



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

## **The Democratic Republic of the Congo**

### DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 5

Results and recommendations  
May 2023

## Key highlights

- > Despite diversifying income sources in the year preceding the last data collection round, 41 percent of households reported a decline in income – linked to a decrease in the area cultivated and a decline in production – as well as an increase in market prices.
- > Nearly three-fifths of the farmers surveyed experienced production difficulties, including plant diseases, limited access to additional labour and insufficient irrigation water. In addition, a third reported difficulties marketing crops, particularly due to increased costs.
- > Insecurity still prevails in the east of the country. Herders in North and South Kivu and Ituri have suffered from this insecurity and a third of them reported a decrease in the size of their herds. They have faced animal diseases, difficulties accessing food, veterinary services and inputs, and theft.
- > Food insecurity levels remain a concern, with 51 percent prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) and 19 percent severe insecurity. The provinces of Kasai, Kasai-Central, North-Ubangi, South Kivu and Tanganyika have the highest rates of recent moderate or severe food insecurity.

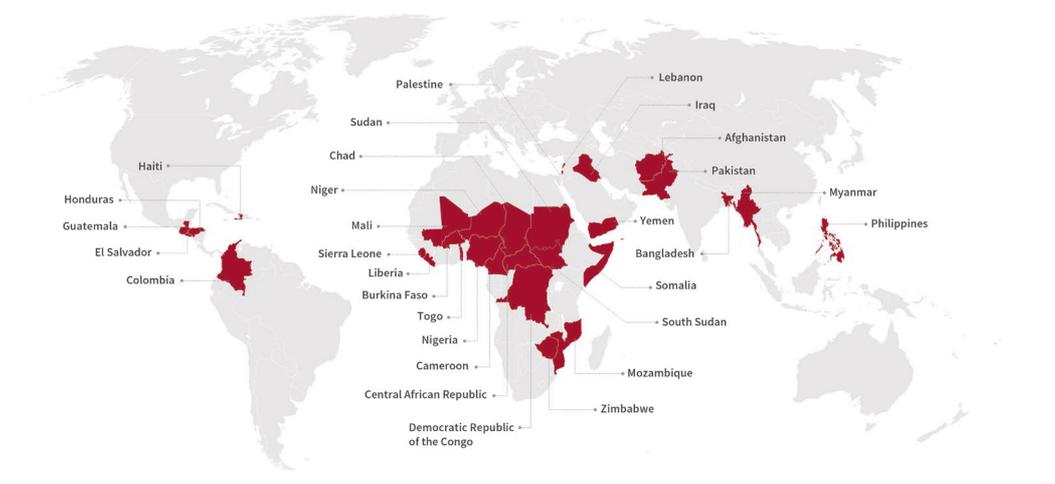
## Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted the fifth round of the Data in Emergencies Monitoring Survey (DIEM-Monitoring) among households to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 23 February and 31 March 2023.

Data were collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews in 11 provinces (Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental, Kwango, North Kivu, North Ubangi, South Kivu, South Ubangi, Tanganyika and Tshopo) out of 26. The sample of 2 716 agricultural and non-agricultural households was selected at random, following a stratified simple random sampling design that has minimal design effect. Weights were calculated based on population size and a wealth indicator (access to toilets) to ensure that the results were representative at the administrative 1 level.

Data collection took place during the off-season. The results of this fifth-round survey have been compared to those of the fourth (October 2022) and third (May 2022) rounds throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 3 November 2022. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

**Source of map:** United Nations. 2023. *Map of the World*. Cited 3 November 2022. [un.org/geospatial/content/map-world](https://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 Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries.

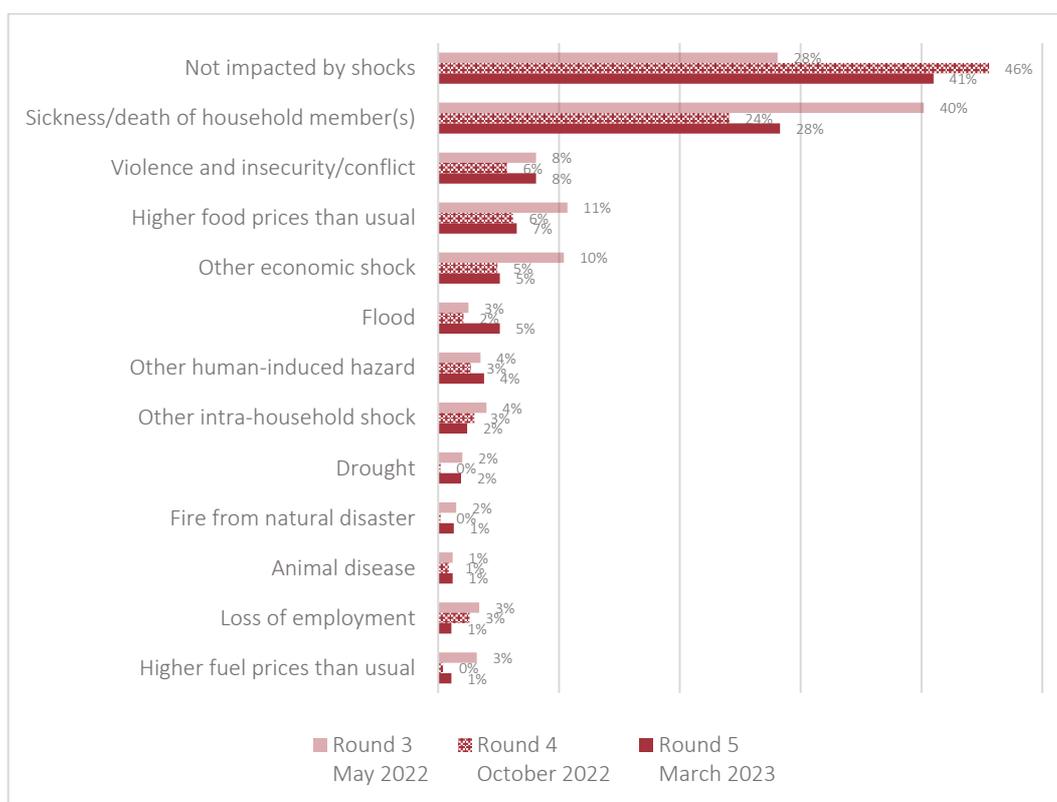
> Learn more at [data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring)

## Income and shocks

During this round, 41 percent of households reported having experienced no shocks in the three months preceding the survey, a deterioration of 5 percentage points from the previous cycle. Illness or death of a household member was still the primary shock (28 percent, up 4 percentage points from the fourth round), followed by violence and insecurity/conflict (8 percent), particularly in North Kivu (29 percent) and Ituri (12 percent).

The floods at the end of 2022 affected people in several provinces crossed by the Congo River, as well as the provincial city of Kinshasa. Five percent of surveyed households reported the floods as a major shock (Figure 2).

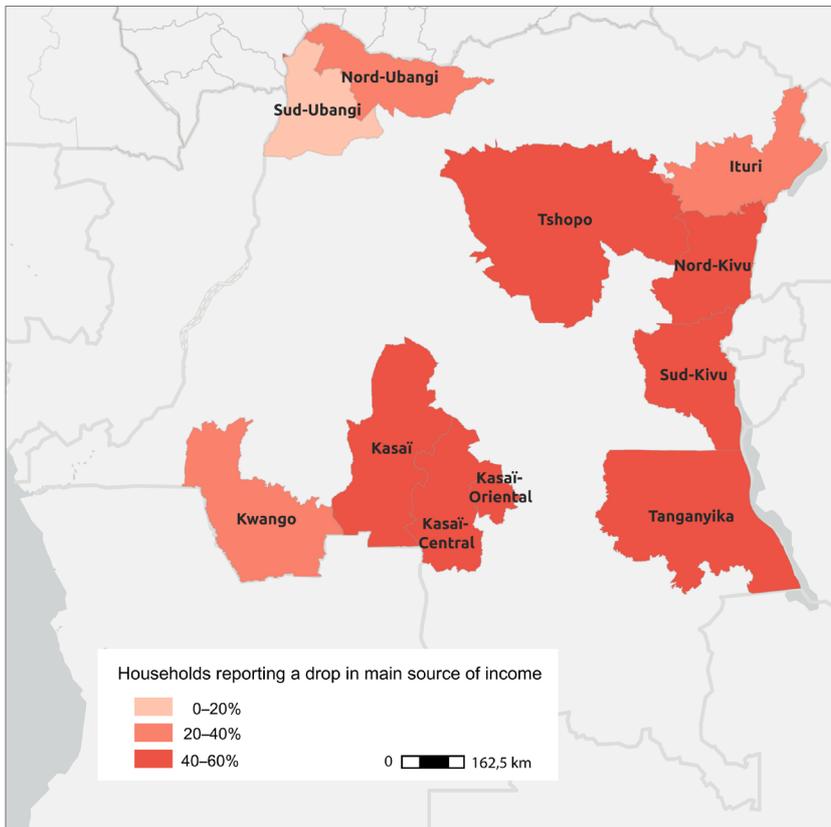
Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

Despite a diversification of the sources of income of the households surveyed (17 percent derived their income from the production and sale of food crops, 17 percent were self-employed and 15 percent had a public job), 41 percent reported a decrease in their first source of income, 36 percent in their second source of income and 29 percent in their third source of income (Figure 3). This situation can be explained by the deterioration of the economic situation in the country as a whole (devaluation of the Congolese franc against the United States dollar, increase in fuel prices, scarcity of basic products on the markets, etc.) as well as by the displacement of people who have abandoned their livelihoods in conflict zones (Ituri, Kasai, North Kivu, Tanganyika, etc.).

Figure 3. Households reporting a drop in their main source of income



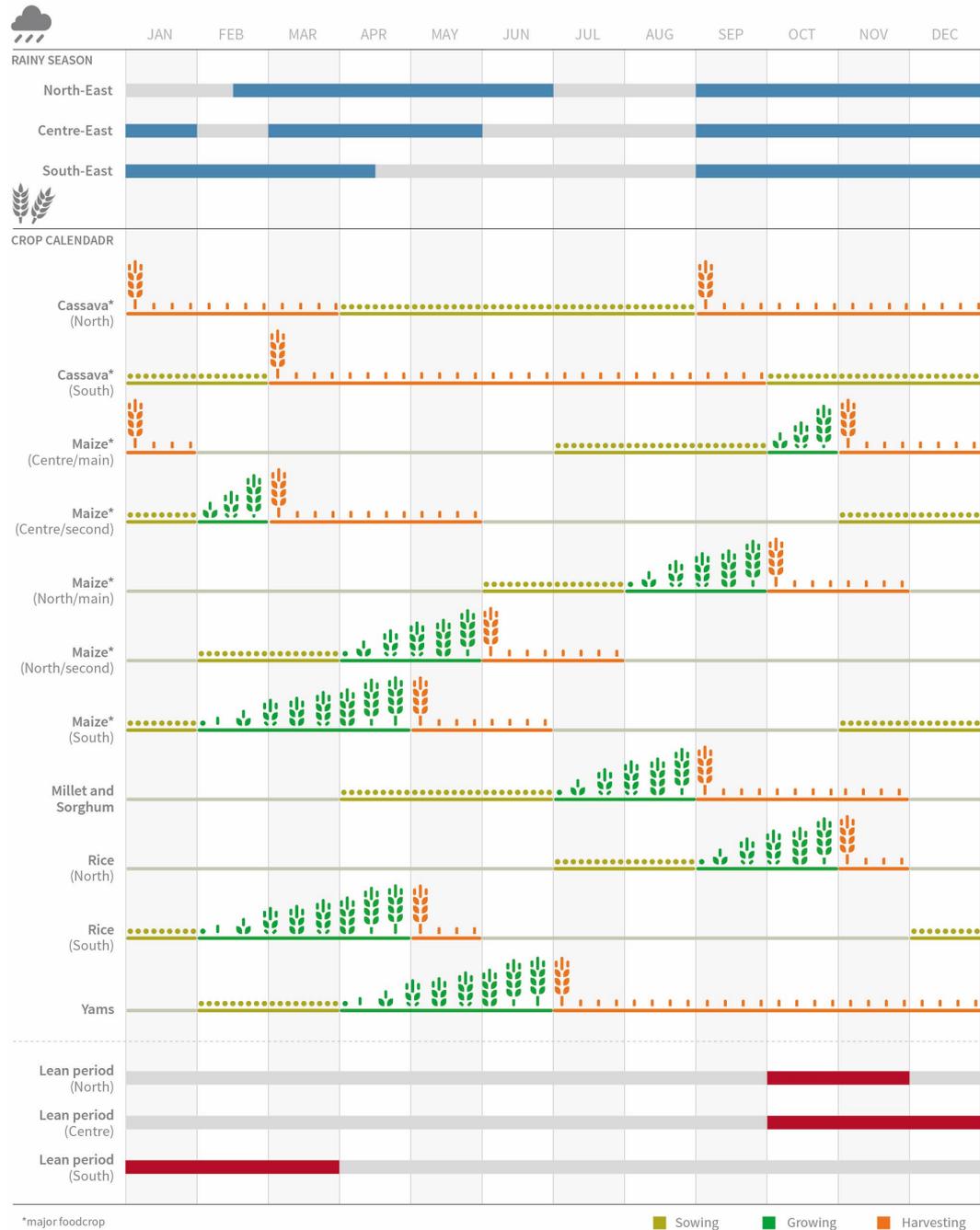
**Source of data:** FAO. 2023. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March 2023).

In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

**Source of map:** Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. Map of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore)

## Crops

Figure 4. The Democratic Republic of the Congo agricultural calendar

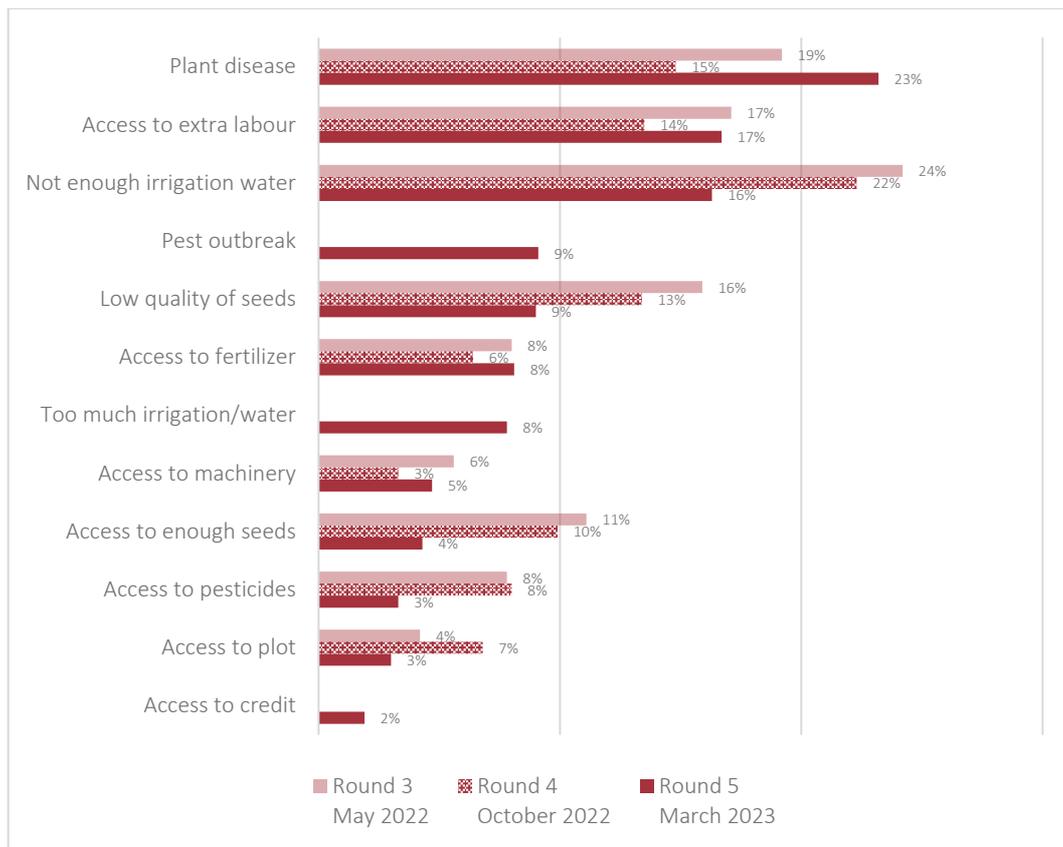


Source of data: FAO, 2023. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Democratic Republic of the Congo. In: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome. Cited 2 May 2023. [fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=COD](http://fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=COD)

The main crops grown by households surveyed in the fifth round were sorghum (42 percent), cassava and maize (21 percent), and potatoes (11 percent). In terms of area cultivated, 32 percent of households reported a decrease from the previous year, 36 percent a stagnation and 32 percent an increase. Forty-five percent of crop producers surveyed reported a decrease in their harvests (10 percent of whom reported a large decrease).

In the fifth round of DIEM data collection, 69 percent of farmers reported difficulties with crop production, unchanged from the previous two rounds. These difficulties were mainly related to plant diseases (23 percent, up 8 percentage points from the fourth round), limited access to additional labour (17 percent) and insufficient irrigation water/rainfall (16 percent) (Figure 5). In addition to these constraints, the decline in production in the east of the country is generally caused by the abandonment of livelihoods by thousands of displaced households in conflict zones (Ituri, Kasai, North Kivu, Tanganyika, etc.).

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



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

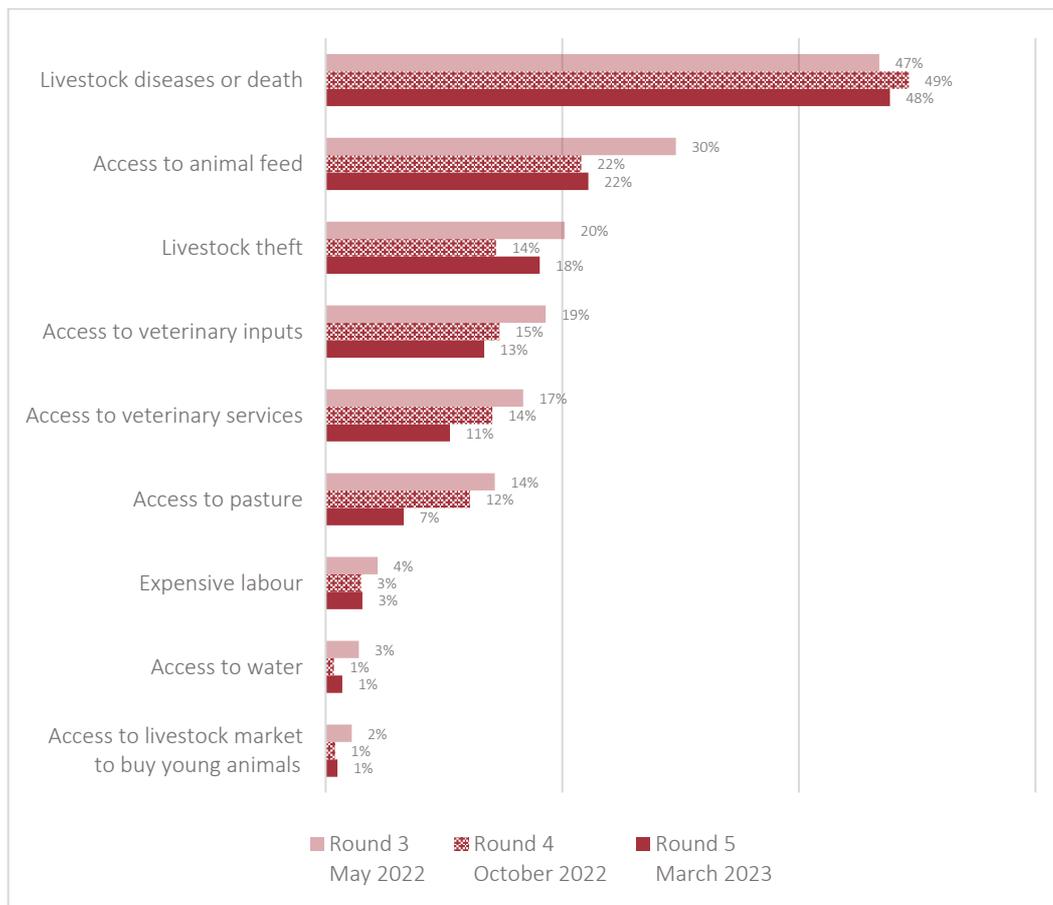
Changes in response options in the fifth-round questionnaire make it impossible to compare some data with previous cycles.

In addition, 52 percent of households surveyed reported difficulties in marketing their crops due to transportation or other marketing costs (45 percent), low market prices (19 percent), reduced demand from regular customers (14 percent) and market access (10 percent). Slight price changes were observed, with 65 percent of households reporting an increase, 23 percent a decrease and 10 percent remained stable. This is due to the fact that transportation infrastructure, particularly farm feeder roads, are often impassable or non-existent. The deterioration of the exchange rate and the increase in fuel prices have also led to shortages on the markets and some price hikes.

## Livestock

The situation of livestock farmers has deteriorated. In the previous round conducted in October 2022, 67 percent of farmers reported production difficulties, compared to 73 percent in the current round. These difficulties included animal diseases or injuries (48 percent), access to food (22 percent), theft and insecurity (18 percent), as well as access to inputs (13 percent) and veterinary services (11 percent) (Figure 6). Forty-four percent of farmers reported a significant decrease in the number of animals kept, due to animal deaths (22 percent) and animals escaping or theft (6 percent).

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



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (May and October 2022, and March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

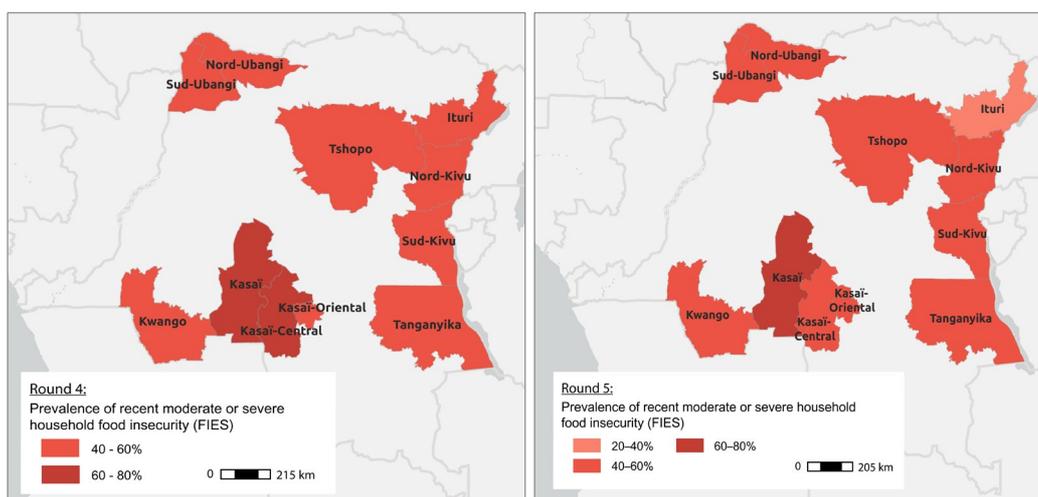
In the eastern regions (North and South Kivu), ethnic conflicts and attacks by armed groups often target pastoralists and large livestock from neighbouring countries in search of grazing land. In addition, diseases persist in the east, including bovine tuberculosis, foot-and-mouth disease and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.

## Food security

Despite a slight improvement since the last data collection round, food insecurity levels remain worrying. In October 2022, 56 percent of households were recently moderately or severely food insecure (when assessed by the Food Insecurity Experience scale).<sup>1</sup> In the current round, this rate was 51 percent, with 19 percent severely food insecure (Figure 8).

The provinces of Kasai (62 percent), Tanganyika (60 percent), Nord-Ubangi (57 percent), Kasai-Central (57 percent) and Sud-Kivu (55 percent) reported high prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity. In Tanganyika, 27 percent of households reported that they sometimes lacked food and 11 percent reported that they often lacked food. These rates rose to 31 percent and 8 percent, respectively, in North Ubangi (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe household food insecurity (FIES)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March 2023).

In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

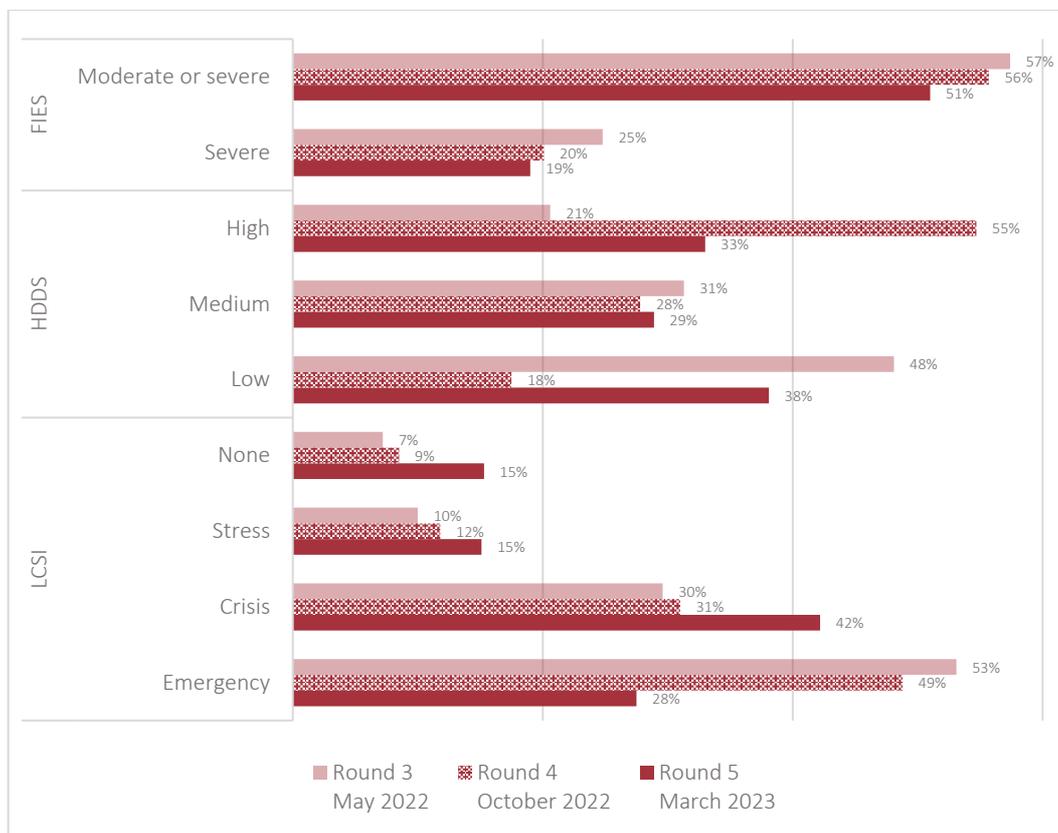
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According to the household hunger scale, 41 percent of households were in crisis overall (Phase 3 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and beyond). This rate rose to 47 percent in Sud-Ubangi, 49 percent in Kasai-Central, 51 percent in Kasai and up to 55 percent in Tanganyika.

The percentage of households with a low Household Dietary Diversity Score reached 38 percent, up sharply from the previous round (18 percent). Livelihood coping strategies were predominantly oriented towards crisis strategies (42 percent): reducing health expenditures (51 percent), consuming seed stocks (39 percent), harvesting immature crops (33 percent), and selling productive assets or transport (13 percent). Twenty-eight percent of households resorted to emergency strategies: begging (18 percent), migration from the household (15 percent) and engagement in illegal activities (8 percent) (Figure 8).

<sup>1</sup> 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 8. Food insecurity indicators (percentage of surveyed households)



Source of data: FAO. 2023. Democratic Republic of the Congo: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (March 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 27 April 2023. [data-in-emergencies.fao.org](https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org)

## Needs

The number of households in need of assistance remains high in view of the conflicts, floods and other shocks experienced, particularly in the east of the country. Ninety-five percent of households surveyed expressed a need for assistance in the three to six months following the survey. Of these, 56 percent reported the need for financial support (60 percent in Ituri and up to 100 per cent in North Kivu, North and South Ubangi, Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kwango and Tanganyika).

Inputs for crop production were requested by 19 percent of households (up to 38 percent in North Kivu and 56 percent in Kwango).

## Recommendations

### Short-term recommendations

- > Organize an assessment of the impact of conflict in Ituri and North Kivu provinces on crops, livestock, food security and livelihoods through a household survey and focus groups to create a list of key contacts in these regions to facilitate follow-up.
- > Crops
  - Support crop resilience by improving seed quality and the provision of short-cycle varieties. Assist in the fight against diseases and pests, specifically in North Kivu and Kwango provinces.
  - Maintain agricultural feeder roads to facilitate the transport of produce to consumption centres (in South Kivu, roads linking the territory of Fizi to the town of Bukavu via the Ruzizi plain; the Mwenga-Shabunda road; the Bunyakiri road in the territory of Kalehe; in Tanganyika, the Moba road to the town of Kalemie; the Kabalo-Nyunzu road; and in the Kasai, the Mweka road to Tshikapa).
- > Livestock
  - Support veterinary services and distribute livestock feed supplements in the most vulnerable pastoral areas.
- > Food security
  - Support households in crisis and emergency situations in North Kivu and Kasai.

### Long-term recommendations

- > Crops
  - Improve and popularize drought early warning while promoting access to irrigation in the most arid areas.
  - Anticipate and prevent the consequences of floods.
- > Livestock
  - Regulate market system prices.
  - Promote access to public pasture.
  - Fight against insecurity to limit theft.
- > Food security
  - Raise awareness among households about food diversification and good nutritional practices.



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