



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Niger

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 6

Results and recommendations
April 2023

Data collection 20 February to 4 March 2023

Key highlights

- > Since the sale of rainfed crops at the end of 2022, farmers have generated little income (CFA 27 872 per month, compared with CFA 40 612 for the rest of the surveyed households). Faced with rising prices, these agricultural households are more food insecure than other households.
- > In addition, only a third of the interviewed farmers are able to continue agricultural production by growing off-season crops. Plant diseases, difficulty accessing fertilizer, especially due to rising prices, and lack of water are the main constraints faced by producers. In addition, in localized areas such as Diffa, difficulties caused by the 2022 floods continue to persist.
- > As pastoral areas are reduced or remain inaccessible, as in Tillabéry, livestock farmers are progressively faced with difficulties feeding their animals. With maintenance costs (prices of feed and zootechnical inputs) very high, many herders have resorted to distress sales, despite unfavourable prices.
- > Maradi and Tillabéry regions are more affected by food insecurity and adopted emergency (36 percent in Maradi) and crisis (37 percent in Tillabéry) strategies.

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the sixth round of the Data in Emergencies household survey (DIEM-Monitoring) in the Niger between 20 February and 4 March 2023 to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security.

Data was collected through telephone surveys in all regions of Niger (Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder), with the exception of the urban region of Niamey. Between 223 and 266 households were selected in each region, for a total sample of 1 676 households interviewed. The survey was regionally representative and the sample design developed with a margin of error of 8.5 percent. Weights were calculated based on population size and a wealth indicator (access to drinking water). Data collection took place during the off-season. The results of this sixth-round survey have been compared to those of round 4 (lean season, August 2022) and round 5 (harvest season, December 2022) throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



Source of data: FAO. 2022. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 2 October 2022. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Source of map: United Nations. 2022. *Map of the World*. Cited 2 October 2022. un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

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.

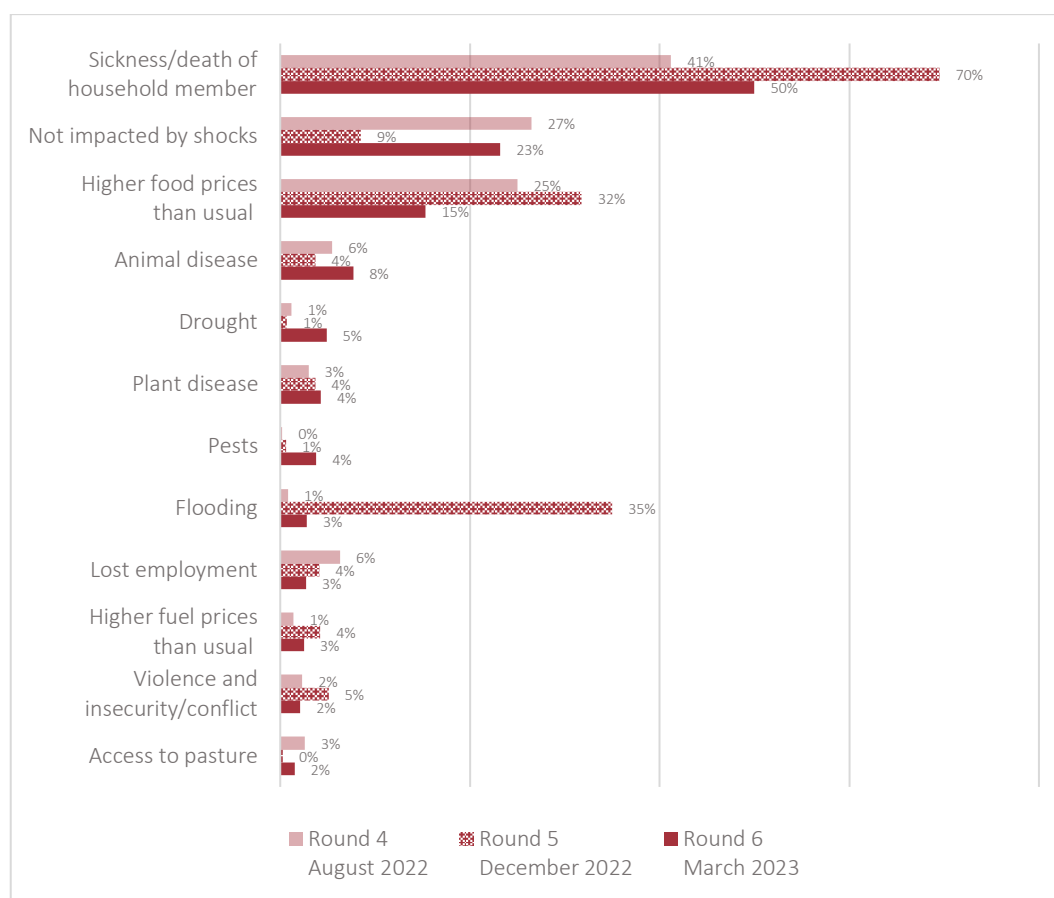
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of the Niger and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

The majority of households (77 percent) experienced at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey. All provinces were affected, including Zinder (80 percent). Non-agricultural households (59 percent) reported fewer shocks than agricultural households. The main shocks reported were illness or death of a household member (50 percent), high food prices (15 percent), livestock diseases (8 percent) and lack of water (5 percent) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Most commonly reported shocks (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August and December 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 March 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Of the households surveyed, 47 percent reported a drop in income in the three months preceding the survey. More agropastoralists reported a drop in income (47 percent) than other households, particularly those not involved in farming (36 percent). In the off-season, the farmers' monthly income (CFA 27 872) was significantly lower than that of the rest of the surveyed households (CFA 40 612), due to the relative decrease in income since the sale of rainfed crops in November and December 2022.

Crops

Figure 3. The Niger agricultural calendar

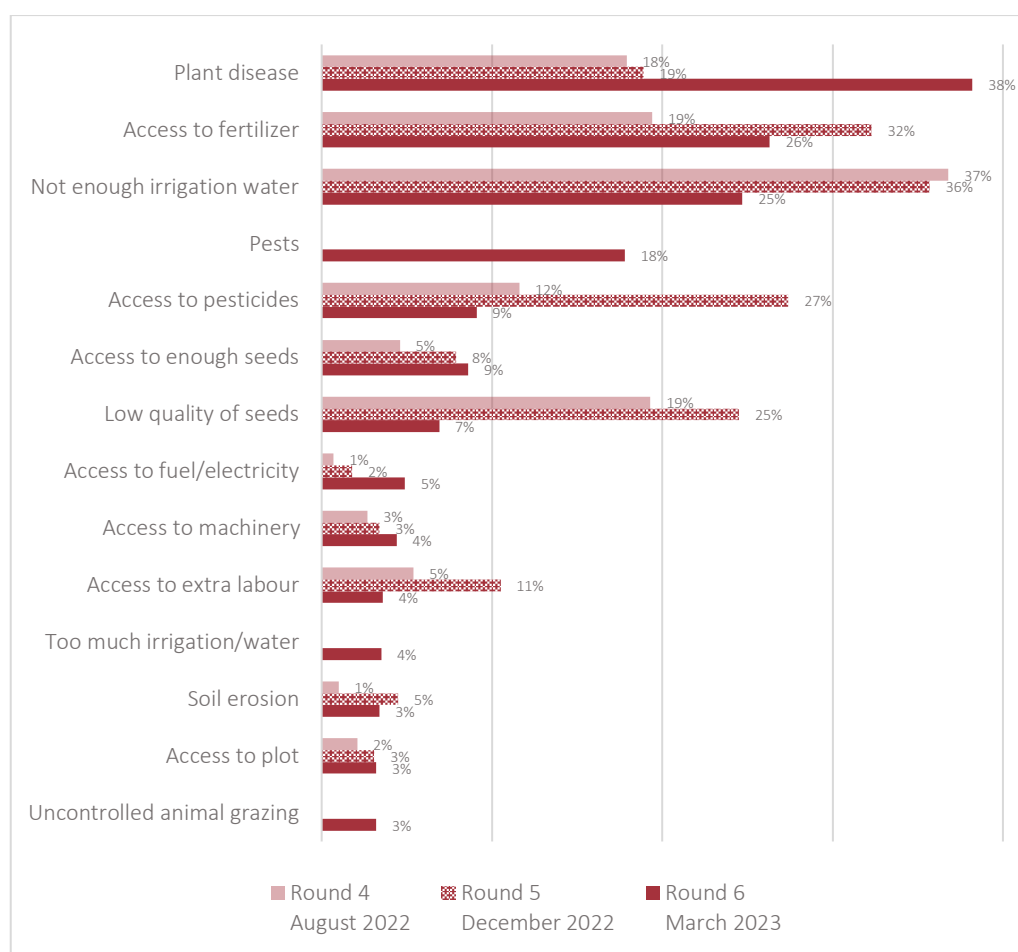


Source of data: FAO. 2022. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Chad. In: *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. Rome. Cited 25 January 2023. fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=TCD&lang=en

Of the households surveyed, 94 percent produced crops, but only 32 percent were able to cultivate during the off-season. Sixty-three percent of crop producers experienced production difficulties, including plant diseases (38 percent), access to fertilizer (26 percent), lack of water (25 percent) and pest attacks (18 percent) (Figure 4).

Thirty-two percent of households expect their harvests to decrease and 50 percent expect them to increase. The area planted is greater than usual for 44 percent of households. Twenty-nine percent planted less, particularly in Diffa (41 percent), which can be explained by the destruction caused by the flooding of the Komadougou River during the last rainy season. Indeed, the DIEM-Impact needs assessment survey conducted by FAO in November 2022, following the floods, indicated that irrigation schemes were among the infrastructure most affected (61 percent of irrigation schemes were destroyed and 22 percent severely damaged), which may have compromised the off-season (FAO, 2023).

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



Source of data: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August and December 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 March 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Changes in response options in the round 6 questionnaire make it impossible to compare some data with previous rounds.

Crop marketing difficulties were reported by 49 percent of households and relate to damage and losses due to storage or market access difficulties (38 percent), low demand (28 percent) and prices (27 percent), and high transport or marketing costs (24 percent).

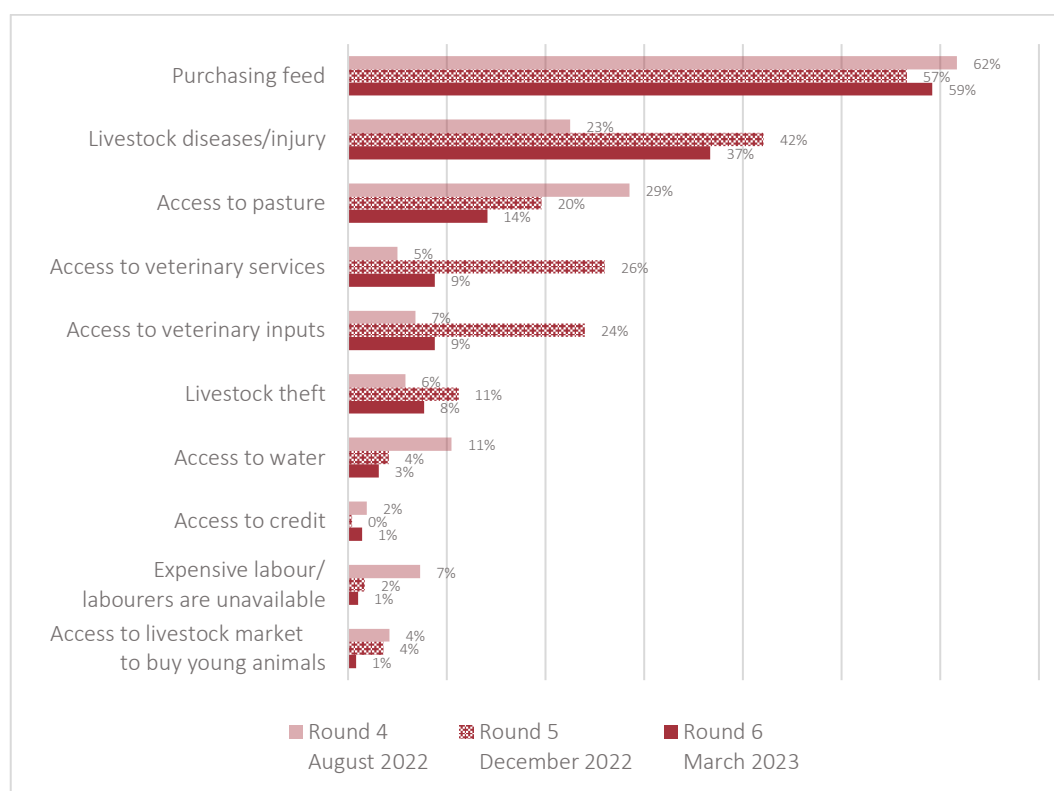
In general, the off-season was marked by a decline in the availability of fertilizer (likely due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and rising prices) which affected production. Difficulties storing vegetable crops have pushed households to sell their production quickly. In addition, demand is low at the time of year when the survey was conducted, as cereal supplies are good. In some areas, such as Maradi, Zinder and Diffa, the confusion surrounding the replacement of Nigerian banknotes with new ones has resulted in low availability of new notes and a decline in demand.

Livestock

Of the households surveyed, 92 percent are engaged in livestock production. For 55 percent of them, the size of the herd recently decreased. There was a decrease of 0.18 tropical livestock units (TLU) on average compared to the same period last year, with no significant difference between regions. The decline is explained by distress sales (45 percent), consumption (8 percent) and animal deaths (7 percent).

Sixty percent of farmers reported production difficulties in the three months prior to the survey, including access to feed (59 percent) – 73 percent in Tillabéry – and diseases (37 percent) – 45 percent in Zinder (Figure 5). Tillabéry has been affected by a significant shortage of feed due to the poor 2022 season (the region has a dry matter deficit of 3 million tonnes out of the 12 million tonne deficit for the whole country, while insecurity further reduces access to some pastoral areas) (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2023).

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



Source of data: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August and December 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 March 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

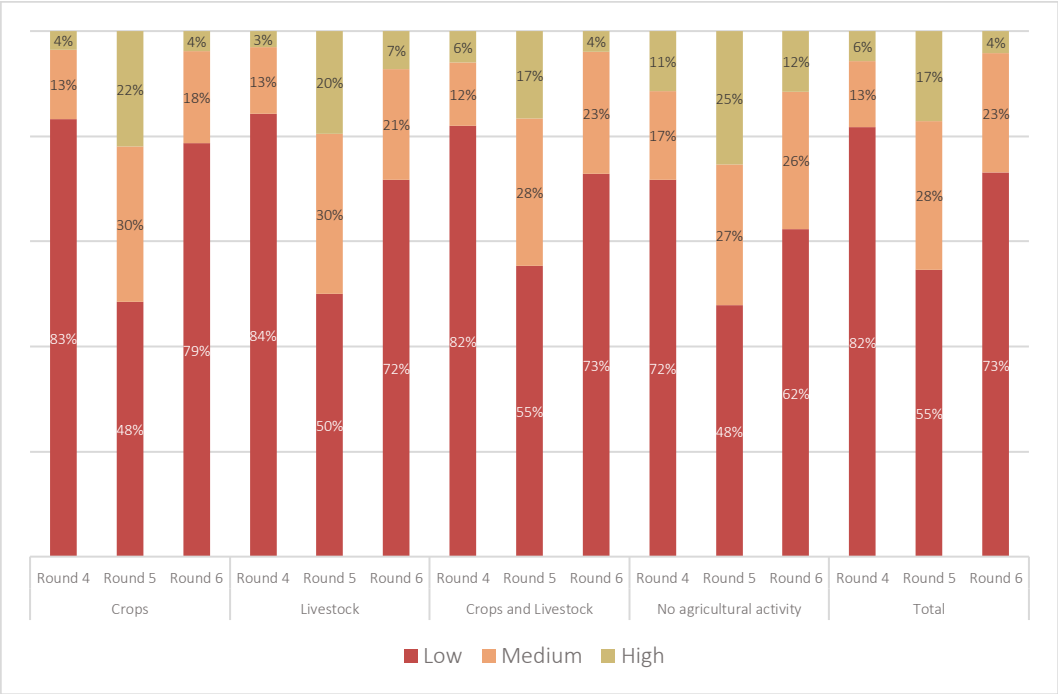
Marketing difficulties affected 38 percent of households, including losses due to storage or market access difficulties (47 percent and up to 64 percent in Maradi), high transport or marketing costs (45 percent) and low prices (30 percent). Due to difficulties feeding animals and general maintenance costs (high prices of zootechnical inputs), supply remains higher than demand.

Food security

According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES),¹ 43 percent of households were moderately or severely food insecure in the recent past, with severe insecurity affecting 10 percent of households.

According to the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), 73 percent of surveyed households had low dietary diversity, 28 percent had medium dietary diversity and 4 percent had high dietary diversity (Figure 6). Crop farmers had a higher level of low dietary diversity (79 percent) than livestock farmers (72 percent) and non-agricultural households (62 percent). The deterioration in indicators between round 5 and round 6 is strongly linked to seasonality. Round 5 was conducted in November 2022, in the post-harvest period (sale of cereals, good availability of pasture), whereas round 6 was conducted in the off-season (localised irrigated production, reduced availability of pasture).

Figure 6. HDDS by main source of income (percentage of households)

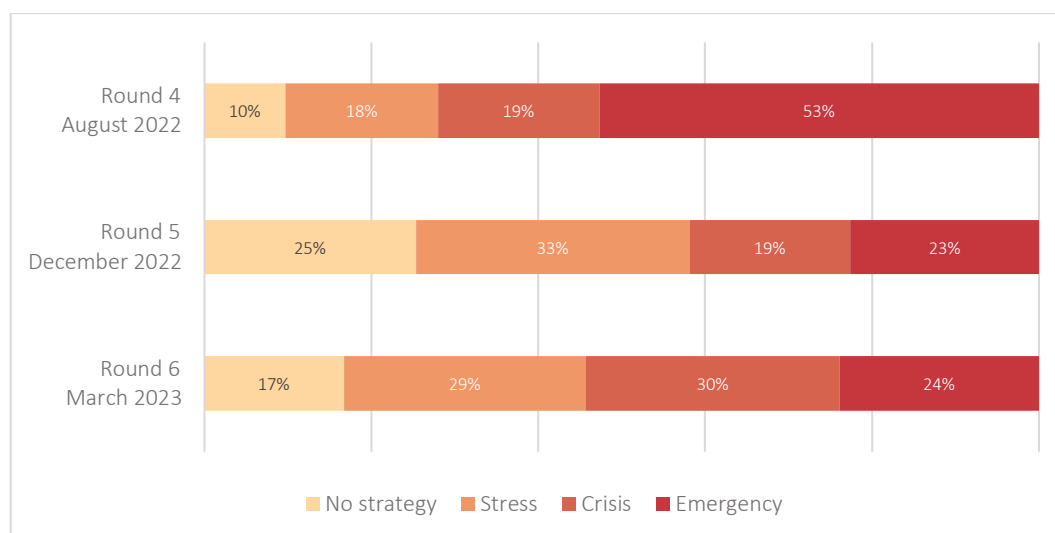


Source of data: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August and December 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 March 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Coping strategies are as follows: 29 percent stress, 30 percent crisis and 24 percent emergency (Figure 7). In terms of livelihoods, non-agricultural households adopted significantly fewer coping strategies (31 percent adopted none) than other households, particularly agropastoralists (25 percent used crisis strategies).

¹ FIES results are subject to change. The country scale will continue to evolve over additional rounds of data collection allowing for more consistent comparability across rounds.

Figure 7. Livelihood coping strategies index (percentage of households)



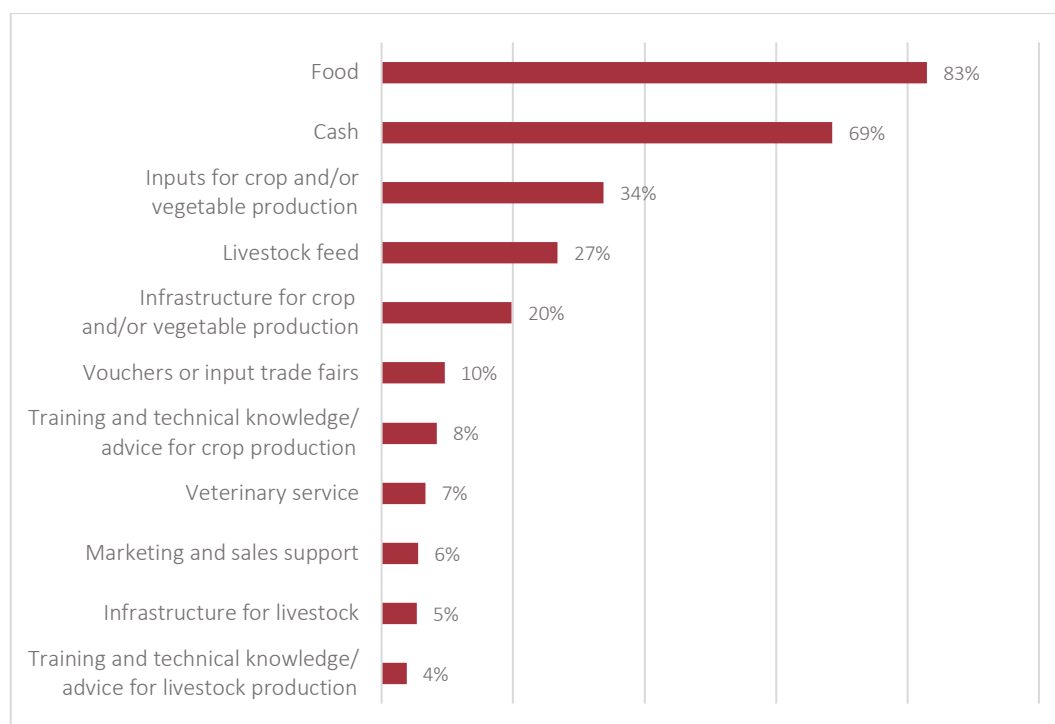
Source of data: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August and December 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 March 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Households in Tillabéry and Maradi have higher low HDDS (80 and 74 percent respectively) than households in other regions (69 percent on average). Households in Maradi are more likely to use emergency strategies (36 percent) and those in Tillabéry more likely to use crisis strategies (37 percent).

Needs

Almost all surveyed households reported needing assistance in the three to six months following the survey, including food (83 percent), cash (69 percent) and agricultural inputs (34 percent) (Figure 8). Crop farmers reported needing assistance in the form of food (83 percent), cash (68 percent) and agricultural inputs (35 percent), while livestock farmers need assistance in the form of food (83 percent), cash (68 percent), agricultural inputs (33 percent) and feed (29 percent).

Figure 8. Main needs (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. The Niger: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August and December 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 30 March 2023. data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

- > Strengthen the availability of fertilizer for crop producers. Support integrated plant disease control (training, treatments, etc.). Develop solar water pumps to reduce fuel dependency.
- > Raise awareness of strategic destocking. Distribute livestock feed in deficit areas. Establish firebreaks to combat fires. Monitor avian influenza outbreaks.
- > Provide cash during the lean season to preserve livelihoods.

Medium/long-term recommendations

- > Improve the productivity of natural pastures by reclaiming land and strengthening equitable and collaborative natural resource management.
- > Popularize strategic destocking to benefit from favourable prices and to free up more resources for food.
- > Support nutrition education to diversify food consumption, promote home gardens, and develop local markets that stabilize price increases by limiting transport costs.

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FAO. 2023. *Niger: DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 6 – Results and recommendations, April 2023*. Rome.
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5756en>