families affected by shocks in the departments of the Dry Corridor.
- > Implement an incentive strategy for families engaged in basic grain production who are vulnerable to shocks, and who are not engaged in cultivating their own land, and work as day labourers outside the household.



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