



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The Niger

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 8

Results and recommendations
January 2024

Data collection 26 October to 10 November 2023

Key highlights

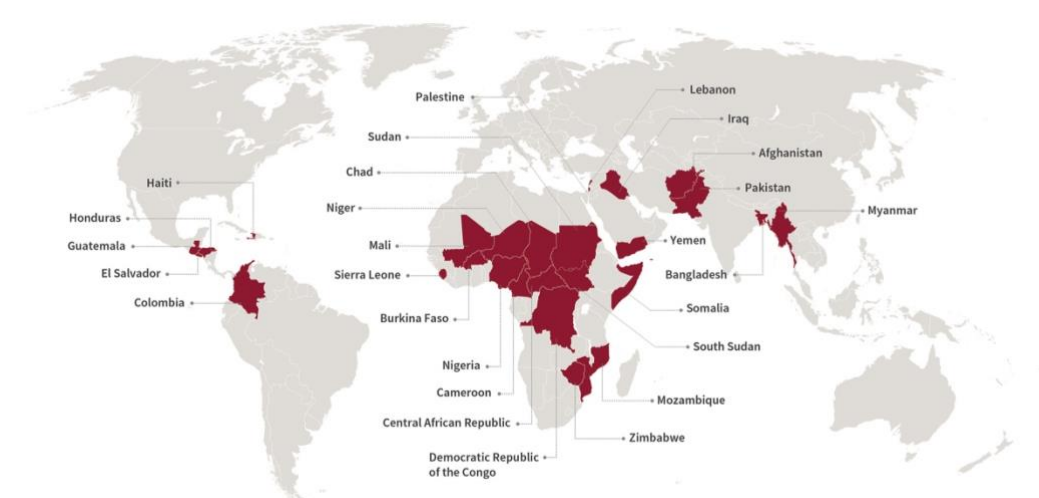
- > The majority of households (63 percent) reported at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey. Rising food prices affected 28 percent of households, up from the previous survey round.
- > Eighty-five percent of households involved in crop production reported production difficulties, including lack of water (65 percent), pests (26 percent), plant diseases (18 percent), and access to fertilizer (17 percent) and seeds (6 percent).
- > Sixty-two percent of surveyed livestock producers reported a reduction in herd size compared to the same period last year. Fifty-two percent encountered difficulties carrying out activities in the three months preceding the survey, including access to feed (58 percent), animal diseases (36 percent) and access to pasture (12 percent).
- > Food diversity scores remained low for 48 percent of households.
- > Coping strategies were oriented towards stress (33 percent), crisis (26 percent) and emergency (23 percent).
- > The main short-term recommendations include support for off-season crops, distribution of livestock feed in areas with high forage deficits and unconditional Cash+ interventions, combined with the distribution of production kits.

Methodology

Between 26 October and 10 November 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the eighth round of the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) household survey in the Niger to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security. Data were collected via computer-assisted telephone interviews in all regions of the Niger (with the exception of the Niamey urban area): Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder. A total of eight departments were oversampled across the seven regions to ensure that the data collected were representative at administrative level 2 in these hot spot areas of food insecurity. Between 114 and 223 households were included in the sample for each region. A total of 2 132 households were surveyed.

Weights were calculated on the basis of population size and a wealth indicator (access to drinking water). Data collection took place at the end of the rainy season. The results of this eighth-round survey have been compared to those of the seventh round (July 2023, start of rainy season), the sixth round (March 2023, off-season period) and the fifth round (December 2022, end of main harvest and start of the 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 20 July 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 the Niger and the other countries monitored.

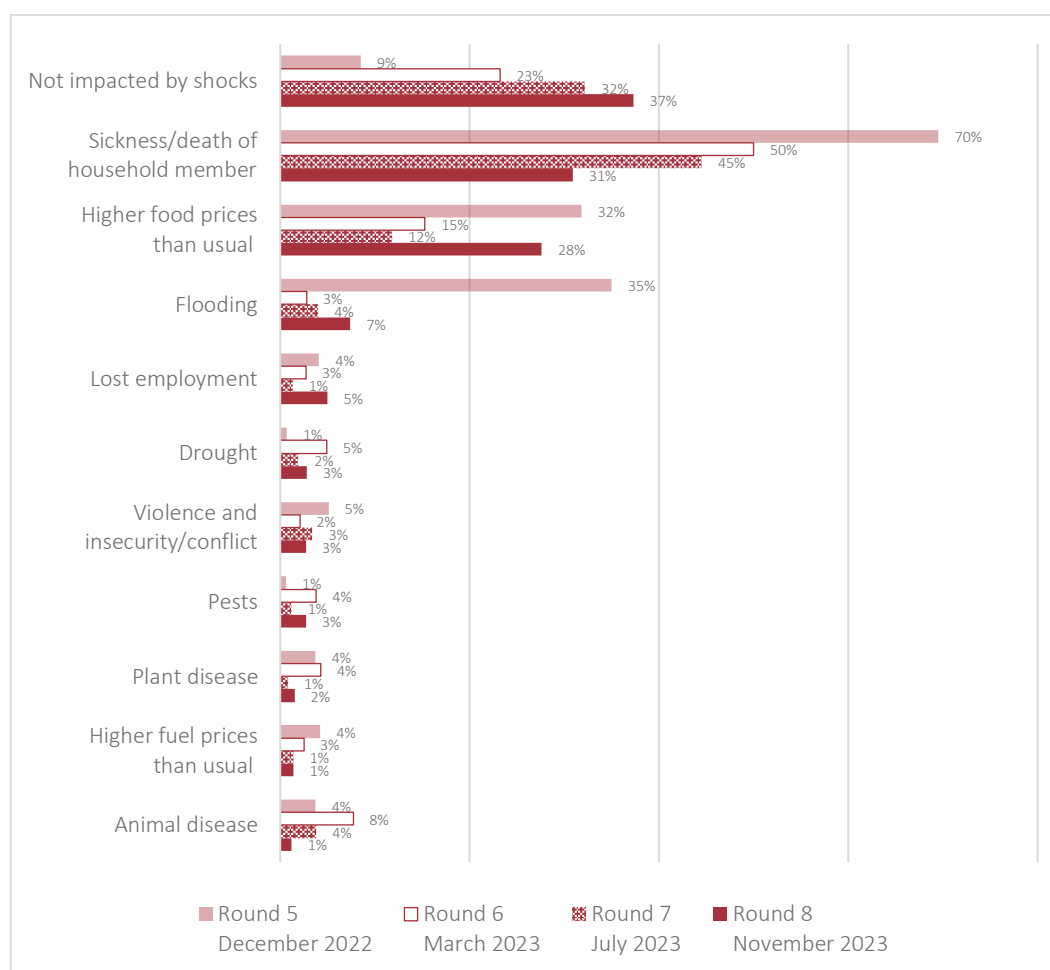
Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

Most of the respondent households (63 percent) in the seven targeted regions experienced at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey, a lower figure than observed in previous rounds. All regions were affected, particularly Diffa (70 percent). Of the eight oversampled departments, Abalak (69 percent) in Tahoua, and Téra (69 percent) in Tillabéry were the most affected, while Tchrozerine (45 percent) in Agadez, and Mirriah (58 percent) in Zinder were the least. Non-agricultural households (56 percent) reported fewer shocks than agricultural households (62 percent).

The main shocks reported were illness or death of a household member (31 percent of the total, 35 percent in Dosso), rising food prices (28 percent, 41 percent in Diffa), flooding (7 percent, 14 percent in Maradi and 9 percent in Tahoua), and loss of employment or work opportunities (5 percent, mostly in Zinder and Dosso) (Figure 2). It should be noted that the first two shocks were also the main shocks reported in previous rounds.

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



Source: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (December 2022, March, July and November 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 15 December 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Among the eight oversampled departments, flooding was most frequently reported in Madarounfa (Maradi region), and Keita and Abalak (Tahoua region). The main consequences of the reported flooding were damage to buildings (66 percent), loss of agricultural production

(24 percent), evacuation of housing (9 percent) and loss of stored agricultural inputs (8 percent). Almost half of the affected households were unable to access markets to buy or sell food (46 percent), or purchase agricultural inputs (45 percent).

Overall, 59 percent of respondent households reported a reduction in their main income in the three months preceding the survey, particularly in Tahoua (63 percent) and Dosso (62 percent). Agricultural households (59 percent) reported a greater drop in income than other households, particularly non-agricultural households (51 percent). The decline in cowpea and millet production was one of the main factors behind the reduction in household incomes.

Crops

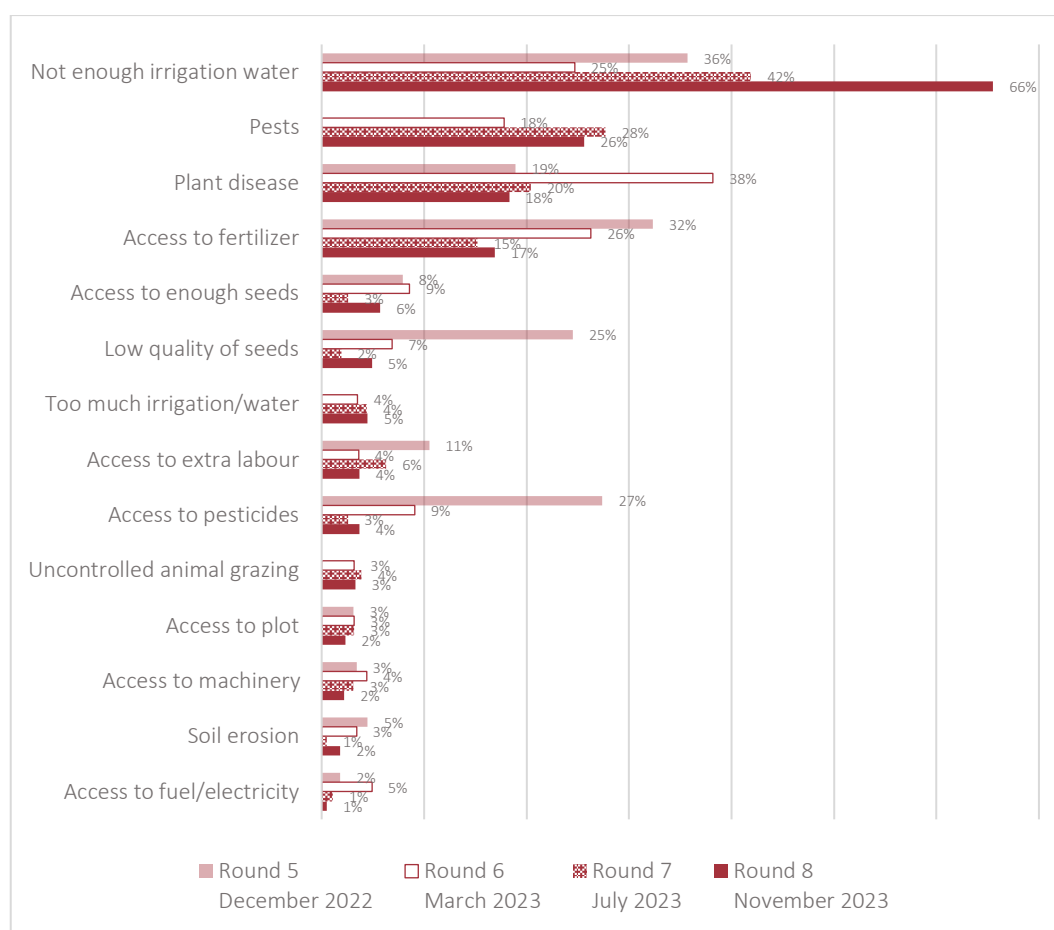
Figure 3. The Niger agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2023. GIEWS Country Briefs: The Niger. In: FAO, 7 August 2023. Rome. [Cited 12 December 2023]. <https://fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=NER&lang=en>

Of those interviewed, 94 percent were crop producers. Most of them (85 percent) encountered production difficulties, particularly in Diffa (96 percent). Production difficulties included lack of water (66 percent, with 97 percent in Diffa and 86 percent in Tillabéry), the presence of pests (26 percent, 36 percent in Diffa and 32 percent in Zinder), plant diseases (18 percent, 25 percent in Agadez) and access to fertilizer (17 percent, 26 percent in Maradi) (Figure 4).

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



Source: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (December 2022, March, July and November 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 25 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

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

Sixty-two percent of crop producers said they expected a reduction in harvest, particularly in Diffa (70 percent) and Dosso (66 percent). On the other hand, 26 percent expected larger harvests. Seventeen percent of crop producers reported an increase in the area planted, with 24 percent reporting a decrease, particularly in Maradi (26 percent), Diffa (26 percent) and Dosso (27 percent).

The crop producers who forecasted lower yields were more affected by water scarcity than those who forecasted higher yields. Lack of water was the main factor contributing to reduced yields. Producers who bought seeds on the market were slightly less affected by plant diseases than those who relied on their own production.

Twenty-eight percent of households encountered difficulties marketing their crops. The regions experiencing the most difficulties were Agadez (49 percent) and Zinder (35 percent). Among the areas oversampled at administrative level 2, the most affected departments were Madarounfa (68 percent) in Maradi, and Mirriah (50 percent) in Zinder.

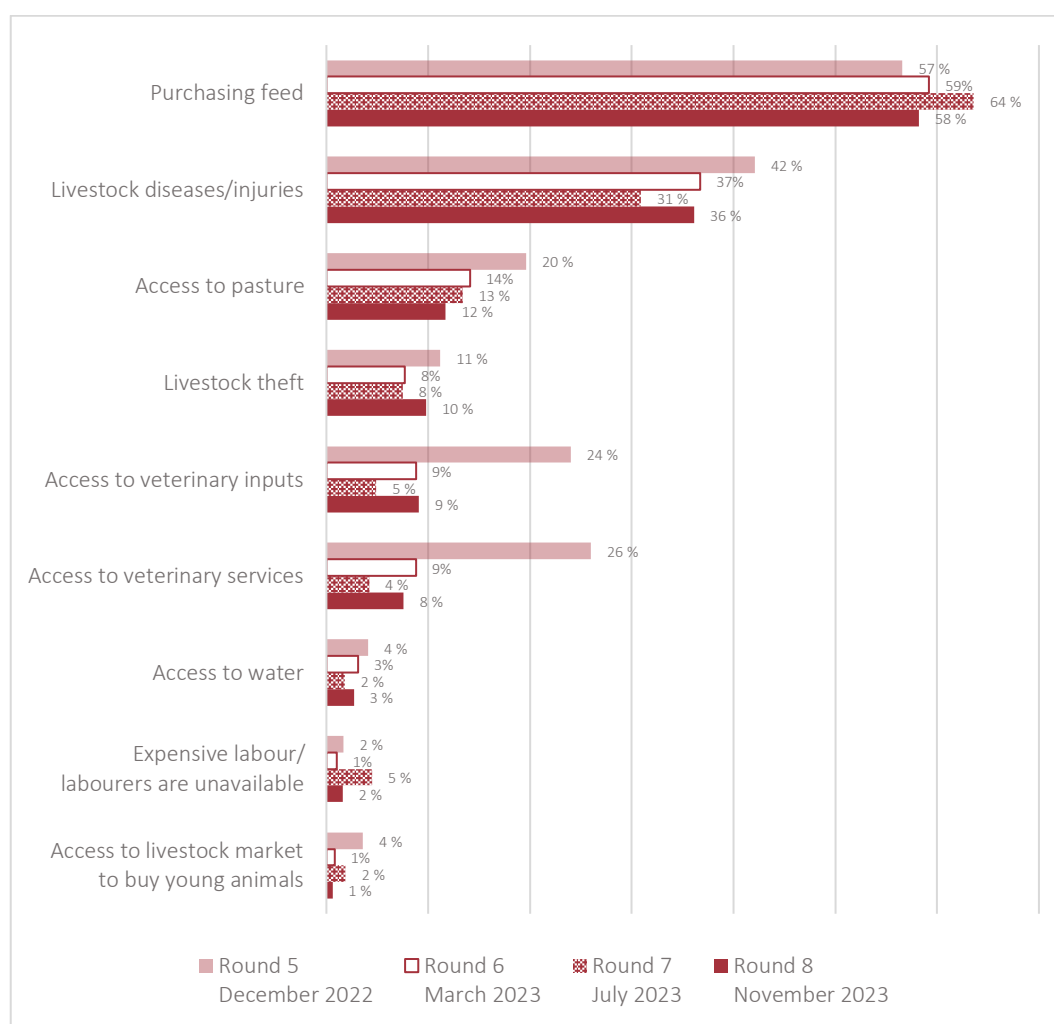
Sales difficulties included lower selling prices (41 percent), high transport or marketing costs (28 percent), low demand (26 percent), and damage and losses during storage or market access (10 percent). Market access was particularly difficult in Tillabéry (41 percent).

Livestock

Of the households surveyed, 91 percent were involved in the production or sale of livestock. Herd size was reported to have decreased by 62 percent of the respondent households, but to only a limited extent. This reduction can be explained by distress sales (34 percent, 48 percent in Diffa), animal deaths (9 percent) and household consumption (9 percent, 12 percent in Agadez and Tahoua). The increase in livestock reported by almost 20 percent of households was linked to more births.

Fifty-two percent of livestock producers said they had encountered production difficulties in the three months preceding the survey (Figure 5). These difficulties included access to feed (58 percent) – particularly in Agadez (74 percent) – disease (36 percent) – particularly in Dosso (43 percent) – and access to pasture (12 percent) – particularly in Diffa (22 percent).

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



Source: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (December 2022, March, July and November 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 25 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Thirty-three percent of livestock producers reported marketing difficulties, including low selling prices (66 percent, 80 percent in Tillabéry), insufficient demand (28 percent, 57 percent in Diffa), damage and losses during transport or market access (10 percent), and high transport or marketing costs (8 percent).

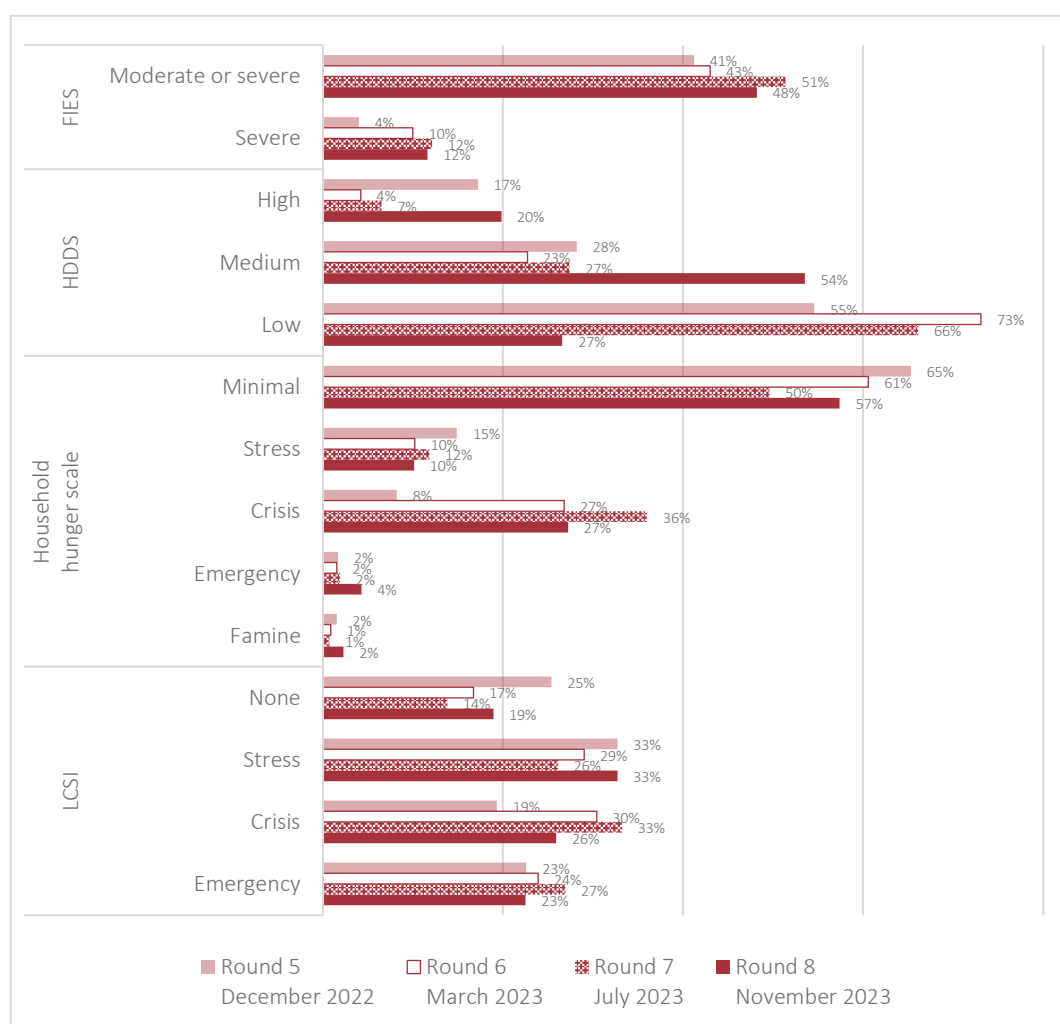
Food security

According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES),¹ 48 percent of households have recently experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, particularly in Diffa (52 percent). Severe food insecurity affects 12 percent of households (Figure 6).

According to the household dietary diversity score (HDDS), 27 percent of the surveyed households had low dietary diversity, 54 percent had moderate dietary diversity and 20 percent had high dietary diversity. Households in Tillabéry (30 percent) and Maradi (32 percent) have a higher percentage of low dietary diversity than the other regions.

According to the livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI), coping strategies were mainly focused on stress strategies (33 percent). Crisis and emergency strategies were employed by 26 and 23 percent, respectively. Non-agricultural households adopted much fewer coping strategies (30 percent adopted none) than agricultural households (23 percent adopted crisis strategies).

Figure 6. Food security indicators (percentage of households surveyed)



Source: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (December 2022, March, July and November 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 25 August 2023]. <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.

Needs

Nearly all households reported a need for assistance within three to six months of the survey. Eighty-five percent reported the need for food assistance, 71 percent reported the need for financial support, 44 percent asked for inputs for vegetable production and other irrigated crops (for the off-season), 38 percent needed livestock feed, 20 percent reported the need for agricultural infrastructure and 13 percent needed pastoral infrastructure.

Crop producers gave priority to food assistance (83 percent), financial assistance (72 percent), agricultural inputs (35 percent) and infrastructure for crop production (20 percent). Livestock producers gave priority to food assistance (76 percent), cash (76 percent) and livestock feed (52 percent).

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

- > Support for off-season crops: irrigation support, good cultivation and pest control practices, and produce processing to avoid losses and improve added value.
- > Distribution of livestock feed in areas with a high fodder deficit (particularly in the Diffa region, northern Zinder, Tahoua and Agadez), accompanied by veterinary care.
- > Unconditional Cash + interventions, combined with the distribution of production kits (e.g. goats, seeds, etc.), particularly in departments that have suffered more shocks (drought, flooding and security shocks).

Long-term recommendations

- > Strengthen irrigation systems, integrated pest and disease management, and improved seed multiplication.
- > Improve access to fertilizer and promote its use.
- > Improve storage and conservation of agricultural products to reduce post-harvest losses.
- > Strengthen the marketing capacities of producer organizations.
- > Develop inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chains.
- > Promote strategic destocking of livestock.
- > Secure natural pastures (forage) by building firebreaks, fixing dunes and combating invasive plants.
- > Disaster risk reduction (e.g. riverbank protection and other anticipatory actions to prevent flooding, drought prevention and preparedness, climate-smart farming and animal protection awareness).
- > Awareness-raising and training in dietary diversity (setting up home gardens and nutrition training, for example).
- > Implement an integrated approach to support resilience (resilience fund approach integrating agro-pastoral school fields, Dimitra clubs, Village Savings and Credit Associations, etc.).



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Contact

FAO Representation in the Niger

FAO-NE@fao.org
fao.org/niger | @FAONiger
Niamey, Niger

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

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