



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Central African Republic

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 5

Results and recommendations
June 2024

Data collection 17 February to 18 March 2024

Key highlights

- > Sixty percent of the surveyed households reported having been affected by one or more shocks in the three months preceding the survey negatively impacting their main source of income. This decline was reported by 54 percent of producers (farmers and livestock breeders).
- > Sickness or death of a household member, plant diseases and rising food prices were among the difficulties reported by 91 percent of agricultural households. Fifty-eight percent of households experienced difficulties marketing their crops due to lower selling prices, higher transport costs and reduced demand.
- > Eighty-seven percent of the surveyed farmers experienced production difficulties in the three months preceding the survey, including disease, death or theft of animals, or access to inputs, veterinary services and livestock feed. Seventy-one percent of farmers reported a decrease in their herd.
- > According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), 88 percent of households were moderately or severely food insecure, and 24 percent were severely food insecure. Nearly half of all households had an insufficiently diversified food intake.
- > Of the 2 862 agricultural households surveyed, 99 percent expressed a need for assistance in the three to six months following the survey, particularly in the form of better access to agricultural inputs, cash, and infrastructure dedicated to crop production and food.

Methodology

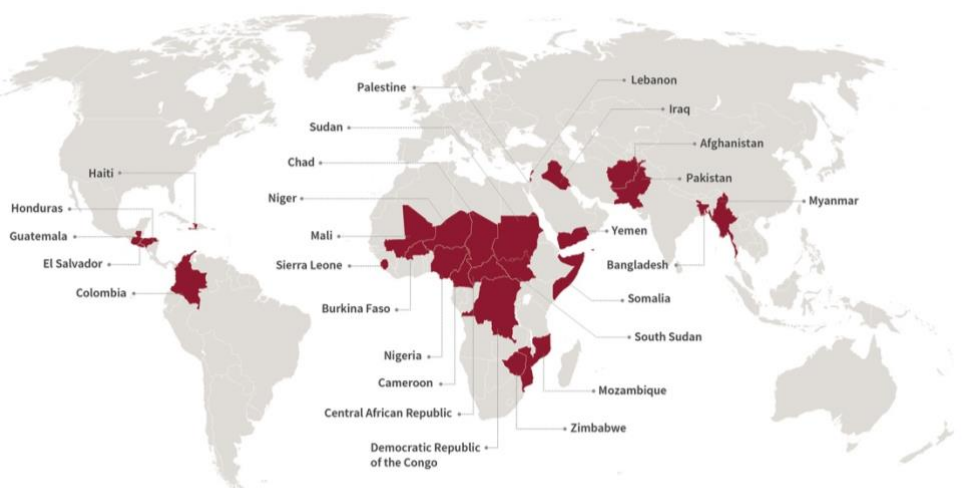
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in the Central African Republic through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security between 17 February and 18 March 2024.

The data were collected in partnership with the Central African Institute for Statistics and Economic and Social Studies (ICASEES) through face-to-face surveys of 3 293 households – 2 862 of whom were agricultural households – in 22 subprefectures of the following nine prefectures: Bangui, Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Lobaye, Mbomou, Nana-Gribizi, Ombella M'Poko, Ouham-Pendé and Vakaga.

Disproportionate stratification was used for sampling, and a minimum sample of 175 households per subprefecture (administrative level 2) was identified. However, only nine of the 22 subprefectures initially targeted were 100 percent covered (Appendix 1) due to the deterioration in security conditions during the survey and the state of the communication routes which delayed data collection beyond the 31 days initially planned. This limited coverage (81 percent) must be considered when interpreting and using the results outlined in this brief, particularly Bangassou, Bimbo, Bossempaté, Gambo, Mbaïki, Ouadda, Ouango and Rafai subprefectures.

Data collection took place during the dry season. The results of this fifth-round data collection have been compared to those of the fourth (March 2023, dry season) and third rounds (October 2022, lean season) 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 12 January 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Source of map: United Nations Geospatial. 2023. Map of the World. In: *United Nations*. [Cited 12 January 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.

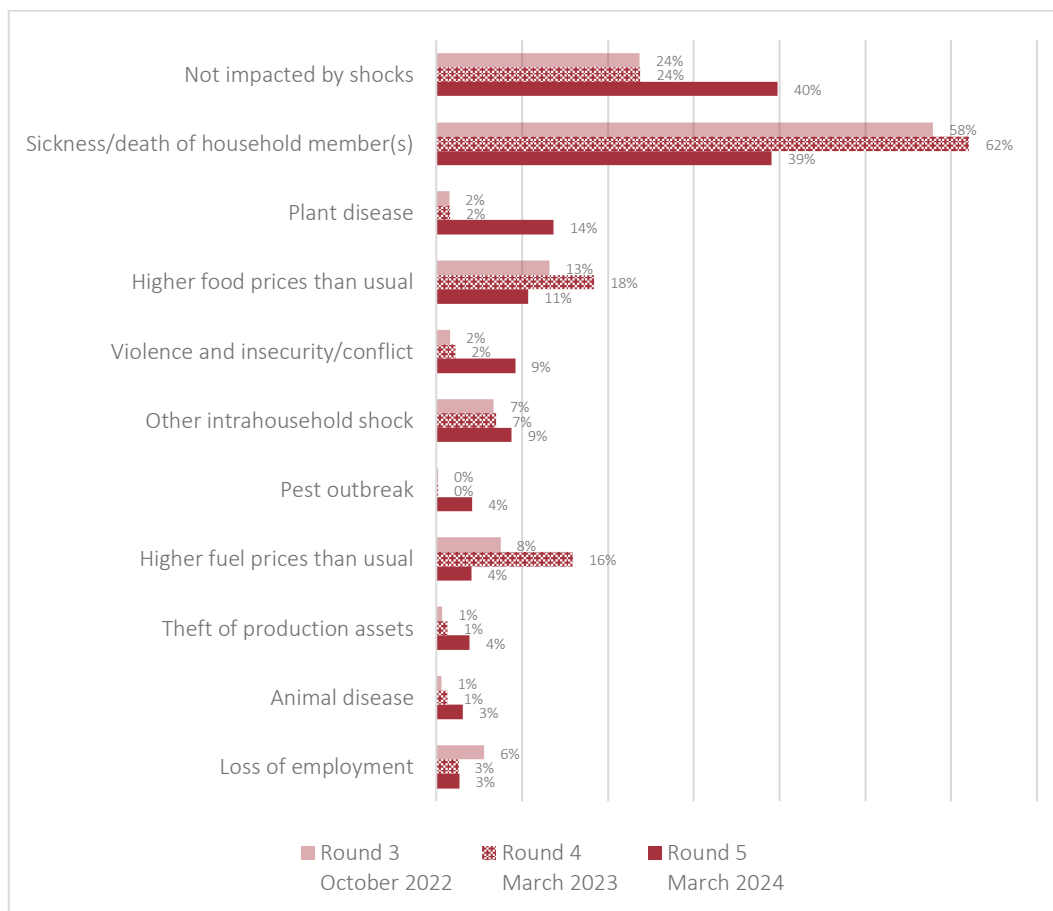
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of the Central African Republic and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

Sixty percent of the surveyed households reported that they had experienced at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey (down 16 percentage points compared to previous rounds). Illness or death of a household member remained the main shock reported (39 percent), down significantly from the third (58 percent) and fourth rounds (62 percent) (Figure 2). However, this rate was high in the subprefectures of Bangassou (99 percent), Gambo (98 percent), Ouago (96 percent), Biraou (92 percent), Ouadda (87 percent) and Bria (84 percent).

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)

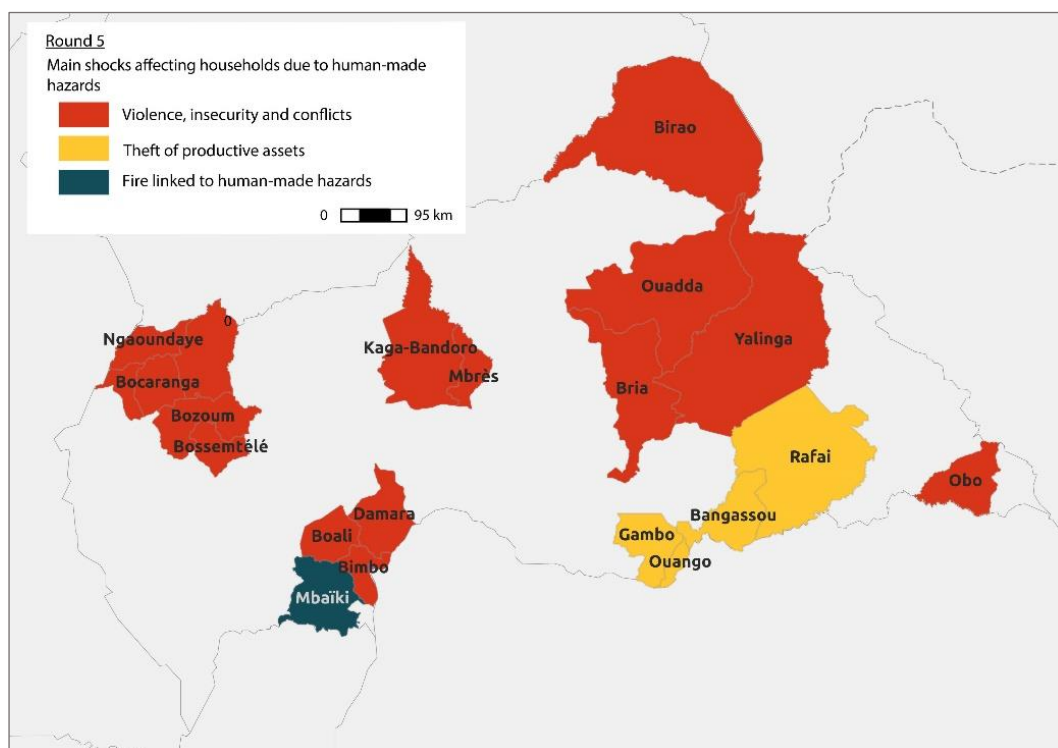


Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (October 2022, March 2023 and March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 6 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Plant diseases affected 14 percent of households surveyed overall, but more than 50 percent in the subprefectures of Bangassou (88 percent), Ouago (81 percent), Gambo (74 percent) and Ouadda (51 percent). The increase in food prices, reported by 11 percent of households surveyed, was 7 percentage points lower than the fourth round, as a result of the less pronounced effects of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the gradual restoration of security on some main routes and at borders, enabling the national market to be supplied with basic foodstuffs.

The human-made shocks reported by the surveyed households were linked to violence, insecurity and conflict (Figure 3). They were most prevalent in the subprefectures of Obo (93 percent), Ouadda (89 percent), Ngaoundaye (55 percent), Yalinga (35 percent) and Bocaranga (24 percent), where armed groups are particularly active. Combined with the poor state of roads, this situation limits the supply of foodstuffs and basic necessities to the markets and health facilities.

Figure 3. Main shocks affecting households due to human-made hazards (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 6 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

The main sources of household income were the production and sale of basic agricultural products (37 percent), formal and informal agricultural trade (20 percent), stable employment in the non-agriculture sector (9 percent) and public employment (8 percent). Two-thirds and three-quarters of households surveyed, respectively, reported having neither a second nor a third source of income in the quarter preceding data collection. This situation could have consequences for the food security of these households, especially crop producers, who are less resilient in the post-harvest period and more likely to turn to negative coping strategies.

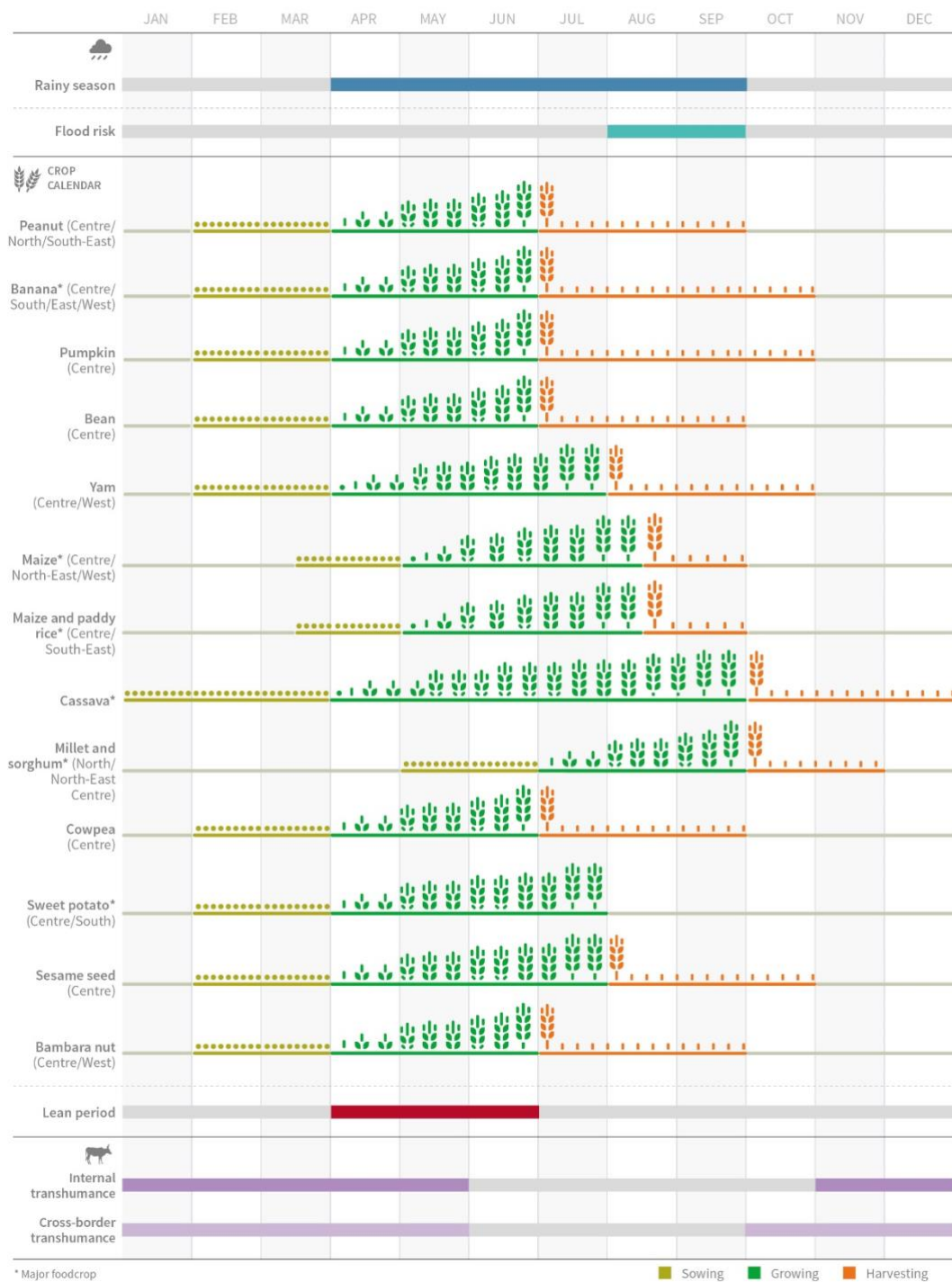
Of the respondents, 55 percent reported a drop in their top three sources of income in the three months preceding the interview, a situation that was stable compared with the previous

round, but slightly worse than in the third round. In the subprefectures of Birao, Gambo, Obo and Ouadda, up to 80 percent of the surveyed households saw their main source of income fall in the three months preceding the interview, compared with the same period in the reference year.

This drop in income was due, in particular, to a reduction in the area under cultivation (insecurity blocking access to fields, especially in Birao, Ngaoundaye and Obo); a voluntary reduction in the area under cultivation due to a lack of access to agricultural inputs and labour; poor harvests in the 2022/23 season (due to plant diseases, access to quality seeds and labour, flooding of fields, etc.); and the general rise in the price of local produce (due to insecurity, market supply and transport costs), which reduced demand in certain areas.

Crops

Figure 4. Central African Republic agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2024. GIEWS Country Briefs: Central African Republic. In: FAO, 19 March 2024. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=CAF&lang=en>

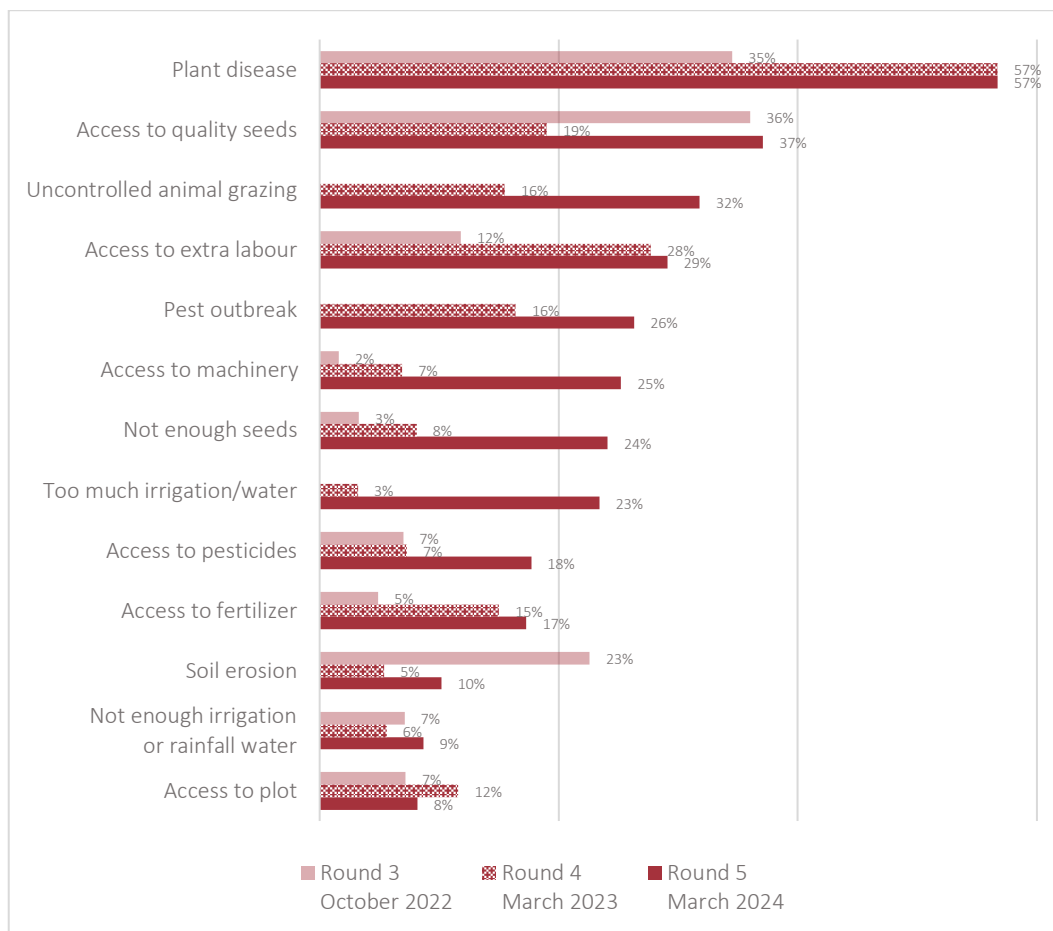
Data were collected from 2 773 crop growers. Of these, 91 percent said they had experienced production difficulties (up three percentage points compared to the previous round) and 58 percent reported experiencing marketing difficulties.

The main crops grown in the crop year preceding the survey were cassava (41 percent of households surveyed), groundnuts (31 percent), maize (7 percent), beans (6 percent) and sesame (4 percent) (see Annex 3 for details at subprefecture level). These results reflect food crop production at a national level. Rainwater was the main source of irrigation (99 percent of surveyed households).

More than 29 percent of households reported a decrease in the area under cultivation (36 percent reported stability and 33 percent an increase). This decline can be linked to insecurity – which restricts access to fields – and to a lack of access to labour, impacting production volumes: 51 percent of households saw their production fall compared to the same period last year.

The main difficulties encountered by agricultural households were plant diseases (57 percent), poor quality seeds (37 percent), damage caused by animals (32 percent) and access to labour (29 percent). These difficulties were broadly the same as in previous rounds, but the percentage of farmers reporting them tended to increase: 83 percent, 89 percent and 91 percent, respectively, in the third, fourth and fifth rounds (Figure 5). This rate reached 100 percent of households surveyed in Gambo; 99 percent in Ouadda, Yalinga, Bria, Paoua and Damara; 97 percent in Bossemtélé; and 96 percent in Ouango.

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



Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (October 2022, March 2023 and March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Note: Changes to the questionnaire response options between the third and fourth rounds make it impossible to compare certain data with those from previous rounds.

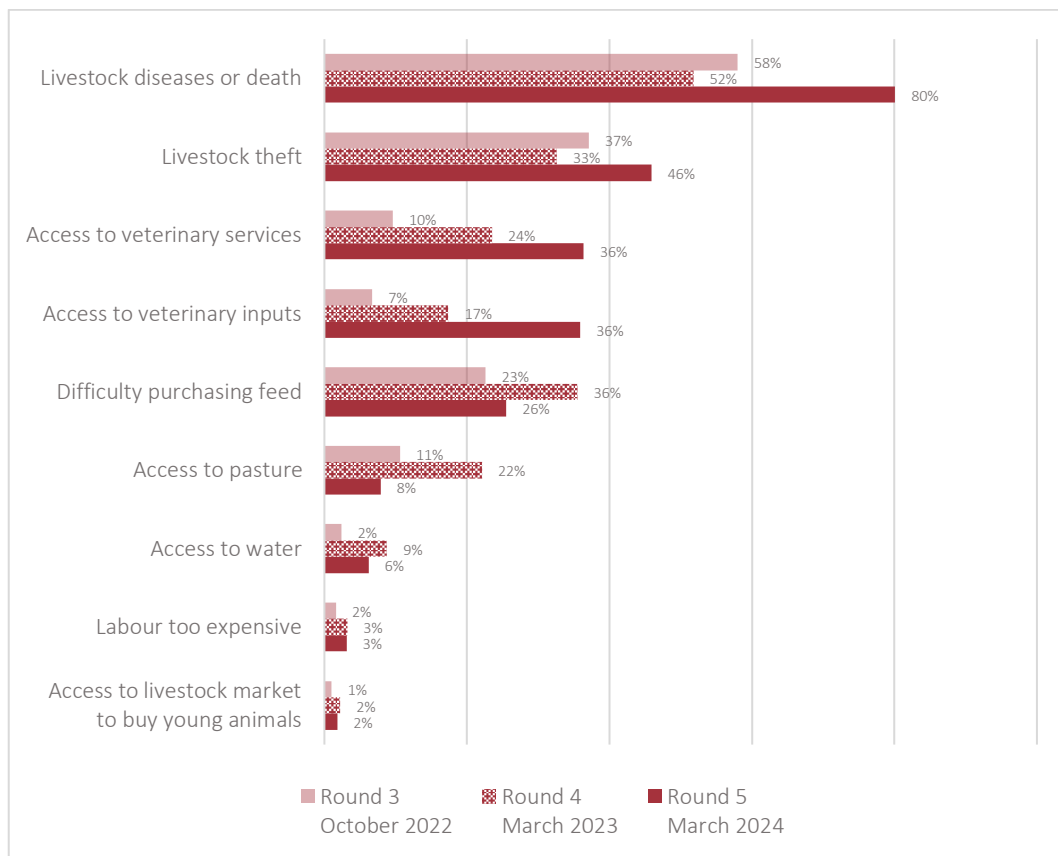
Fifty-eight percent of crop-producing households reported difficulties marketing their crops (78 percent in the third round and 76 percent in the fourth round). Seventy-seven percent reported a decline in the selling price of their produce, 50 percent experienced late payments from buyers and 42 percent had problems selling their produce because of higher transport (fuel prices) or marketing costs.

Livestock

The survey reached 616 livestock farmers, mainly producing poultry (38 percent), goats (36 percent) and pigs (17 percent) (see Appendix 4 for details at subprefecture level). There were virtually no cattle farmers (2 percent) in the targeted subprefectures. Cattle rearing is primarily practiced by transhumant herders who were not targeted by the survey.

Nearly 87 percent of farmers had experienced production difficulties in the three months preceding the survey, in particular disease or animal deaths (80 percent overall; and 81 percent in Bangassou, 69 percent in Paoua, 63 percent in Ngaoundaye and 61 percent in Obo); animal theft (46 percent overall; and 79 percent in Obo, 77 percent in Bangassou, 71 percent in Ngaoundaye and 63 percent in Paoua); access to veterinary products and services (36 percent overall; and 67 percent in Bangassou); and access to livestock feed (25 percent overall; and 56 percent in Paoua and 48 percent in Bangassou) (Figure 6). These difficulties, which have increased (83 and 82 percent in the third and fourth rounds), were linked to insufficient income, the security situation (cattle theft) and the dry season.

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



Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (October 2022, March 2023 and March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

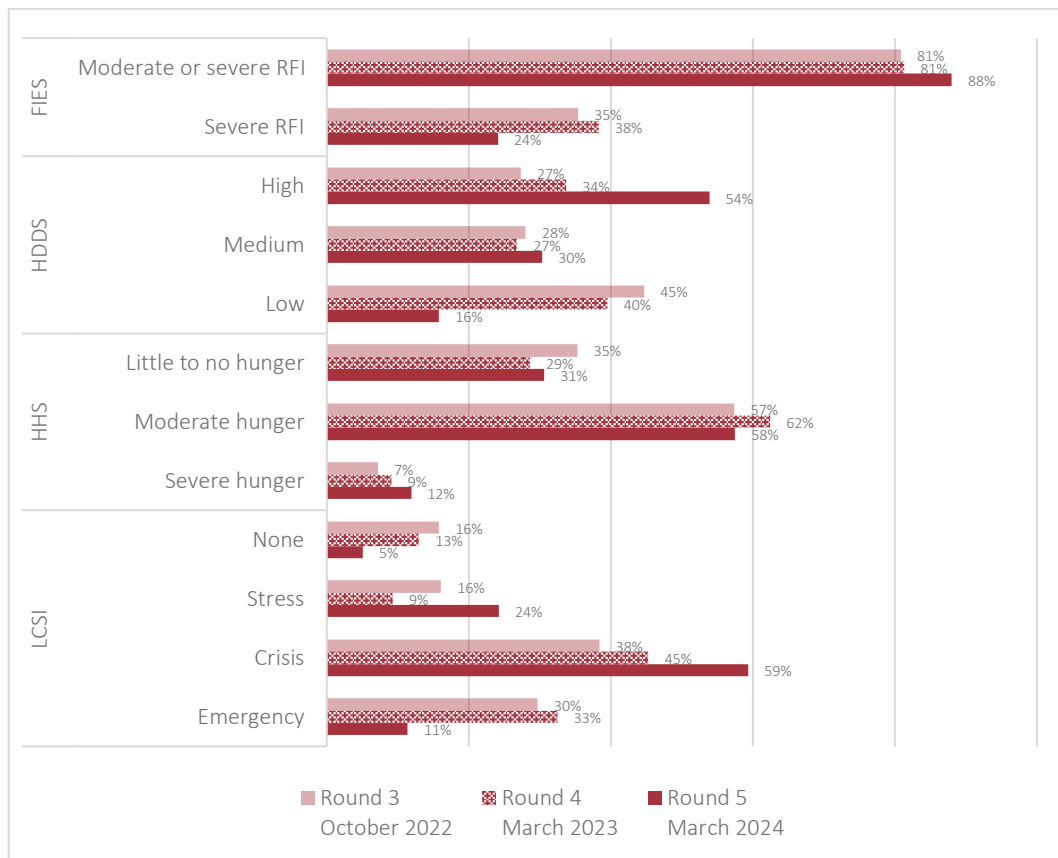
Seventy-one percent of livestock farmers reported a reduction in the size of their herds compared to the previous year, due to excess mortality caused by malnutrition and disease. This rate reached 96 percent in Boali, 92 percent in Bozoum, 90 percent in Bossemptélé, and 82 percent in Birao and Bria.

In addition, 47 percent of the surveyed livestock farmers reported difficulties marketing their produce, due particularly to low selling prices (82 percent), falling customer demand (55 percent), and the high cost of transport and marketing fees to access markets (42 percent).

Food security

The questions relating to the FIES scale were directed at the 3 293 households in the 22 targeted subprefectures. The situation in these areas remained worrying: 88 percent of households were recently moderately or severely food insecure, and 24 percent were severely food insecure (Figure 7).¹ More specifically, the subprefectures that had experienced high levels of severe food insecurity in the four weeks preceding the survey were Ouadda (47 percent), Yalinga (45 percent), Ngaoundaye (42 percent), Gambo (39 percent) and Kouï (34 percent) (Figure 8).

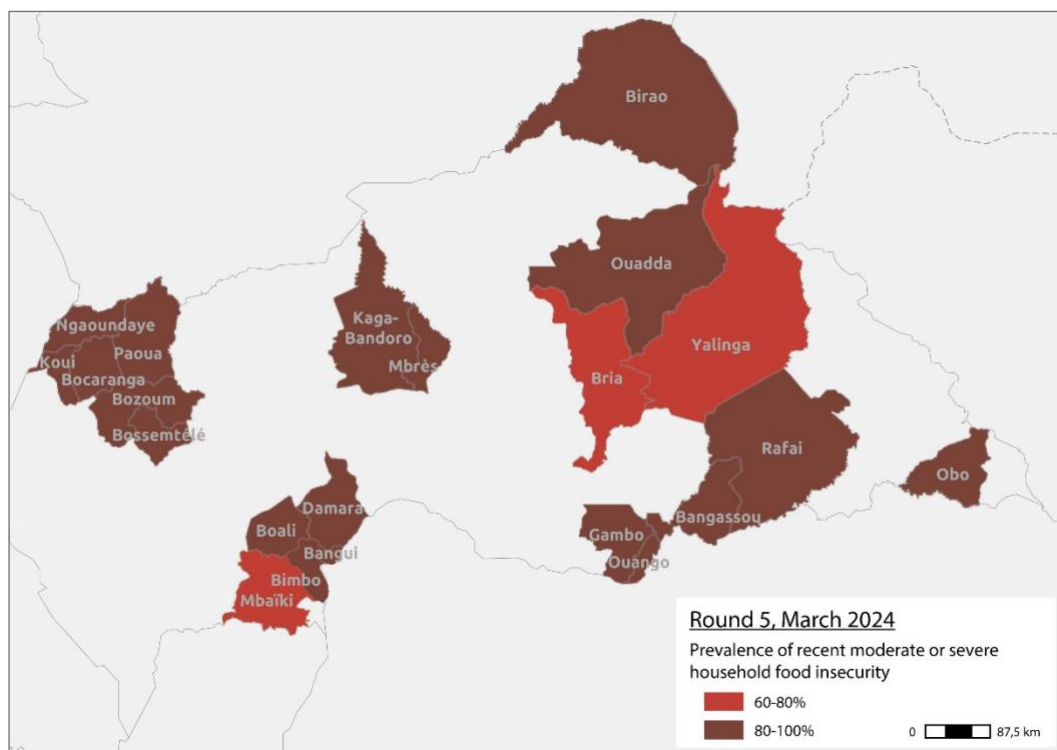
Figure 7. Food security indicators (FIES, household dietary diversity score [HDDS], household hunger scale [HHS] and livelihood coping strategies index [LCSI])



Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (October 2022, March 2023 and March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

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

Figure 8. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe household food insecurity (FIES)



Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

HDDS indicated that 46 percent of households had an insufficiently varied food intake, with 16 percent having a low score, consuming less than four food groups in the 24 hours preceding the interview. The prefecture of Ouham-Pendé was more affected (low score for 77 percent of households in Ngaoundaye, 71 percent in Kouï and 47 percent in Bocaranga), as was Haute-Kotto (with an average of 45 percent of households with a low score in the subprefectures of Bria, Ouadda and Yalinga).

Coping mechanisms were used by 95 percent of households; 59 percent used crisis strategies (75 percent in Paoua, 74 percent in Rafai, 69 percent in Obo, 68 percent in Gambo, 65 percent in Bangassou, 63 percent in Ouango, 45 percent in Birao, 27 percent in Mbrès and 25 percent in Kaga-Bandoro); and 11 percent used emergency strategies (57 percent in Mbrès, 55 percent in Birao and 35 percent in Kaga-Bandoro). The situation was particularly critical in Birao, where 100 percent of households were using crisis or emergency strategies.

Compared with previous rounds of data collection in 17 prefectures (administrative level 1), the percentage of households experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity increased by seven percentage points. Compared with the two previous rounds, the situation seems to have improved slightly in terms of coping strategies (migration of households from the emergency phase to the crisis phase) and diversification of the foods consumed (Figure 7).

The slight differences observed with the results of the analysis of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in the Central African Republic (April 2024) are linked to the number of subprefectures taken into account.

Needs

Of the 2 862 agricultural households surveyed, 99 percent said they required assistance in the six months following the survey. The primary need expressed was for better access to agricultural inputs and tools (81 percent), followed by cash assistance (68 percent), infrastructure for agricultural production (41 percent), food (39 percent) and technical training for crop production (28 percent).

Ninety percent of the households surveyed had not received any assistance in the three months preceding the survey. The assistance received came mainly from non-governmental organizations (52 percent), the World Food Programme (27 per cent), other UN agencies (22 percent) and FAO (9 percent).

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

- > Provide emergency food assistance in areas where more than 80 percent of surveyed households were in a Crisis or Emergency situation, including Birao, Gambo, Kouï, Mbrès, Ngaoundaye, Obo, Ouadda and Yalinga.
- > Promote access to improved short-cycle seeds and disease- and pest-resistant strains for producers facing production difficulties in Bossemptélé, Bria, Damara, Gambo, Kouï, Ngaoundaye, Obo, Ouadda, Ouango, Paoua and Yalinga.
- > Support agricultural resilience (particularly in Bangassou, Bocaranga and Ngaoundaye) and pastoral resilience (in Birao, Kouï and Paoua) by distributing seeds, farming tools and inputs to enable more intensive crops to be grown.
- > Encourage market garden production to boost household income, particularly during periods of low agricultural activity (or lean seasons) and high demand for horticultural products.
- > Provide agricultural kits in line with the national agricultural calendar.
- > Initiate income-generating activities to support and preserve the livelihoods of households in distress in the subprefectures of Birao, Kouï, Mbrès and Ngaoundaye.
- > Develop veterinary services and provide food supplements for livestock in the most vulnerable pastoral areas, particularly Birao, Kouï, Ngaoundaye and Obo.
- > Revitalize transhumance corridors.
- > Construct additional pastoral wells, particularly in areas with very poor access to pasture in Bocaranga, Bossemptélé, Gambo, Ngaoundaye and Rafai.
- > Improve rainwater conservation and access to more sustainable irrigation systems.

Medium- and long-term recommendations

- > Support government price subsidies for essential food products.
- > Increase national food production.
- > Diagnose markets and set up social protection mechanisms in vulnerable areas.

- > Increase producers' income through the development of cash crops and local financial support.
- > Initiate and develop off-season farming to improve household income and strengthen food security in the country.

Annexes

Annex 1. Number of households surveyed per subprefecture (target 175)

Prefecture	Subprefecture	Number of households surveyed	Coverage rate
Bangui	Bangui	175	100%
Haute-Kotto	Bria	177	101%
	Ouadda	129	74%
	Yalinga	161	92%
Haut-Mbomou	Obo	180	103%
Lobaye	Mbaïki	130	74%
Mbomou	Bangassou	97	55%
	Gambo	109	62%
	Ouango	109	62%
	Rafaï	92	53%
Nana-Gribizi	Kaga-Bandoro	150	86%
	Mbrès	175	100%
Ombella M’Poko	Bimbo	106	61%
	Boali	176	101%
	Damara	154	88%
Ouham-Pendé	Bocaranga	171	98%
	Bossemtélé	117	67%
	Bozoum	184	105%
	Koui	177	101%
	Ngaoundaye	176	101%
	Paoua	175	100%
Vakaga	Birao	173	99%

Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March 2024).
 In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Annex 2. Proportion of households affected by predominant type of shock by subprefecture

Subprefectures	Violence, insecurity, conflict	Theft of productive assets	Loss of employment	Increase in food prices	Increase in fuel prices	Sickness, accident or death	Plant diseases	Pest outbreak	Animal diseases
Bangassou	0%	45%	1%	1%	1%	99%	88%	43%	30%
Bangui	0%	0%	4%	15%	7%	9%	1%	0%	0%
Bimbo	1%	0%	5%	4%	3%	8%	3%	0%	0%
Birao	6%		2%	2%	1%	92%	6%	2%	1%
Boali	2%	0%	7%	30%	1%	72%	1%	0%	1%
Bocaranga	24%	2%	1%	22%	8%	46%	11%	0%	2%
Bossemélé	13%	0%	1%	9%	2%	74%	23%	0%	2%
Bozoum	8%	2%	0%	1%	1%	63%	24%	0%	1%
Bria	7%	1%	1%	3%	0%	84%	35%	2%	5%
Damara	7%	1%	0%	2%	0%	87%	7%	7%	1%
Gambo	10%	19%	2%	13%	20%	98%	74%	32%	24%
Kaga-Bandoro	12%	0%	1%	1%	0%	23%	1%	1%	0%
Koui	21%	4%	1%	38%	6%	38%	6%	0%	1%
Mbaïki	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	62%	15%	2%	3%
Mbrès	15%	1%	0%	0%	2%	40%	2%	1%	0%
Ngaoundaye	55%	6%	4%	48%	1%	38%	27%	1%	4%
Obo	93%	10%	0%	6%	0%	54%	19%	16%	4%
Ouada	89%	14%	0%	0%	0%	87%	52%	34%	5%
Ouango	4%	31%	0%	6%	17%	96%	81%	41%	26%
Paoua	10%	3%	2%	5%	4%	69%	5%	2%	1%
Rafai	5%	42%	1%	1%	7%	100%	92%	49%	39%
Yalinga	35%	1%	1%	1%	0%	72%	34%	2%	1%

Source: FAO. 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Annex 1. Main crops grown in subprefectures (percentage of farming households surveyed)

	Cassava	Groundnut	Maize	Beans	Sesame seed
Bangassou	12%	74%	-	-	-
Bangui	-	-	-	-	-
Bimbo	88%	13%	-	-	-
Birao	-	64%	-	-	-
Boali	81%	-	-	-	-
Bocaranga	59%	19%	-	15%	-
Bossem-télé	66%	-	-	-	-
Bozoum	54%	-	-	-	-
Bria	65%	-	-	-	-
Damara	42%	27%	23%	-	-
Gambo	30%	51%	-	-	-
Kaga-Bandoro	-	-	-	-	23%
Koui	57%	12%	27%	-	-
Mbaïki	88%	-	-	-	-
Mbrès	-	36%	-	-	46%
Ngaoundaye	-	14%	18%	43%	-
Obo	31%	46%	-	-	-
Ouadda	88%	-	-	-	-
Ouango	21%	54%	11%	-	-
Paoua	23%	52%	-	-	-
Rafai	-	86%	-	-	-
Yalinga	48%	43%	-	-	-
Total	41%	31%	7%	6%	4%

Source: FAO, 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March 2024).
In: FAO Data in Emergencies Hub, Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Annex 2. Main animals reared in the subprefectures (percentage of farmers interviewed)

	Poultry	Goats	Pigs
Birao	-	100%	-
Bocaranga	-	67%	17%
Kaga-Bandoro	60%	-	-
Obo	55%	-	27%
Rafai	83%	-	-
Bimbo	58%	-	-
Ouadda	57%	-	-
Gambo	35%	-	23%
Mbaïki	-	-	22%
Ngaoundaye	-	74%	-
Papoua	-	69%	-
Yalinga	-	60%	-
Total	38%	36%	17%

Source: FAO, 2024. Central African Republic: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March 2024).
In: FAO Data in Emergencies Hub, Rome. [Cited 16 May 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>



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