



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Somalia

Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief

Results and recommendations
January 2022

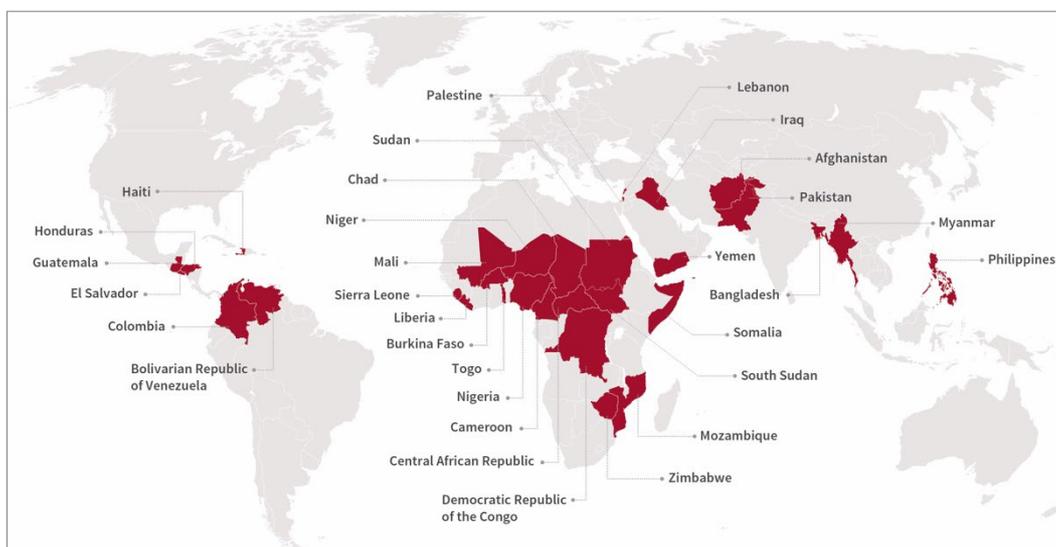
Data collection 23 July to 17 August 2021

Methodology

This brief is a shortened version of the document entitled Somalia: Shocks, agricultural livelihoods and food security: Monitoring report, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in November 2021. It is the first example of a format adopted for all countries covered by the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System (Figure 1). The data presented in this brief were collected between 23 July and 17 August 2021.

A household survey was conducted via telephone interviews by Geopoll using a list of respondents from a previous round of data collection and from desert locust assessment contacts. Additional contacts were obtained from random digit dialling. The sample comprised 2 732 households, including 160 agricultural households in 17 regions of Somalia. In addition, face-to-face key informant interviews were conducted with 50 crop, livestock and fisheries extension officers, 55 agricultural input venders and 49 food traders. No household was dropped during the data analysis.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring System



Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World*. [online]. [Cited 6 December 2021]. www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO has 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.

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

Income and shocks

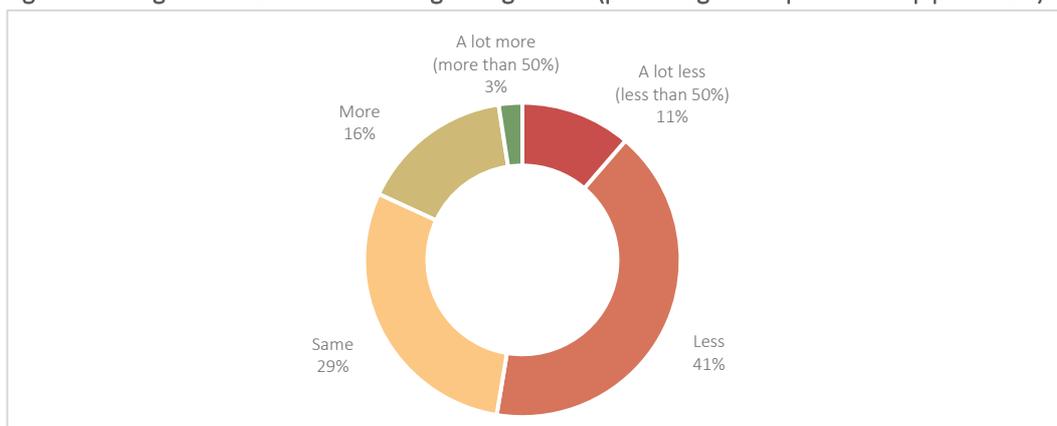
The most frequent shocks reported by sampled households in the three months prior to data collection were drought and high food prices. Crop-production difficulties included inadequate water for irrigation, plant diseases and a lack of access to pesticides. Challenges for livestock producers included constrained access to water and pasture, a lack of veterinary services and inputs, and animal diseases. In the three months prior data collection, 56 percent of surveyed households reported a drop in their main income source. For 29 percent of households, the main income source was unchanged while for 15 percent, it increased.

Crops

Crops cultivated in the *Gu* (rainy) season include maize, millet, wheat, beans, vegetables and sorghum. Irrigated crop production was practiced by 66 percent of households in the three months prior to data collection using canals, small-scale pumps and manual irrigation. The remaining 34 percent relied on rainfed agriculture. While 79 percent of households purchased seed, 53 percent relied on their own production for planting materials.

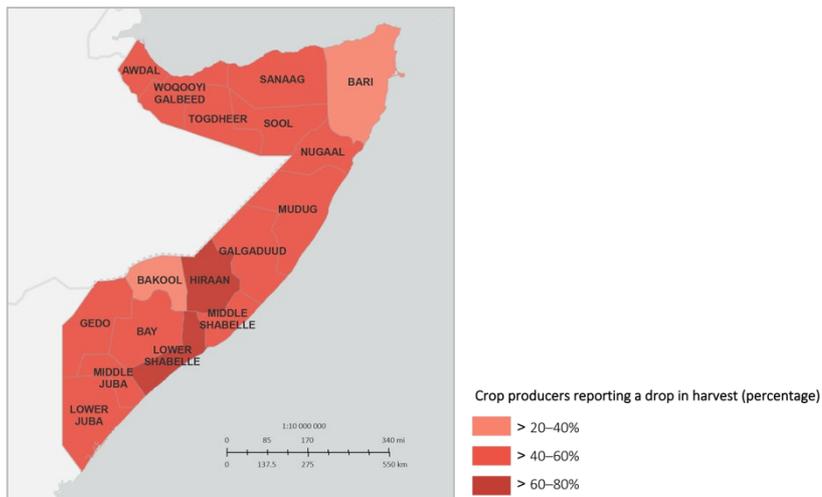
Half of interviewed households reported that the area they planted was decreased compared to a typical *Gu* season. As a result of multiple shocks, reduced area planted and poor-quality seeds, 53 percent reported a decreased *Gu* harvest this year compared to a typical year (Figure 2). These difficulties were particularly acute in Hiraan and Lower Shabelle (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Change in harvest since the last growing season (percentage of respondent crop producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Figure 3. Reported decrease in harvest, by region (percentage of respondent crop producers)



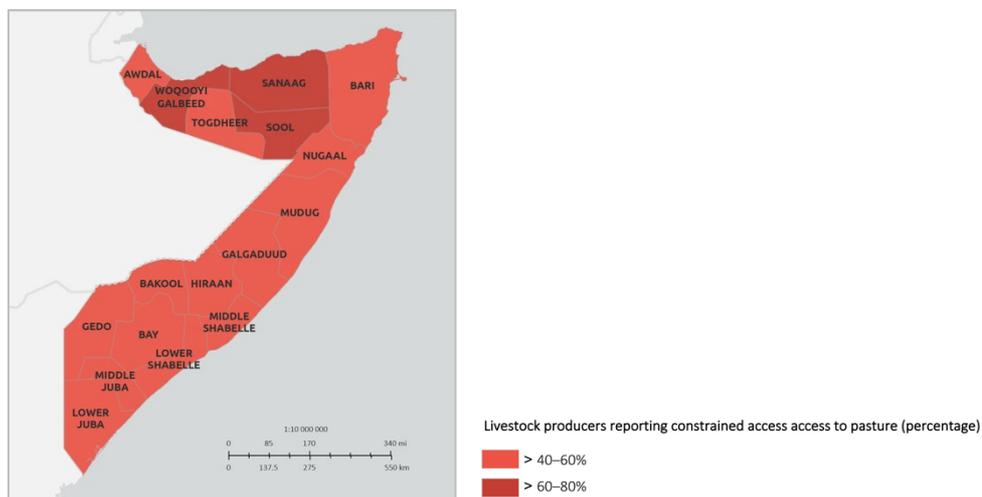
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. Map of Somalia [online]. [Cited 10 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Livestock

Livestock reared by survey respondents include goats, cattle, camel, sheep and poultry. For these animals, 94 percent of surveyed farmers depended on open pasture and 6 percent relied on fodder and community pastures. The most frequently reported difficulty for livestock producers in this sample was constrained access to pasture (58 percent). This was a particular issue in the regions of Sanaag, Sool and Woqooyi Galbeed (see Figure 4). Constrained access to water (47 percent) and livestock diseases (38 percent) were the next most frequently cited difficulties by livestock producers.

Figure 4. Constrained access to pasture, by region (percentage of respondent livestock producers)

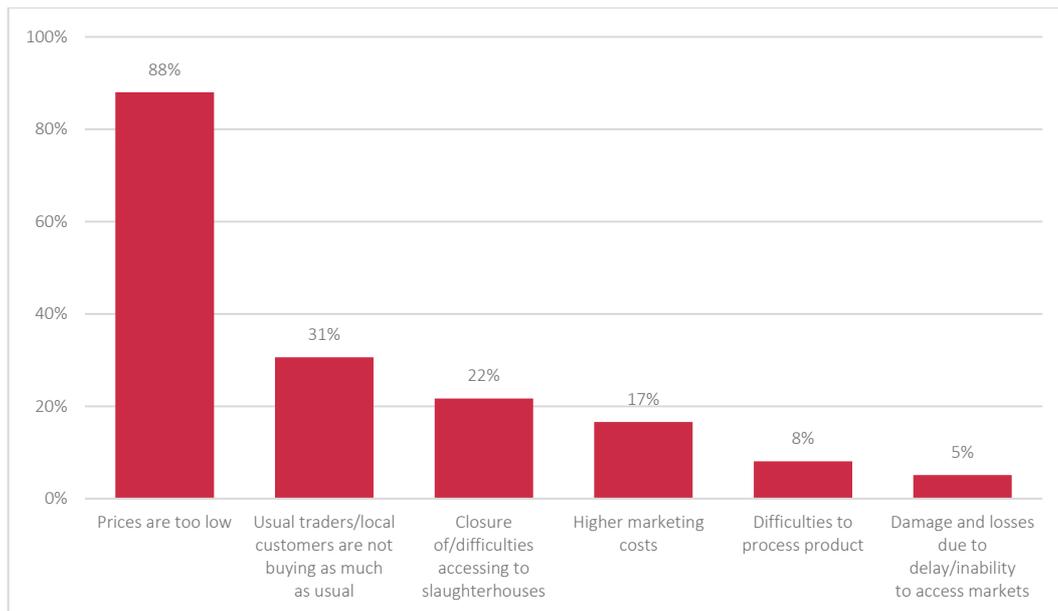


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. Map of Somalia [online]. [Cited 10 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

For livestock sellers, the most frequently cited difficulty by far was low prices (Figure 5). As a result of COVID-19, 60 percent of livestock producers indicated that markets had been scaled down since there was no *Hajj* this year, affecting livestock exports to the Middle East.

Figure 5. Difficulties in sale of livestock products (percentage of respondent livestock producers)

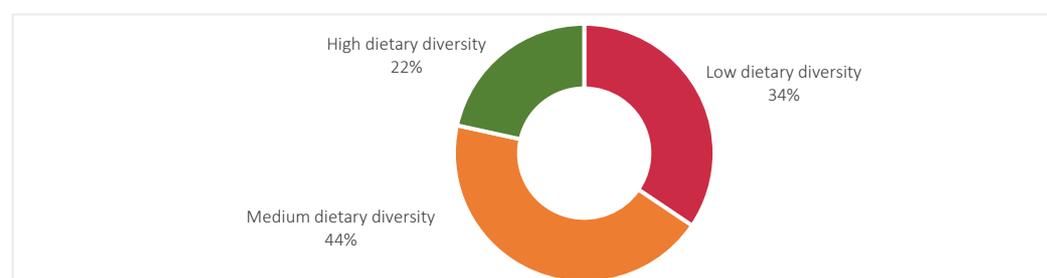


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Food security

Household dietary diversity scores revealed that just 22 percent of interviewed households had accessed 5–12 food groups in the past 24 hours, while 44 percent consumed 3–4 food groups and 34 percent consumed 0–2 food groups (Figure 6). Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index results indicated that 25 percent had employed Emergency-level coping strategies, 45 percent engaged in Crisis-level strategies and 19 percent engaged in Stress-level coping strategies. Food Insecurity Experience Scale results revealed that 47 percent of households had experienced moderate and severe food insecurity during the previous three months, while 18 percent had experienced severe food insecurity. These results are consistent with population groups in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 and above.

Figure 6. Household Dietary Diversity Scores (percentage of respondents)

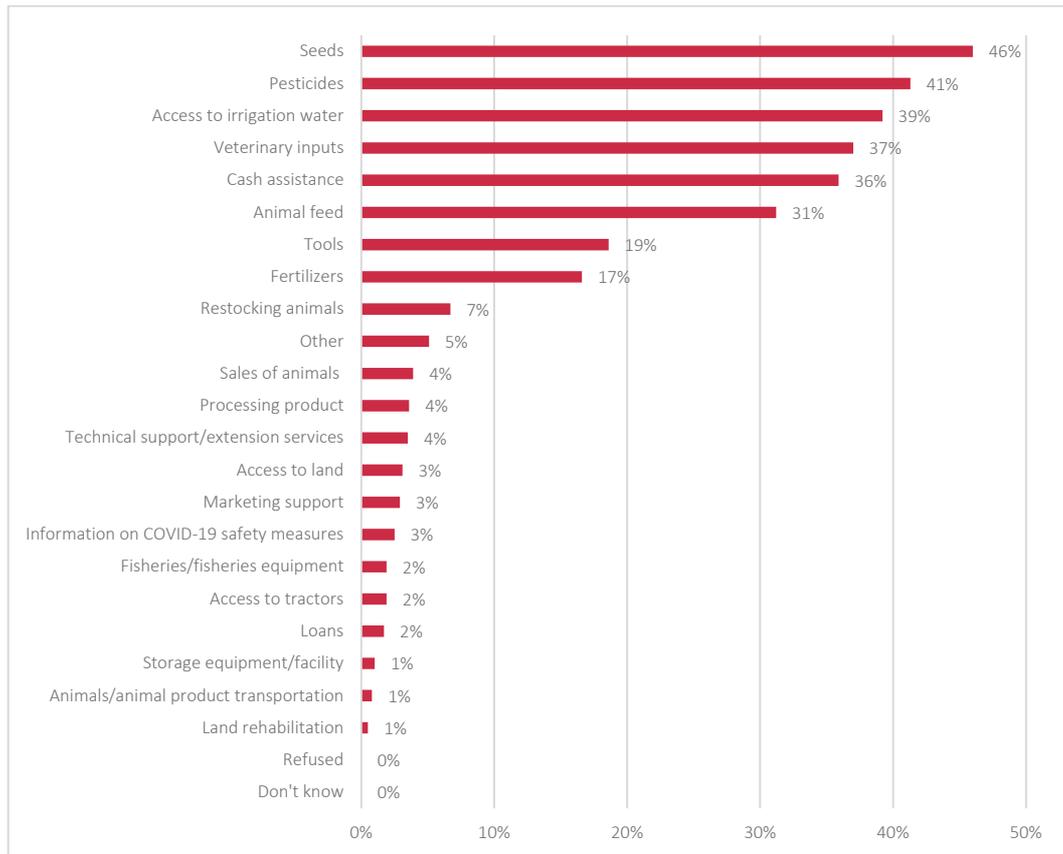


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Needs

Among survey respondents, 94 percent indicated that they would require assistance with crop and livestock production in the next six months. The most frequently cited need was for access to high-quality seeds for cereal crops (by just under 50 percent of households, with the rate particularly high in Lower Shabelle) The most frequently cited livestock-related needs (30–40 percent of respondents) were for veterinary services and feed. (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Most-cited needs for assistance (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2021).

Recommendations

- > Given the high percentage of respondents expressing the need for assistance to preserve their livelihoods, social protection programmes (e.g. cash transfers, cash for work) are needed to reduce poverty and vulnerability resulting from lost income. In addition, the provision of food and fresh water are vital to protect households' food security and nutrition.
- > Half of all crop producers in the sample reported a decreased area planted compared to a typical *Gu* season, and 52 percent reported a decreased harvest this season. These producers should be supported with inputs, including high-quality and varietal seeds, and pesticides. Training can further support these producers in growing pest-resistant and climate-resilient crops to increase their incomes and prevent post-harvest losses.
- > The most frequently cited difficulty for respondents who rely on the sale of livestock was low sale prices. Because the COVID-19 pandemic affected demand, 60 percent of livestock producers indicated that markets had been scaled down. Government destocking and offtake programmes that provide feed, water and veterinary services are critical for both protecting farmers from low prices and for preserving the health of animals. Such programmes should be initiated in Somalia, particularly during dry periods and when demand is low.
- > In order to strengthen livestock producers' resilience to future shocks, investments are needed in the provision of veterinary inputs and services. At the same time, inclusive value chains for livestock should be strengthened to integrate herders and protect them from price manipulation by distributors.



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 Somalia

FAO-SO@fao.org
@FAOSomalia
Nairobi, Kenya

Office of Emergencies and Resilience

OER-Director@fao.org
fao.org/emergencies | @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. 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. Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.



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