



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Yemen

Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief

Results and recommendations
January 2022

Data collection 8 July to 18 September 2021

Methodology

This brief presents the results of a household survey conducted in Yemen by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System on agricultural livelihoods and food security. Data were collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews from 8 July to 18 September 2021. Initially, the survey was designed to cover 4 750 households spanning 17 governorates. Of these, 3 687 households could be reached. The household survey was representative of vulnerable agricultural households at the governorate (admin 1) level, with a 95 percent confidence level and a 6 percent margin of error.

The sample was drawn from a verified list of beneficiaries of all active and closed FAO projects in Yemen; it is therefore not representative of the entire population. Due to small sample sizes in Amanat Al Asimah, and Al Mahwit governorates, findings should be considered indicative.

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.

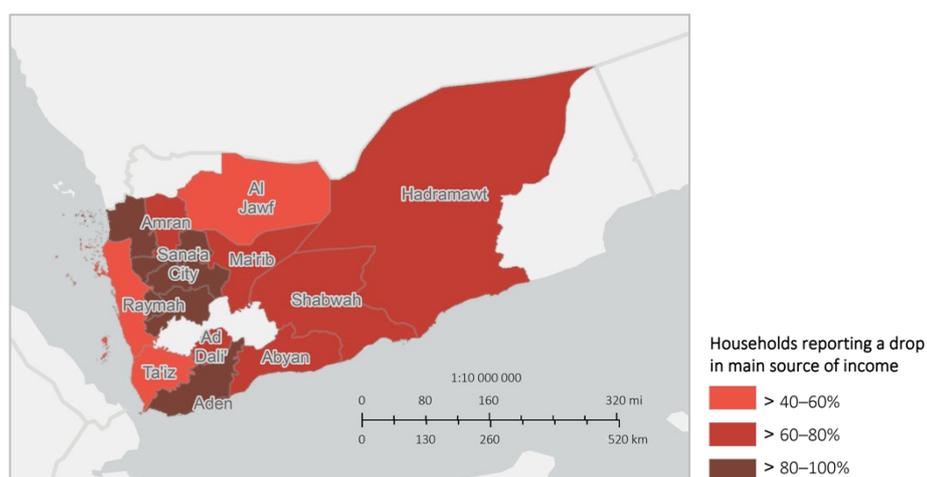
> Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

Among surveyed households, 88 percent reported experiencing at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey. The most reported shocks were high prices of food (76 percent) and fuel (48 percent). These results were not surprising since the survey was conducted following the depreciation of the Yemeni rial. Skyrocketing food and fuel prices are particularly challenging for a population that relies heavily on imports for its staple foods. Only 20 percent of households cited COVID-19 restriction measures as a shock.

Among households reporting on their main income source, 72 percent cited a decline in income. In Aden, Dhamar, Hajjah, Lahj, Raymah and Sana'a governorates, more than four in five households reported a decrease in their main income source (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Households reporting a drop in their main source of income, by governorate (percentage of respondents)



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

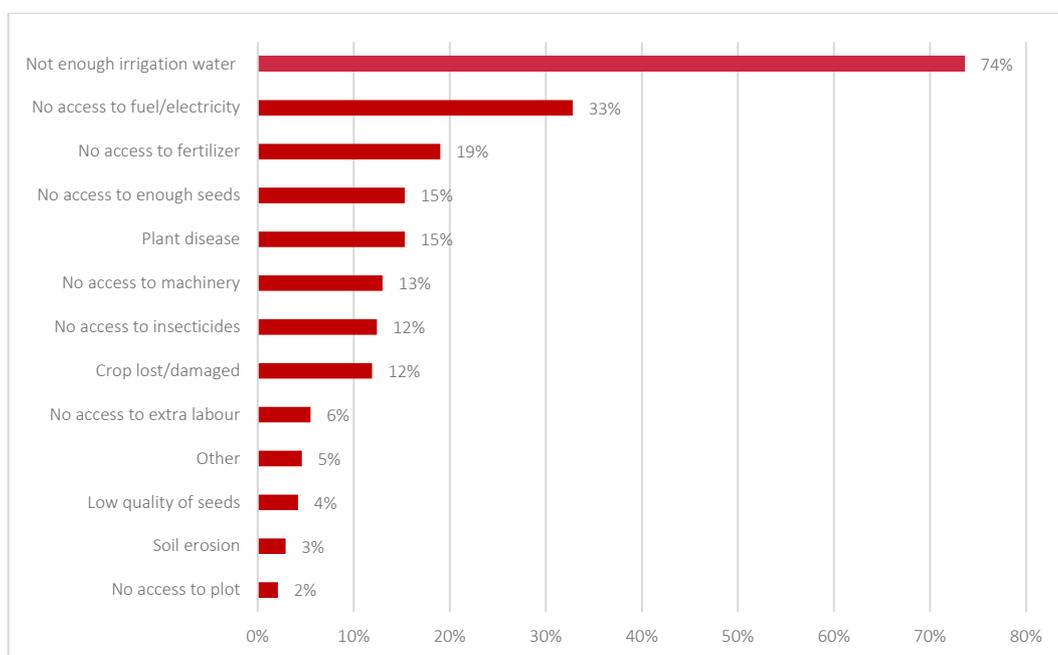
Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Yemen* [online]. [Cited 12 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Crops

The survey was conducted largely during a planting season for staple crops. Nearly 87 percent of crop producers reported difficulties with crop production. The most frequently cited difficulty was the scarcity of irrigation water (by 74 percent of crop farmers) (Figure 3).

Among crop producers, 65 percent indicated they were expecting lower-than-normal yields this season. In Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a and Marib, more than one third of the producers projected that their harvest would be reduced by at least 50 percent. The majority of the farmers faced multiple difficulties that may have lowered their harvest expectations. About half of crop producers surveyed reported difficulties in selling crops – mainly related to low prices and high marketing costs. Among crop producers reporting a change in area planted, 36 percent reported planting a smaller area than in a typical year.

Figure 3. Crop-production difficulties (percentage of respondent crop producers)



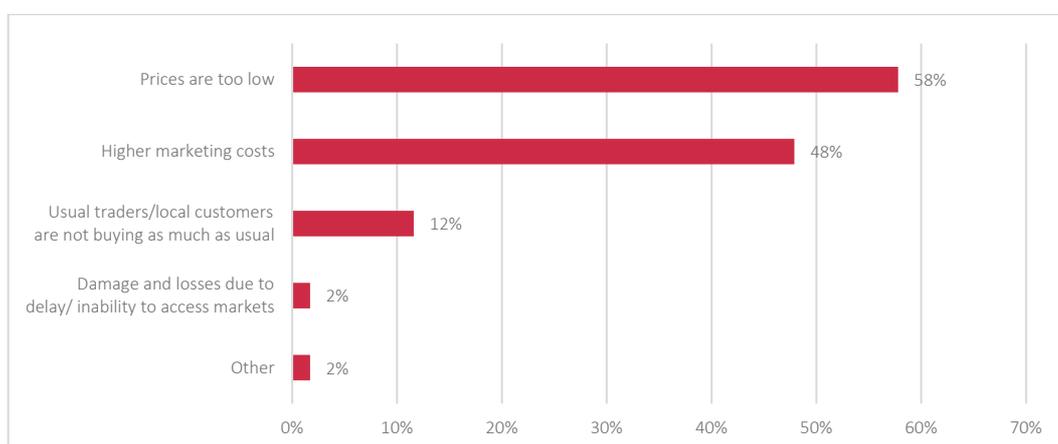
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Yemen: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–September 2021).

Livestock

Compared to the previous year, 58 percent of livestock producers reported a reduction in livestock numbers and 80 percent of livestock producers surveyed reported difficulties in livestock production. The most-reported difficulties were purchasing feed from markets (77 percent) and animal diseases (42 percent). More than one in five households mentioned constrained access to pastureland, water sources and veterinary services as difficulties.

Despite the fact that the survey was conducted during the monsoon season, reduced rainfall affected pasturelands and water sources. In addition, 44 percent of livestock producers reported difficulties with livestock sales; low prices and high marketing costs were the most commonly cited difficulties (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Livestock-sales difficulties (percentage of respondent livestock producers)

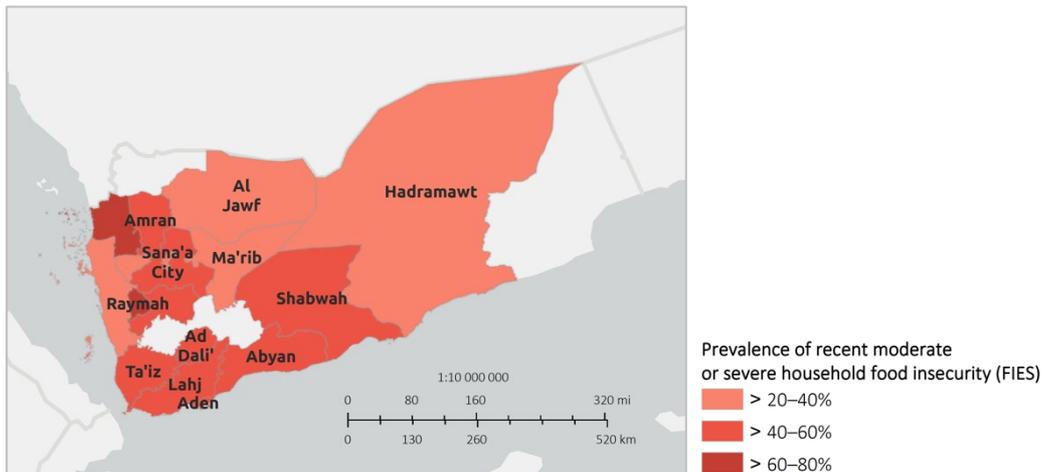


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Yemen: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–September 2021).

Food security

Based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) results, an estimated 46 percent of respondent households experienced severe to moderate food insecurity in the 30 days preceding the survey (Figure 5). Nearly 55 percent reported that their households had consumed less than four food groups in the last 24 hours.

Figure 5. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe household food insecurity (FIES), by governorate (percentage of respondents)

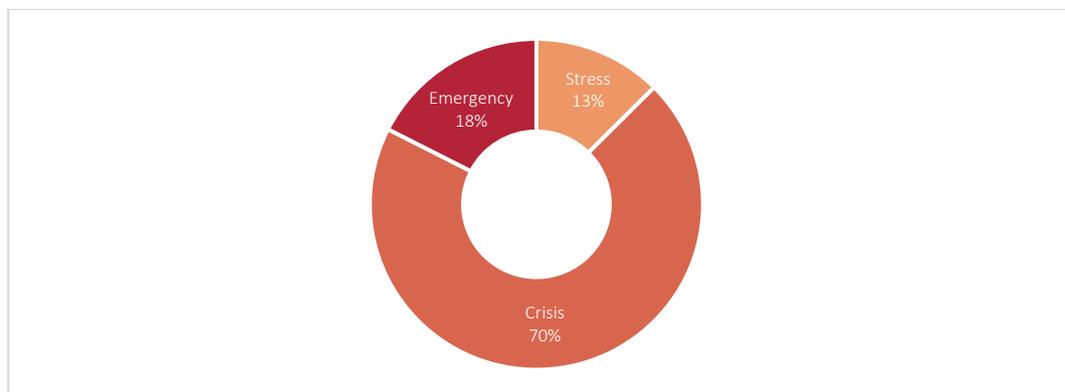


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Yemen: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–September 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Yemen* [online]. [Cited 12 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

To meet their food needs, 70 percent of households had resorted to Crisis-level coping strategies in the previous three months; such coping measures are known to deplete physical and livelihood assets. Emergency-level coping strategies, which are more difficult to reverse, were adopted by 18 percent of households. The most widely practiced coping strategies were borrowing money or food, and purchasing food on credit – likely driven by the sharp increase in food prices during the survey period (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Coping strategies employed (Livelihood-based Coping Strategies Index) (percentage of respondents)

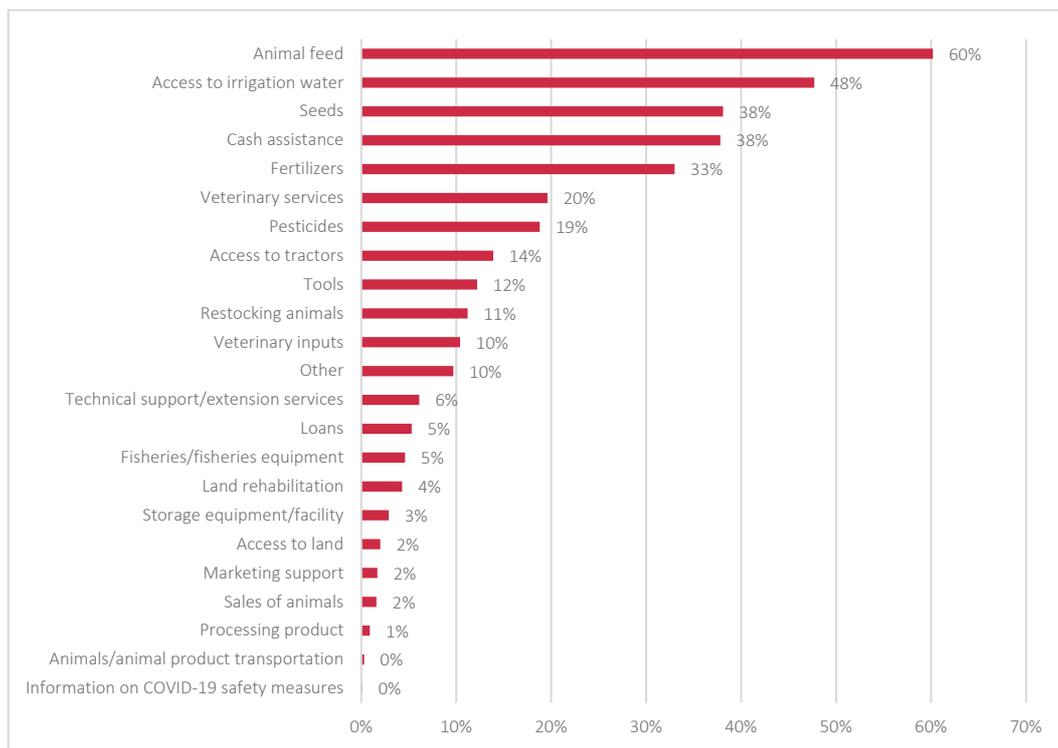


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Yemen: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–September 2021).

Needs

Among all agricultural households, 97 percent reported the need for assistance in the coming six months. The two most-cited needs were animal feed (60 percent) and irrigation water (48 percent). More than one third of these households also indicated the need for seeds, fertilizers and cash (Figure 7).

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



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

Recommendations

- > Focus resilience-building interventions on the restoration and diversification of livelihoods.
- > Expand agricultural extension services to vulnerable farmers. Cash vouchers with in-kind agricultural incentives are recommended for small producers.
- > Along with an expansion of the early-warning system on animal disease outbreaks, provide emergency distributions of animal feed, veterinary services and animal vaccination to vulnerable livestock producers.
- > Food consumption gaps and the use of Crisis- and Emergency-level coping strategies underscore the need for interventions aimed at protecting lives and livelihoods.



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