



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 7

Results and recommendations
April 2024

Data collection 22 January to 19 February 2024

Key highlights

- > Food insecurity remains a cause for concern, with 48 percent of the respondent households experiencing moderate or severe insecurity, and 16 percent suffering from severe insecurity. The provinces most affected were Nord-Ubangi (59 percent), Tanganyika (58 percent), Kasai and Kasai-Central (56 percent), South Kivu (51 percent) and Kwango (50 percent).
- > The situation of crop producers is stable compared to that observed in the sixth round. Sixty-eight percent of crop producers reported production difficulties and 54 percent reported difficulties marketing their crops in the three months preceding the survey. The main production difficulties were increased rainfall and flooding, insufficient labour, plant diseases and access to enough quality seeds. Transport costs, low selling prices and late payments by customers were the main marketing difficulties reported.
- > The situation for livestock farmers has not changed from the previous round. Livestock farmers in North Kivu and Ituri have been suffering from the deteriorating security situation. Seventy-one percent reported production difficulties and 47 percent reported a reduction in the number of heads of cattle compared to the previous year.

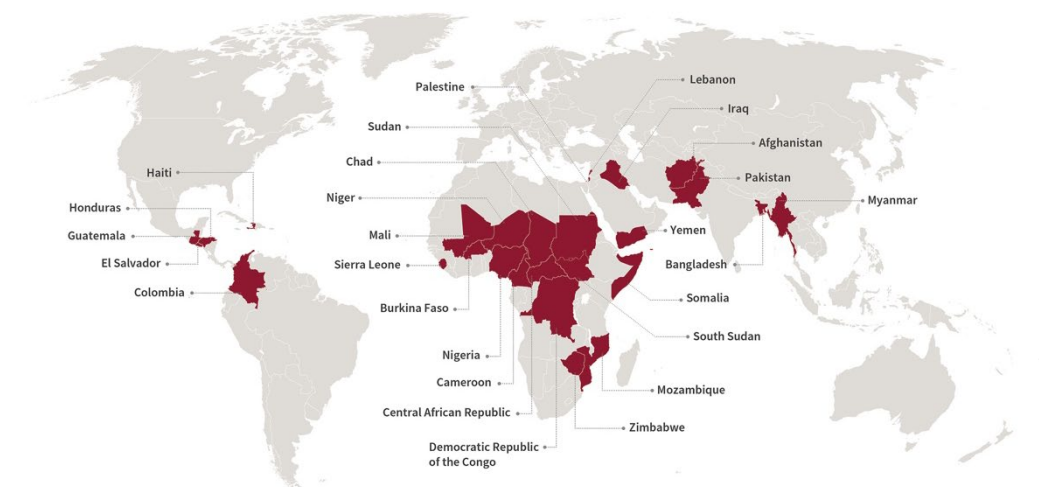
Methodology

Between 22 January and 19 February 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a household survey through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security.

Data were collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews in 11 of the country's 26 provinces. A stratified simple random selection procedure, with minimal design effect, identified 2 723 agricultural and non-agricultural households. Data are representative at the provincial level.

Data collection took place during the harvest season. The results of the seventh round have been compared to those of the sixth round (October 2023, rainy season); the fifth round (August 2023, dry season and the pastoral lean season); the fourth round (September 2022, start of rainy season); and the third round (March 2022, off-season).

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 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 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.

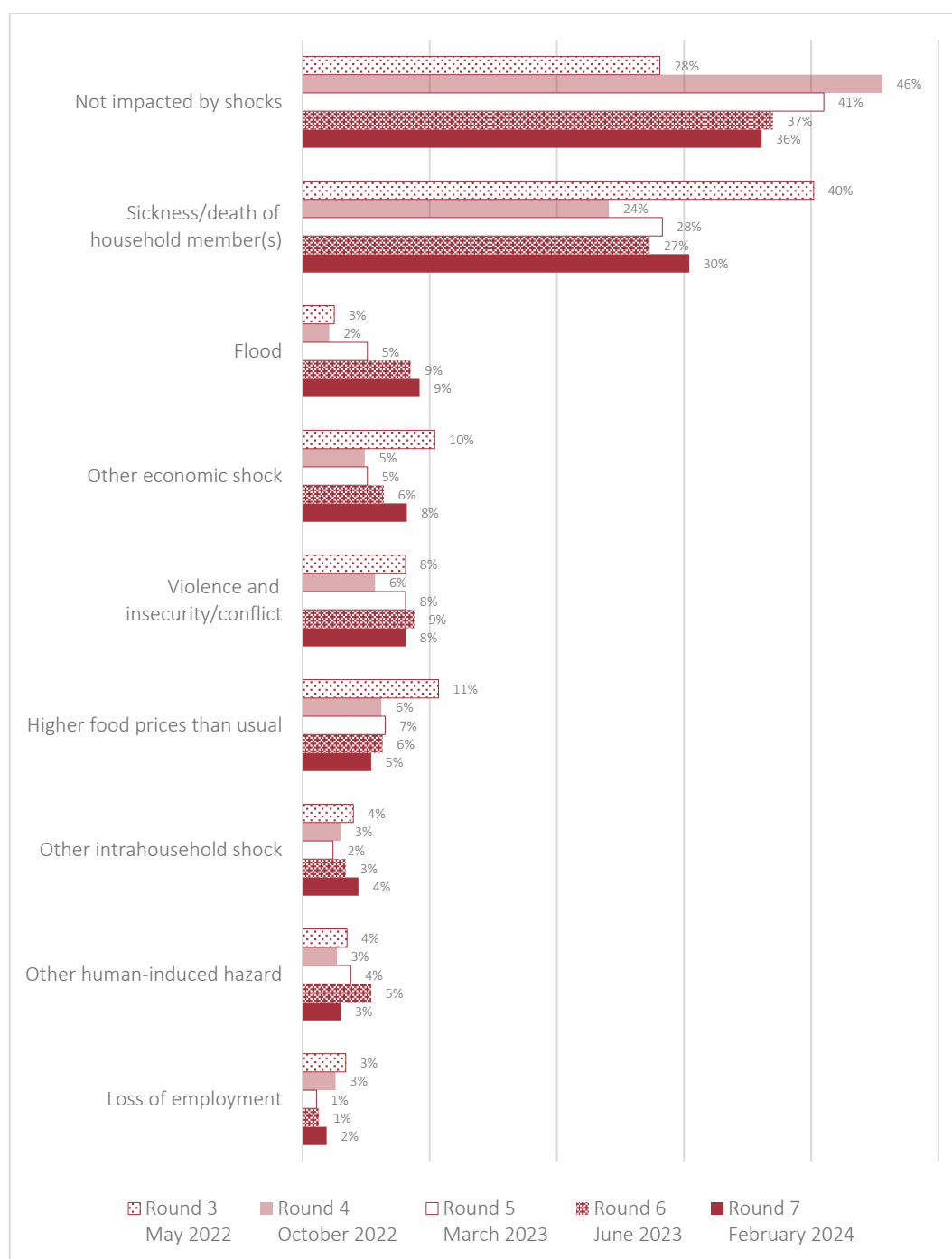
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

The situation of households in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is deteriorating as a result of multiple shocks and constraints – 64 percent reported being affected by a shock. The main reported shock in the 12 months preceding the survey were illness or death of a household member (30 percent), particularly in Kwango (52 percent), North Kivu (42 percent), Kasai (34 percent) and Sud-Ubangi (33 percent) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2024. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, March and June 2023, and February 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 11 March 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Flooding or riverbank erosion was reported by 9 percent of the surveyed households. From November 2023 to February 2024, heavy rains and flooding affected more than 350 000 people and almost 1.1 million hectares of land were submerged for at least nine days. Of the provinces covered by this assessment, Kasai-Central (19 percent), Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi (18 percent), South Kivu (16 percent) and Tanganyika (12 percent) were the most affected by flooding.¹

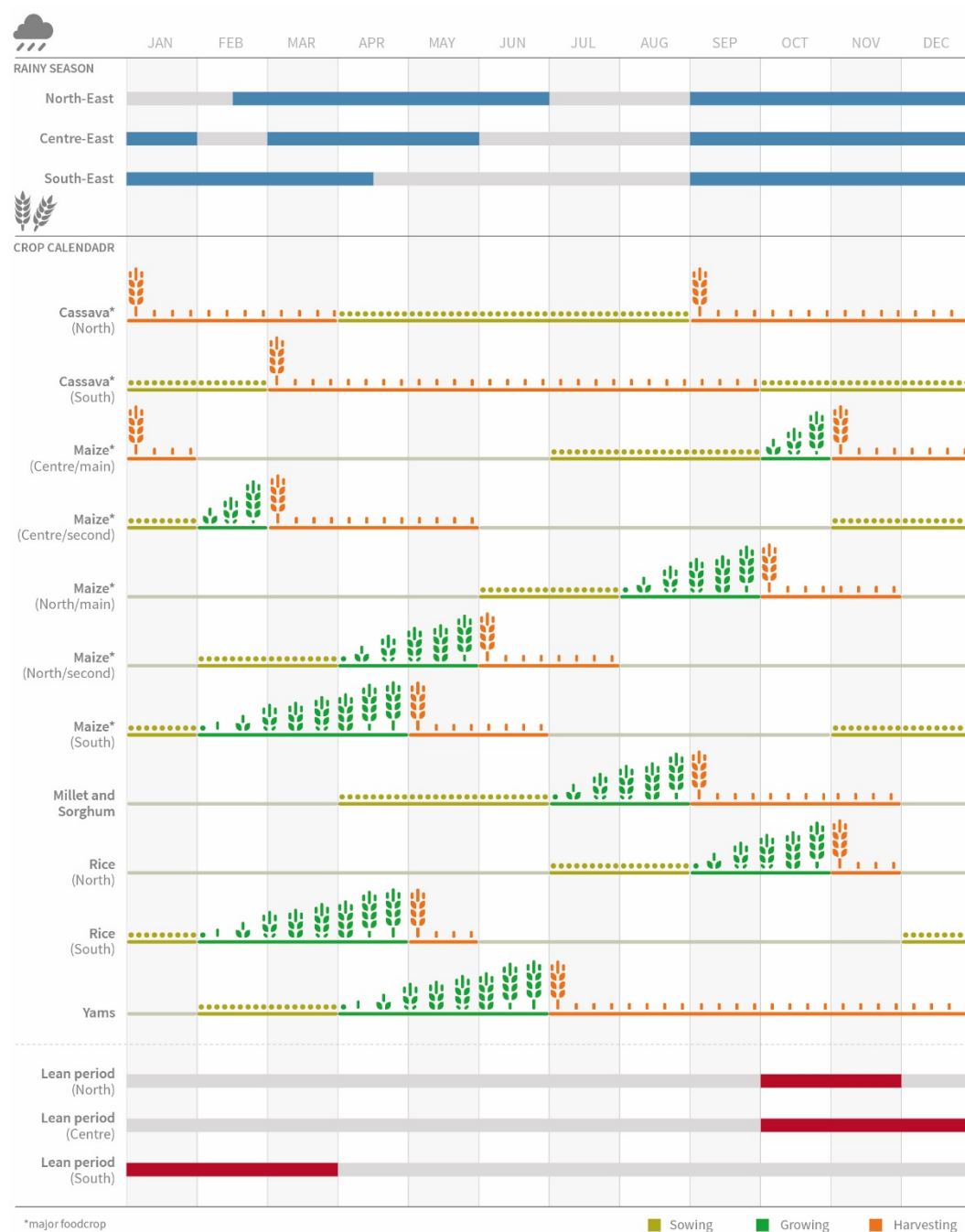
The prevalence of violence, insecurity and conflict (reported overall by 8 percent of surveyed households) increased in North Kivu to more than 29 percent of households (7 percent in Ituri and South Kivu). In addition to these main shocks, other economic shocks (8 percent) and rising food prices (6 percent) had an impact on the households surveyed. Theft of assets and high fuel prices were reported more in Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central and Tshopo provinces.

In terms of main source of income, the households surveyed reported non-farm self-employment or liberal professions (24 percent), production and sale of food crops (20 percent), public employment (19 percent) and off-farm work (10 percent). Forty-two percent of households reported a decrease in their main source of income and 39 percent in their second income.

¹ There were other provinces where the Congo River is present not covered by this survey that were affected by flooding.

Crops

Figure 3. The Democratic Republic of the Congo agricultural calendar



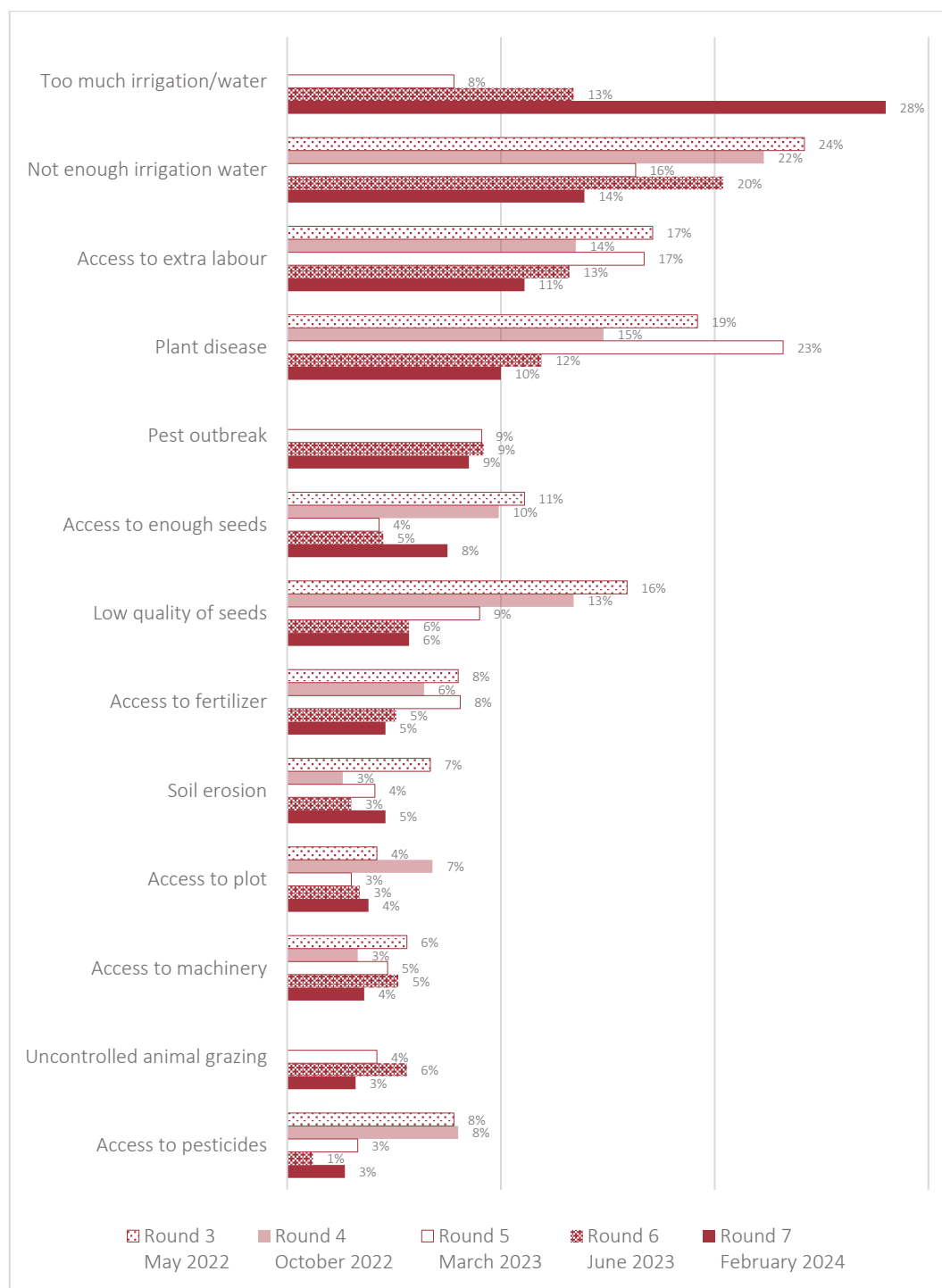
Source: FAO. 2023. GIEWS Country Briefs: The Democratic Republic of the Congo. In: FAO, 14 July 2022. Rome. [Cited 11 March 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=COD&lang=en>

The main crops grown this season were maize (47 percent), cassava (19 percent), beans (12 percent) and groundnuts (7 percent). Compared to the previous year, 61 percent of households reported a decrease in the area planted, 28 percent reported the same area and 5 percent reported an increase.

Sixty-eight and 51 percent of farmers, respectively, reported difficulties producing and marketing their crops (70 and 54 percent in the previous round) over the three months preceding the interview.

Production difficulties were dominated by heavy rains and flooding (28 percent), insufficient labour (11 percent), plant diseases (10 percent) and crop pests (9 percent) (Figure 4).

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



Source: FAO. 2024. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, March and June 2023, and February 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 11 March 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

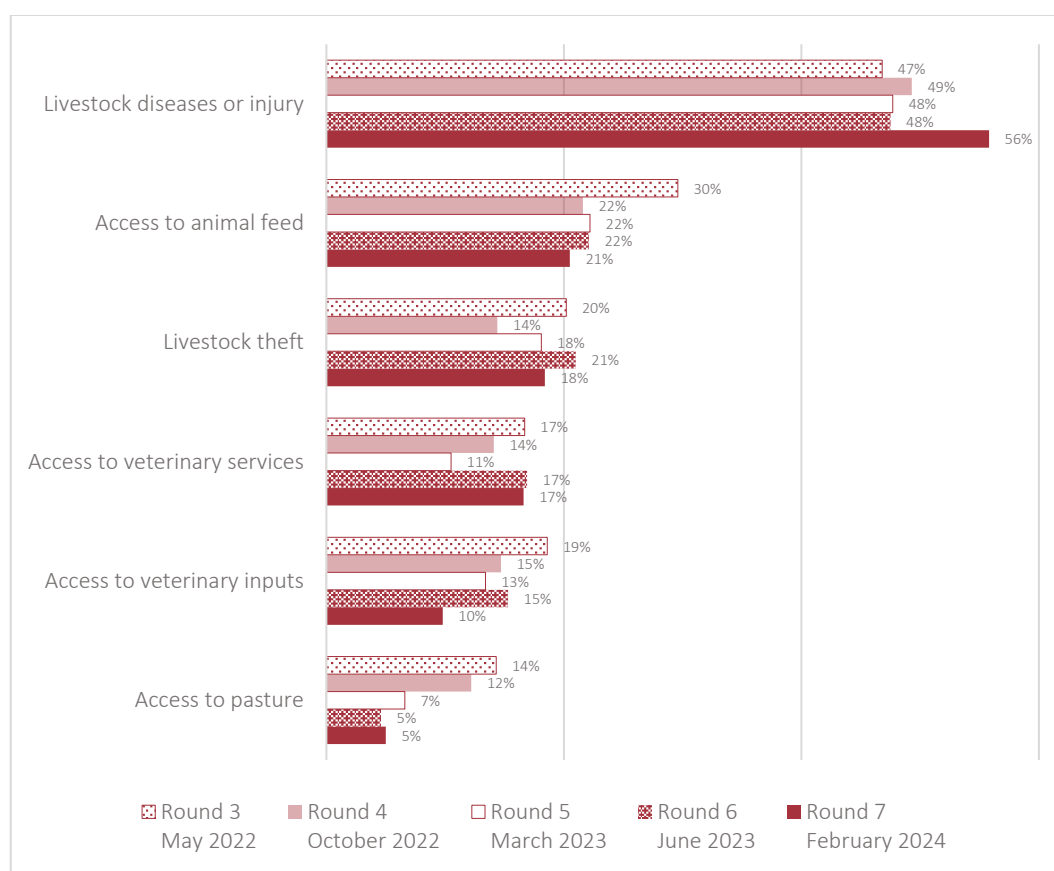
Changes to the questionnaire response options between the fourth and fifth make it impossible to compare certain data with previous rounds.

The main sales difficulties were the high cost of transport and other marketing costs (44 percent), low selling prices (28 percent), late payments by customers (19 percent) and difficulties accessing the market (11 percent).

Livestock

The situation of livestock farmers has not changed much since the previous round, with 71 percent reporting production difficulties in the current round. The main animals raised were poultry (41 percent), goats (27 percent), pigs (20 percent) and cattle (5 percent). Livestock diseases or injury (56 percent), access to feed (21 percent), theft (18 percent) and access to veterinary services (17 per cent) were the main constraints limiting livestock production over the past 12 months (Figure 5).

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



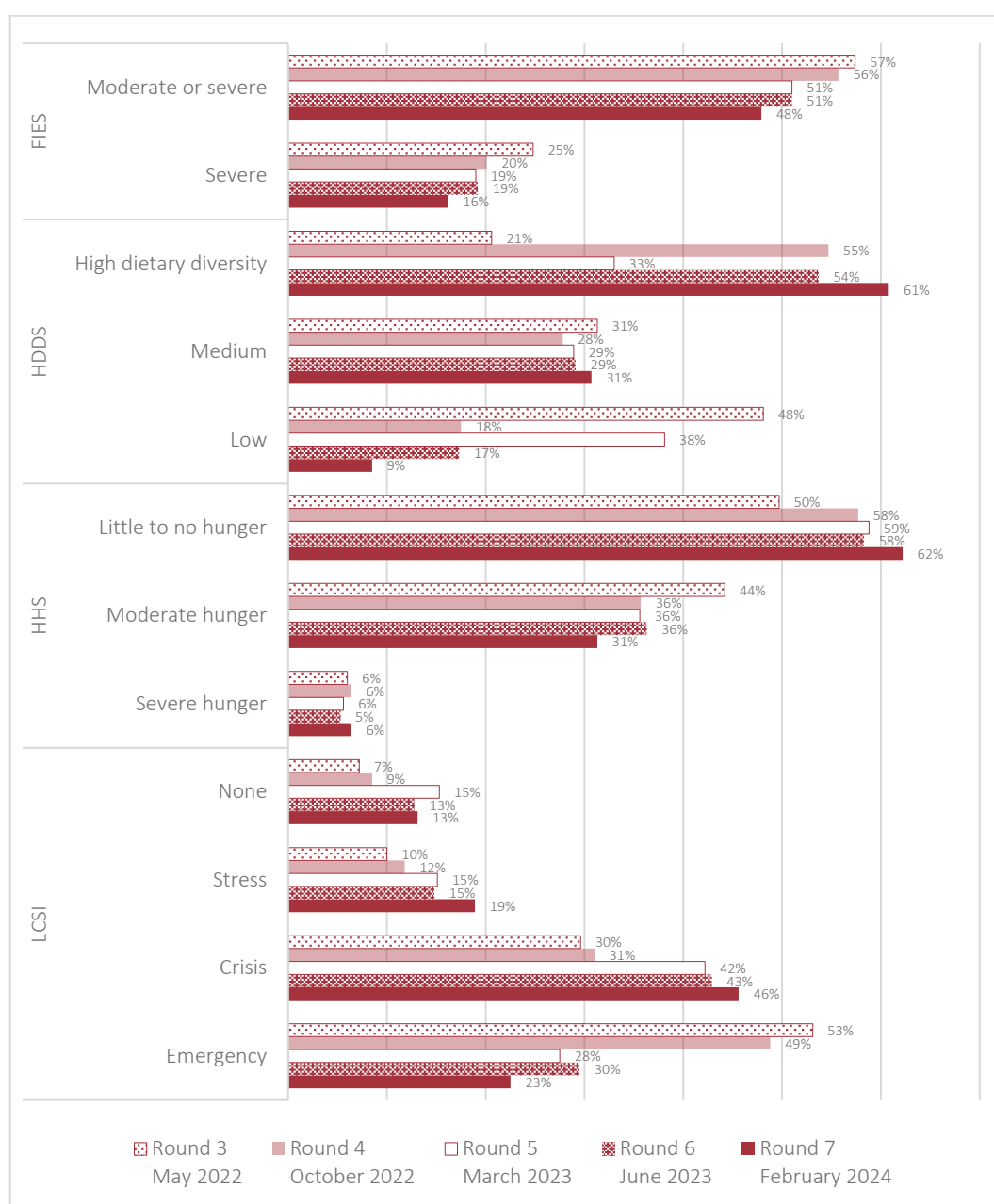
Source: FAO. 2024. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, March and June 2023, and February 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 11 March 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Forty-eight percent of livestock farmers reported a reduction in the number of heads of cattle over the year, mainly due to the death of animals (28 percent). In the east of the country, particularly in Ituri, North and South Kivu, and Tanganyika, attacks by armed groups have intensified, often targeting pastoralists and large livestock.

Food security

The food security situation remains worrying. According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES),² 48 percent of surveyed households were recently moderately or severely food insecure – 52 percent in the previous round – and 16 percent were severely insecure (19 percent in the sixth round) (Figure 6). The provinces most affected were Nord-Ubangi (59 percent), Tanganyika (58 percent), Kasai and Kasai-Central (56 percent), South Kivu (51 percent) and Kwango (50 percent).

Figure 6. Food security indicators (FIES, household dietary diversity score [HDDS], household hunger scale [HHS] and livelihood coping strategies index [LCSI])



Source: FAO. 2024. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, March and June 2023, and February 2024). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 11 March 2024]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

² FIES results are subject to change. The national scale evolves over the data collection cycles, making it easier to compare them with each other.

In addition, the HHS indicates that around one third of households are moderately hungry and 6 percent are severely hungry. Finally, the HDDS shows that 31 percent of households have moderate dietary diversity, 9 percent have low diversity and 60 percent have high diversity.

Needs

More than 95 percent of households in the targeted provinces reported the need for assistance in the three to six months following the survey. This proportion is even higher in Ituri, Kasai, North and South Kivu, Tanganyika and Tshopo because of the conflict and flooding.

Requests mainly concerned inputs for crop or vegetable production (58 percent), cash assistance (51 percent), and infrastructure for crop and livestock production (21 percent).

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

- > Provide food assistance to the worst-affected households in the crisis areas (Kasai, Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu).
- > Assess the impact of flooding on agriculture in the worst-affected areas.
- > Assess the impact of conflict on household livelihoods in North Kivu and Ituri.
- > Conditionally distribute cash to vulnerable households in conflict zones (Ituri, North Kivu, Kasai and Tshopo).
- > Support crops by providing tools, seeds and training, depending on the context and demand.
- > Support veterinary services and provide supplementary feeding for livestock in the worst-affected pastoral areas (Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu).
- > Promote access to public pastures.

Medium- and long-term recommendations

- > Improve and disseminate early warning systems (drought and floods), and promote access to irrigation.
- > Promote the restoration of biodiversity and agroforestry to combat flooding and erosion.
- > Maintain agricultural feeder roads to facilitate the transport of produce to consumption centres.
- > Support crop resilience by making quality seeds and short-cycle varieties available.
- > Reduce insecurity to limit livestock theft.
- > Raise household awareness of food diversification and good nutritional and dietary practices.
- > Carry out a market analysis and set up social protection mechanisms.
- > Increase producers' incomes through the development of suitable crops – coffee, rubber, palm oil, cocoa and tea – and market gardens.
- > Strengthen local financial support by creating village associations for credit.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

This brief is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of FAO and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States of America Government.

Contact

FAO Representation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

FAO-CD@fao.org
fao.org/republique-democratique-congo | @FAORDCongo
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Office of Emergencies and Resilience

Data-in-emergencies@fao.org
data-in-emergencies.fao.org | @FAOEmergencies
Rome, Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map(s) in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on the map represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

FAO. 2024. *Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 7 – Results and recommendations, April 2024*. Rome.
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0420en>



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence