



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Mali

# DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 9

Results and recommendations  
November 2024

## Key highlights

- > The ninth round of Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) in Mali was conducted in eight regions between 4 October and 1 November 2024.
- > This round revealed persistent insecurity in the Tombouctou region and an increase in the theft of productive assets such as land, livestock and tools in the northern and central regions.
- > Nearly half of households reported a reduction in their main income source in the three months prior to the survey, with higher rates in the northern regions.
- > In addition to insecurity, extensive flood damage weakened the livelihoods of farming households.
- > As a result of flooding and the abandonment of fields due to insecurity, 35 percent of farmers reported a reduction in harvests, particularly in northern regions, leading to a depletion of household stocks.
- > Fifty-three percent of livestock farmers reported a decrease in livestock prices compared to the same period in an average year. This could result in the loss of purchasing power, and limit their access to cereals markets in the short and medium term.
- > In the conflict zones in the centre and northern areas of the country, access to food remained lower than normal, due to the rise in prices and deterioration in trade between livestock and cereal producers. In addition, the floods, combined with the loss of cultivated land, contributed to higher food prices in markets, reduced food availability and increased food insecurity.

## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the ninth round of Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) in Mali, between 4 October and 1 November 2024, to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security.

Data were collected from 1 337 households through computer-assisted telephone interviews in eight regions of the country: Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso and Tombouctou. The data are regionally representative. Weights were applied based on population size, access to electricity and the education level of the head of household.

Data collection took place at the end of the rainy season and the harvest period. Throughout this brief, the results of the ninth round have been compared with results from the following rounds: eight (June 2024, lean season), seven (December 2024, post-harvest dry season) and six (October 2023, winter 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 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.

Source of data: FAO. 2024. 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>

### 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.

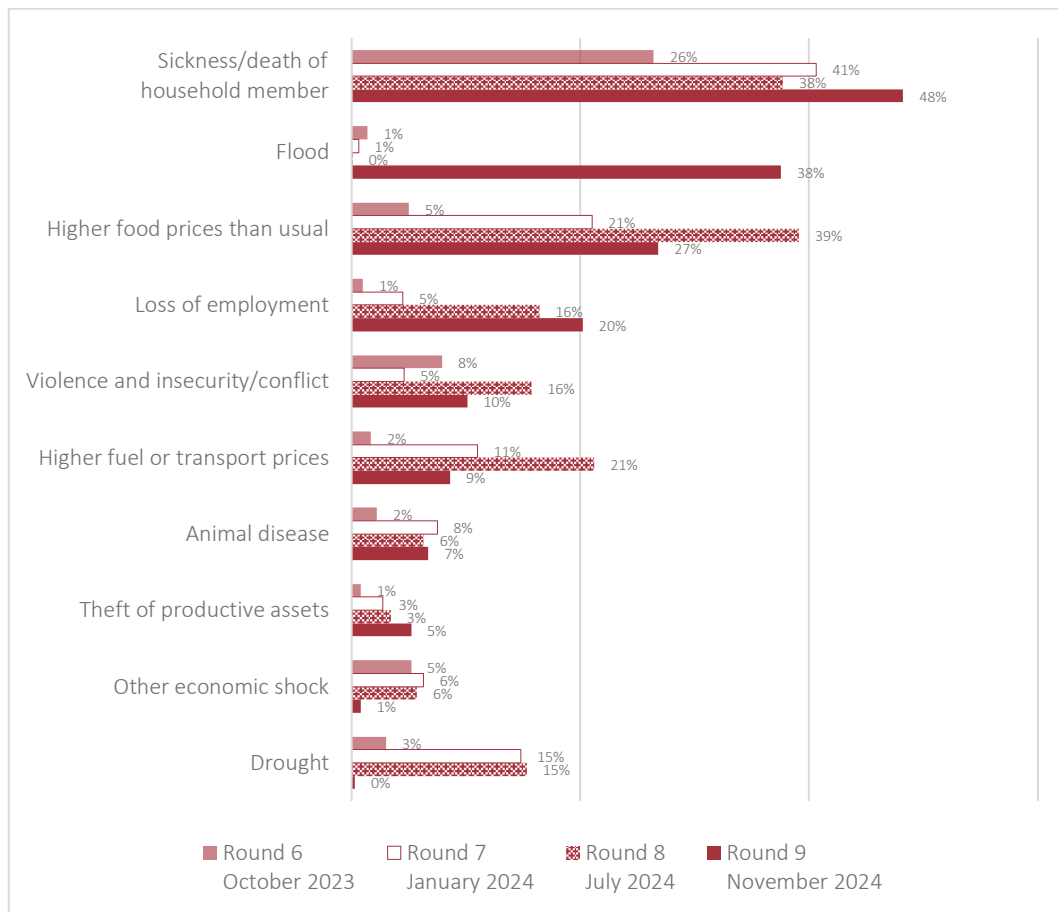
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of Mali and other countries.

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

## Income and shocks

Ninety percent of the households surveyed had been affected by at least one shock in the three months prior to the survey. The most common shock was illness or death of one or more household member (48 percent), followed by flooding (38 percent), rising food prices (27 percent overall, and as much as 74 percent in Tombouctou and 56 percent in Gao), job loss (20 percent), and violence, insecurity or conflict (10 percent) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of respondent households)



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results (October 2023, and January, July and November 2024). [Accessed on 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Flooding has reached very high levels in Mali in 2024. In this ninth round, it was particularly reported by households in Tombouctou (60 percent), Gao (53 percent), Segou (44 percent) and Mopti (40 percent) as a shock hampering agricultural production.

Conflict and theft of productive assets, such as land, livestock and tools, remained issues in the country, particularly in the northern and central regions of Gao (34 percent), Tombouctou (33 percent) and Ménaka (26 percent).

Forty-six percent of households surveyed reported a reduction in their main source of income in the three months prior to the survey. These rates were higher in the northern regions such as Gao (72 percent), Ménaka (63 percent) and Tombouctou (61 percent). In addition to the insecurity, the extensive damage caused by the floods weakened households' livelihoods.

## Crops

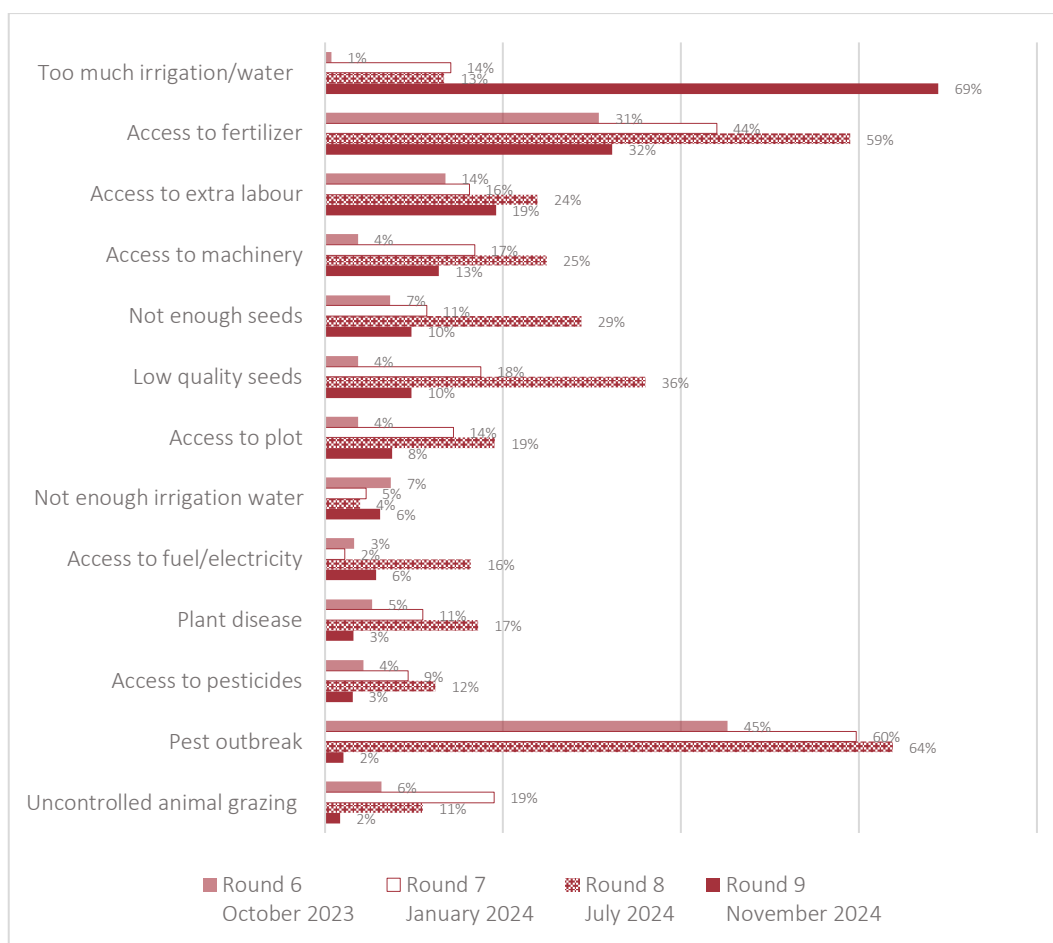
Figure 3. Mali agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2024. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System Country Briefs: Mali. In: *FAO*, 7 May 2024. Rome. [Cited 20 November 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=MLI&lang=en>

Two-thirds of the households surveyed were involved in crop production. Of these, 79 percent reported at least one production problem. The most common problem was flooding (69 percent), particularly in Gao (87 percent), Tombouctou (80 percent), Segou (79 percent) and Mopti (75 percent) (Figure 4). This was followed by access to fertilizer (32 percent), particularly in Tombouctou (74 percent) and Sikasso (50 percent), and limited access to labour (19 percent).

Figure 4. 5Crop production difficulties (percentage of crop producers)



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results (October 2023, and January, July and November 2024). [Accessed on 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

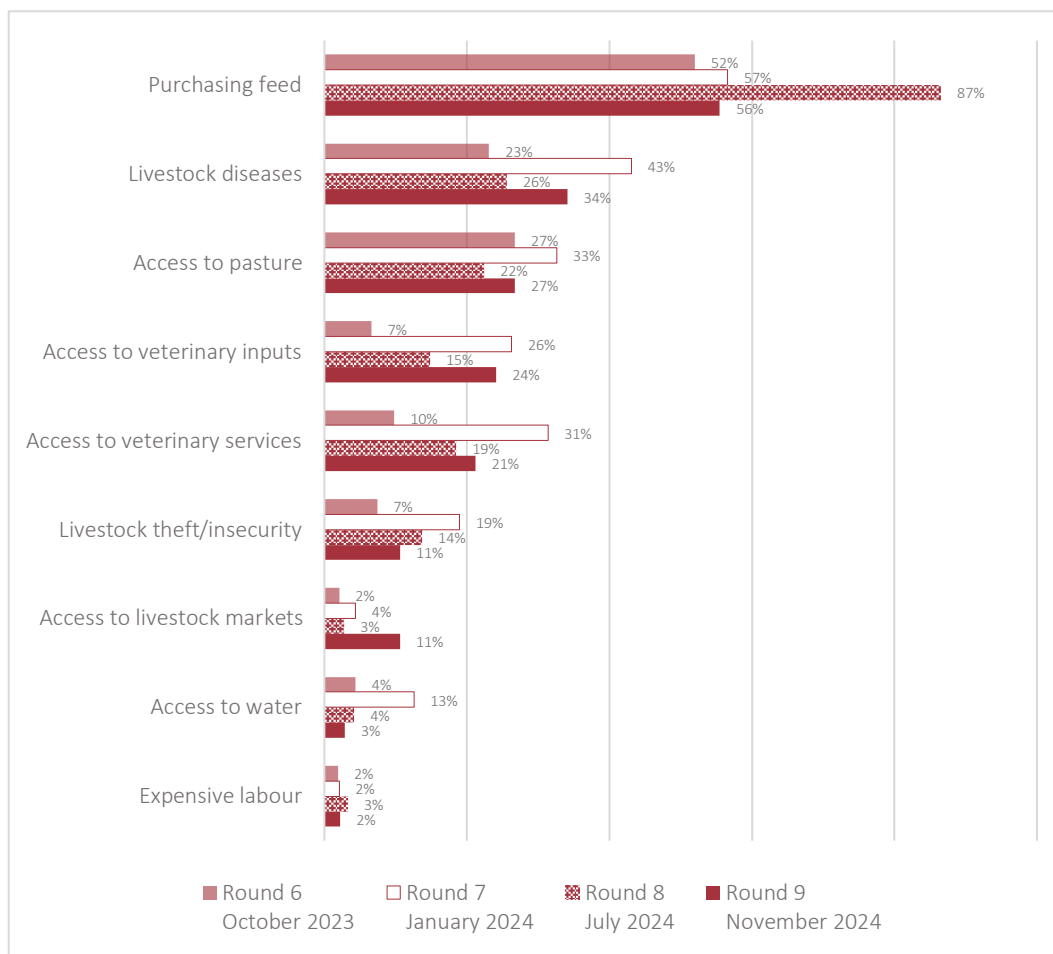
A third of producers reported a reduction in harvest, mainly in Gao (69 percent), Tombouctou (66 percent) and Ménaka (62 percent). This decrease is explained by flooding and abandonment of fields due to insecurity. In addition, 35 percent of crop producers felt that the current selling price of their crops was slightly lower than in an average year.

Difficulties in marketing crops were reported by 53 percent of producers, and were of particular concern in the regions of Ménaka (98 percent), Gao (73 percent), Koulikoro (63 percent), Kayes (53 percent) and Ségou (50 percent). Their concerns included low selling prices (60 percent), and damages and losses due to storage, and/or market access difficulties (21 percent), mainly in Mopti (73 percent).

## Livestock

Seventy-two percent of the livestock farmers surveyed had encountered production difficulties in the three months prior to the survey, particularly the purchase of feed (56 percent overall and 87 percent in Tombouctou), due to limited access to markets, especially in insecure/conflict zones. This was followed by livestock disease or injury (34 percent), access to pasture (27 percent), limited access to inputs and veterinary services (24 percent and 21 percent, respectively), and livestock theft (11 percent) (Figure 5).

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



Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results (October 2023, and January, July and November 2024). [Accessed on 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Fifty-three percent of livestock farmers reported a decrease in livestock prices compared to an average year. This results in a risk of the loss of purchasing power for livestock farmers and limited access to cereals markets in the short and medium term.

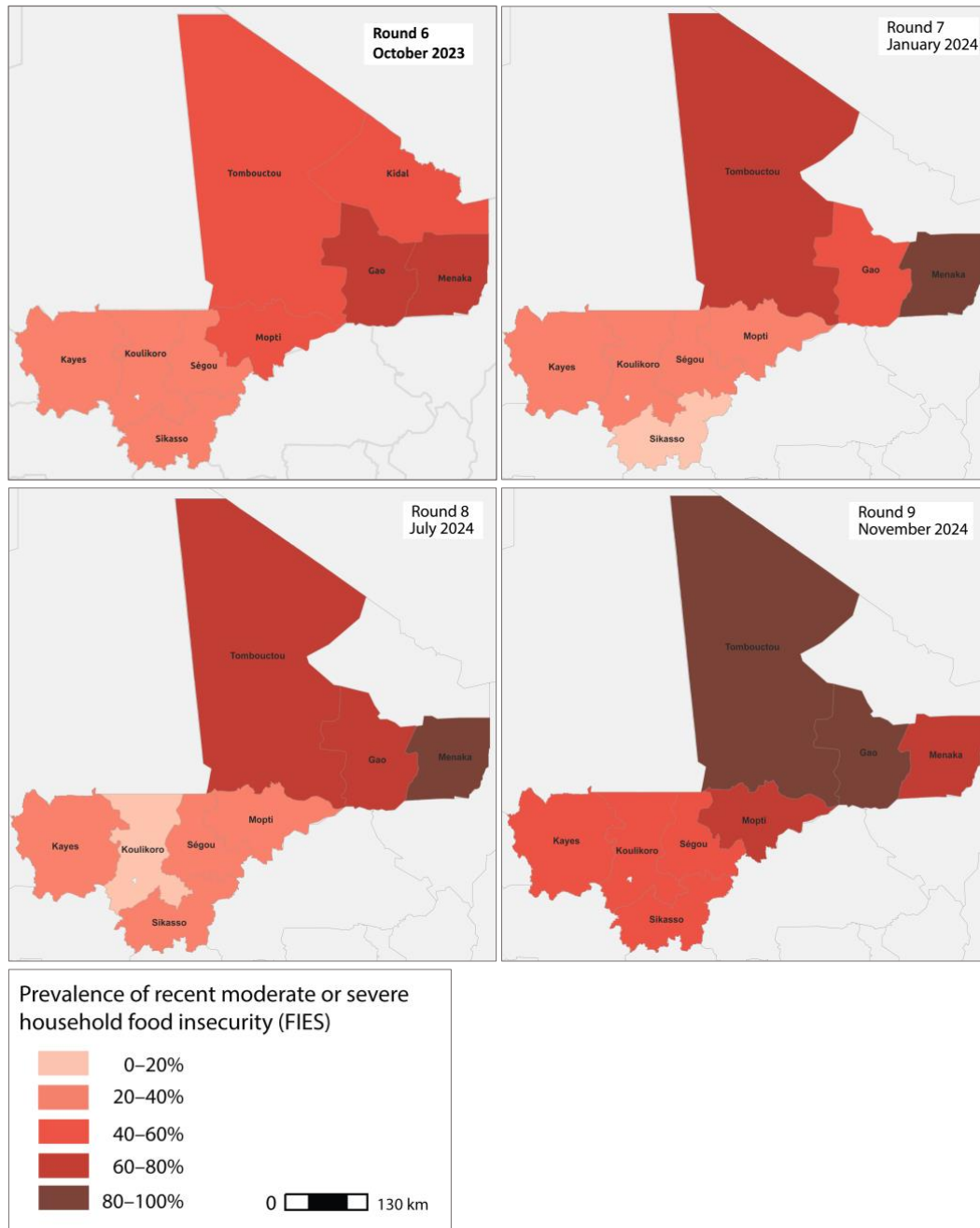
In addition, 61 percent of farmers had experienced marketing difficulties in the three months prior to the survey, particularly low selling prices (74 percent) and high transport costs (22 percent). Sixty-one percent of farmers reported a reduction in the number of animals kept compared to the previous year due to distress sales, disease and/or lack of feed.

### Food security

According to the household dietary diversity score, 77 percent of households surveyed had high dietary diversity, 20 percent had moderate dietary diversity and 3 percent had low dietary diversity. According to the household hunger scale, 77 percent of households experienced little or no hunger, 21 percent moderate hunger and 2 percent severe hunger.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) indicates that 54 percent of households were moderately or severely food insecure, and 6 percent were severely food insecure (Figure 6).<sup>1</sup> Fifty-six percent of households reported using stress coping strategies, 7 percent crisis strategies and 8 percent emergency strategies. Only 29 percent of households did not use coping strategies.

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



Note: Refer to the disclaimer on the back cover for the names and boundaries used in these maps.  
 Source: FAO. 2024. Data in Emergencies: Mali assessments results (October 2023, and January, July and November 2024).  
 [Accessed on 21 November 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

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

In the conflict zones in the centre and northern areas of the country, access to food remained limited, due to the sharp rises in prices, and deterioration of trade between livestock and cereal producers. In addition, flooding, combined with the loss of cultivated land, reduced the availability and increased the market price of food products.

## Needs

Fifteen percent of households reported receiving assistance in the three months prior to the survey, particularly in the form of food (12 percent) or cash (3 percent).

Almost all farming households (99 percent) reported the need for support with their farming activities in the three to six months following the survey. The main needs expressed by crop producers were food (70 percent), cash (62 percent), and inputs for crop or vegetable production (56 percent). Livestock farmers' main needs were food (69 percent), cash (66 percent), feed (27 percent) and livestock infrastructure (18 percent).

## Recommendations

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

- > Provide cash and food vouchers to the most vulnerable households in Ségou, Mopti, Tombouctou, Gao and Ménaka regions to immediately support purchasing power and food security.
- > Distribute veterinary vaccines and treatments to prevent the spread and support the treatment of animal diseases in Gao, Kayes, Ménaka, Sikasso and Tombouctou regions.
- > Provide climate-resistant seed and fertilizer adapted to off-season crops to increase the resilience of crop growers in Sikasso and Tombouctou regions.
- > Continue to supply livestock feed to improve the physical health of animals in Gao, Ménaka and Tombouctou regions.

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

- > Support income-generating activities for households affected by job losses in Gao, Ménaka and Tombouctou regions.
- > Promote composting and organic manure practices in Gao, Sikasso and Tombouctou regions.
- > Identify secure areas for grazing and sow fodder crops in areas of insecurity/conflict.
- > Raise farmers' awareness of good animal feeding practices.
- > Increase the amount of pastoral infrastructure, for instance water points and transhumance corridors.
- > Further analyse the impact of the conflict and floods on household food security to better understand assistance needs in the coming months.



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### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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