



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Lebanon

Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief – round 1

Results and recommendations
January 2022

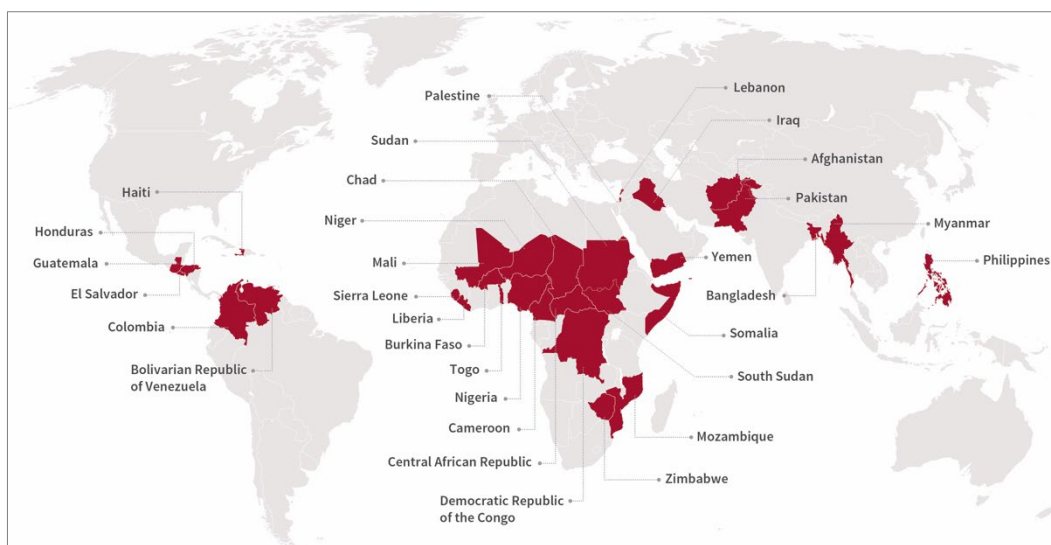
Data collection 16 August to 16 September 2021

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with Lebanon’s Ministry of Agriculture, conducted a household survey using computer-assisted telephone interviews in August and September 2021. This first-round survey targeted the agricultural population using the Lebanon Agricultural Production Survey – a large survey of farming households that draws on the Agricultural Census Survey – as a sample frame.

Across seven governorates, 150 households were targeted in each governorate with probability proportional to their weight in the Agricultural Production Survey. Of the 1 050 surveys completed, 98 percent of respondents identified as agricultural households. Data were weighted in order to ensure that farm size and regional population distribution were adequately represented.

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 Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to collect, analyse and disseminate data on shocks, livelihoods and food security in countries prone to multiple shocks. DIEM-Monitoring aims to inform decision making by providing regularly updated information on how different shocks are affecting livelihoods and food security.

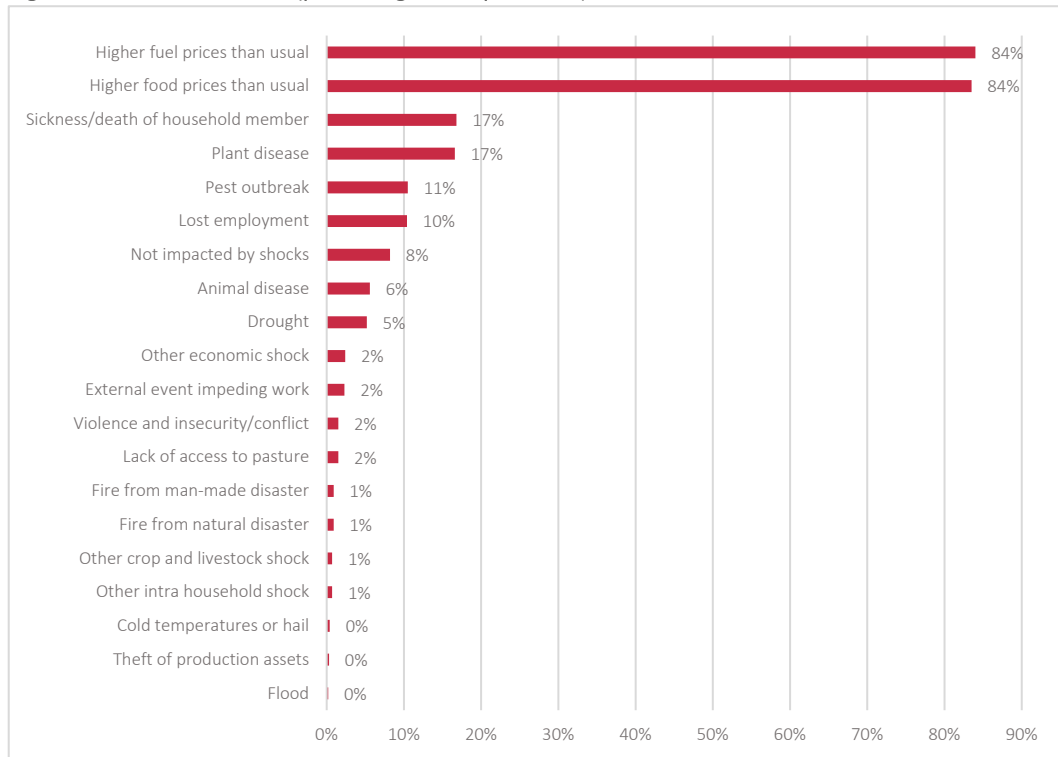
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insights on the context in Lebanon and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

Lebanon is in the midst of a multi-faceted economic crisis. At the household level, the consequences of this crisis include unprecedented increases in food and fuel prices. Among the households surveyed, 92 percent reported experiencing a shock, with high fuel and food prices the most common: each was cited by 84 percent of households (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Most-cited shocks (percentage of respondents)

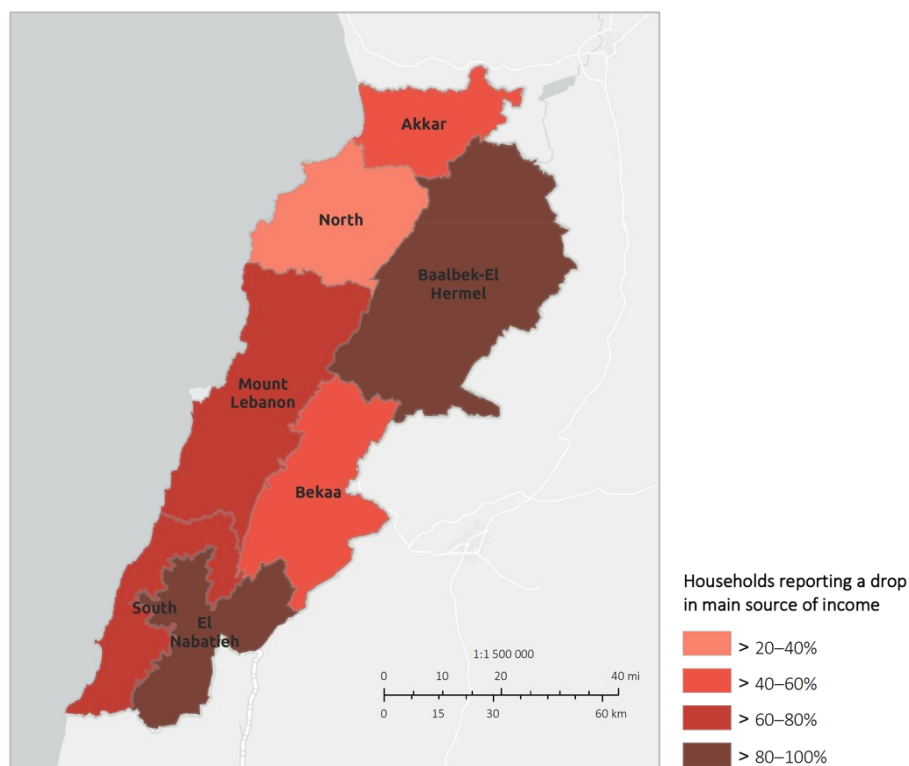


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–September 2021).

These shocks, along with loss of employment (affecting 17 percent of the surveyed population) were significantly associated with reports of being affected by restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Movement restrictions for imported goods likely exacerbated the increase in food, fuel and agricultural input prices caused by the devaluation of Lebanon's currency, even though these restrictions had been lifted in the three months prior to the survey.

On average, 62 percent of households reported a decline in their main income source over the previous three months. However, this varied geographically, ranging from 26 percent in North governorate to more than 80 percent in El Nabatieh and Baalbek-El Hermel (Figure 3). Among agricultural producers, livestock keepers and staple-crop farmers were the most likely to report decreased income. In terms of land size, larger landholders were more likely than smallholders to report a decrease in income.

Figure 3. Households reporting a drop in main source of income, by governorate (percentage of respondents)



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

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Lebanon* [online]. [Cited 17 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

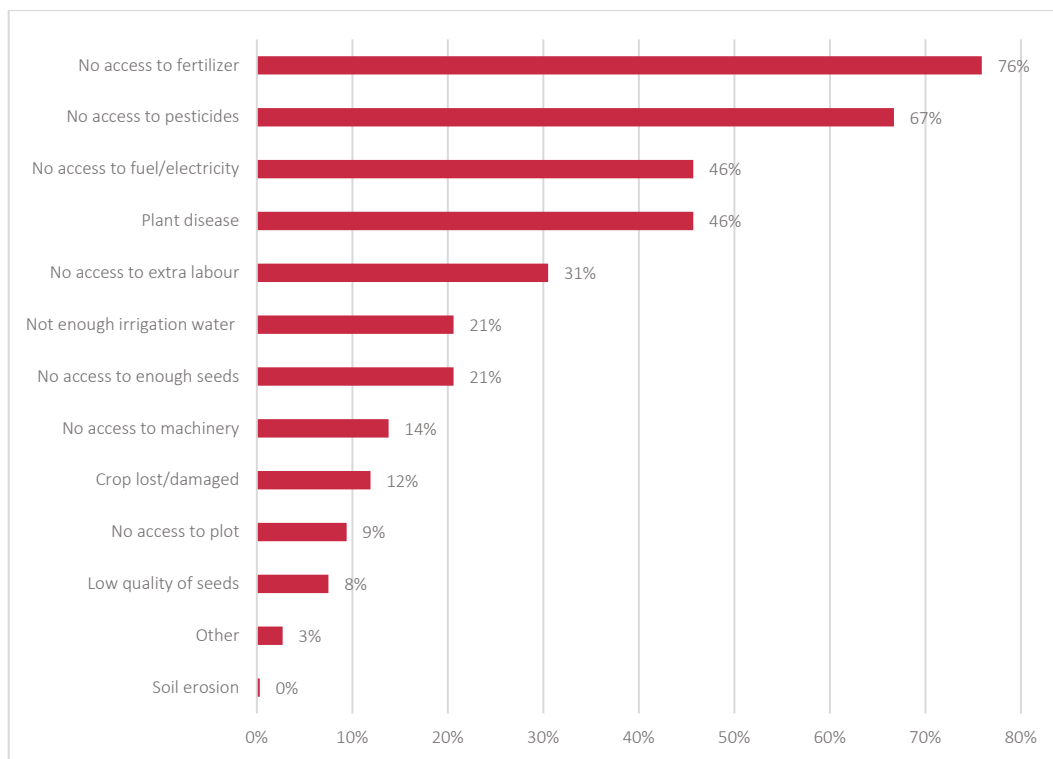
Crops

While 83 percent of survey respondents reported engagement in crop production, three quarters cultivated a land area of less than 1 hectare. The most commonly produced crops were olives (37 percent of crop producers), wheat (13 percent) and apples (10 percent).

Production difficulties were reported by 86 percent of crop producers. The most common challenges were related to accessing agricultural inputs such as fertilizers (reported by 76 percent), pesticides (67 percent) and fuel or electricity (46 percent) (Figure 4). These access issues were likely driven by an increase in the price of imported agricultural inputs as the Lebanese pound lost value against the United States dollar. Possibly as a result of limited access to inputs due to their high costs, plant diseases were also reported as a challenge by 46 percent of crop producers.

More than half of surveyed crop producers were anticipating a decreased harvest, driven by rainfall anomalies and reduced access to agricultural inputs. In addition, 44 percent of crop producers reported difficulties selling their production. This was attributed to increased marketing costs and lower demand. Prices received for crops varied however, with large farmers more likely to report lower prices than smallholders.

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



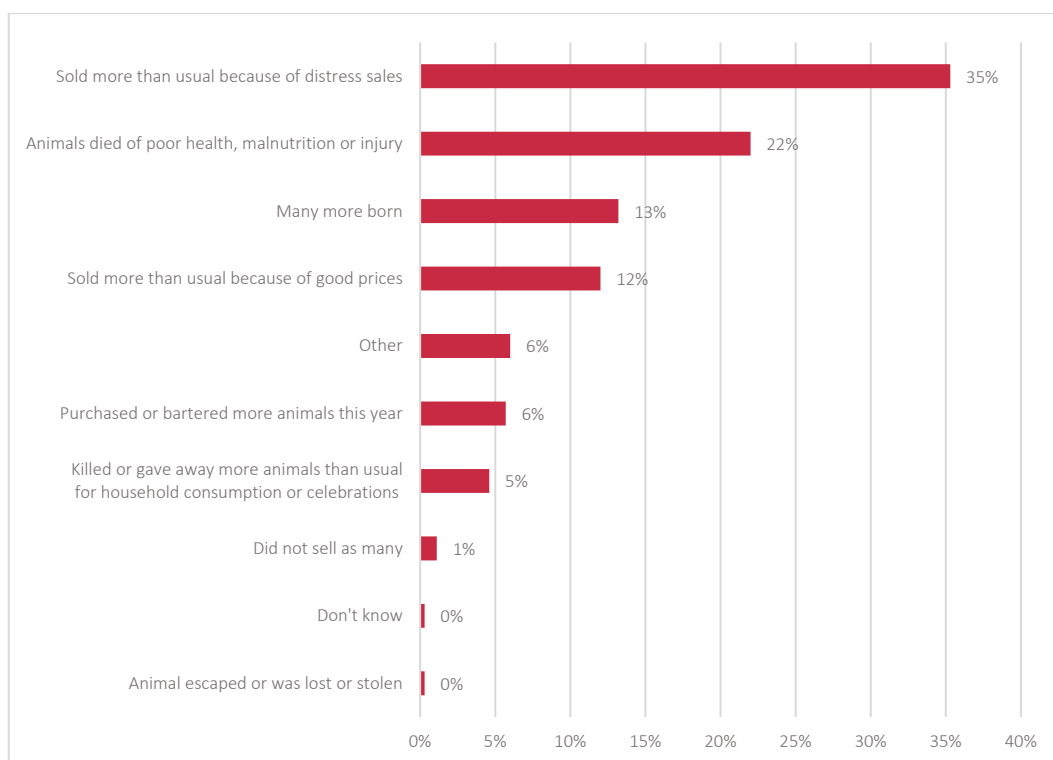
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–September 2021).

Livestock

Of the 37 percent of the sample that produced livestock, more than four in five reported facing difficulties. For 85 percent of livestock producers, purchasing feed was a key constraint. Many livestock producers also faced challenges in accessing veterinary services and inputs (40 percent and 55 percent respectively).

Among livestock producers, 57 percent reported a decrease in the number of animals they owned compared to the previous year. This could be explained by distress sales (reported by 35 percent) and animal death from disease or malnutrition (22 percent) (Figure 5). Livestock prices increased for more than half of respondents compared to the three-year average – probably reflecting rampant inflation. Many livestock producers also encountered difficulties selling their products – especially higher marketing costs and lower demand.

Figure 5. Reasons for change in number of livestock (percentage of respondent livestock producers)



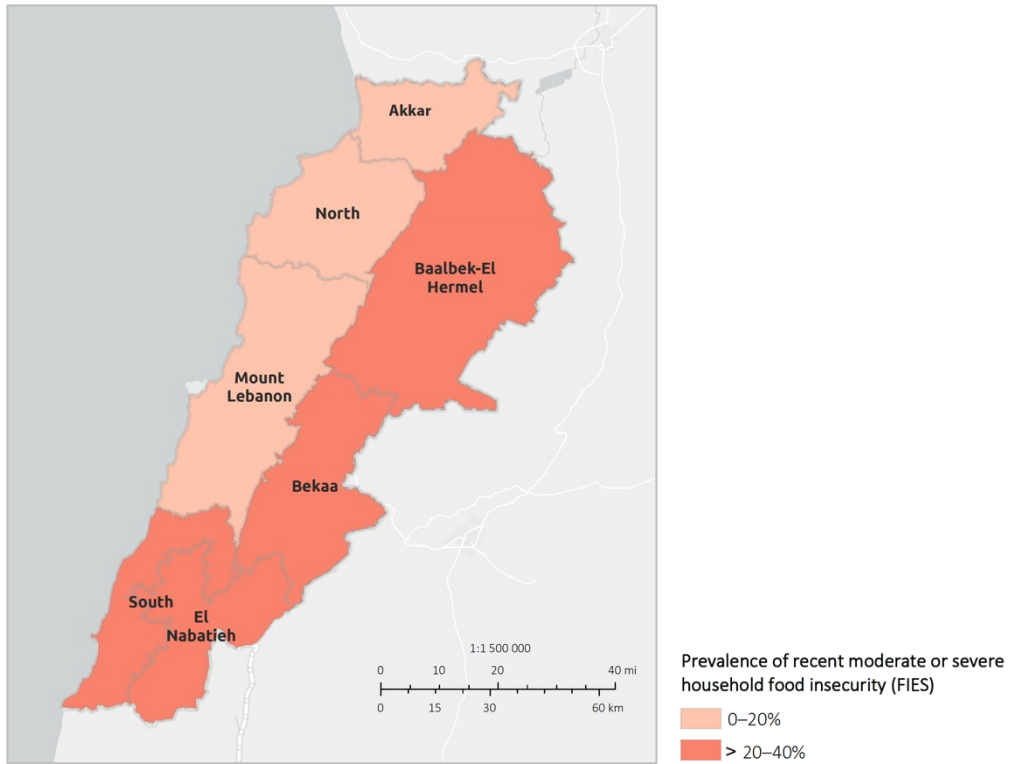
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–September 2021).

Food security

The prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was estimated at 23 percent of the surveyed population; Baalbeck-El Hermel, Bekaa, El Nabatieh and South recorded the highest prevalence in the governorates surveyed (Figure 6). Among these households, 70 percent worried about not having enough food and more than one in four indicated that they had skipped a meal in the last 30 days because of a lack of money or other resources.

The adoption of coping strategies in order to access food was widespread, and included spending savings, borrowing money or food, purchasing food on credit, and reducing expenditures on agricultural inputs. Close to 80 percent of households reported employing Crisis-level coping strategies and 15 percent adopted Emergency-level coping strategies (including one third of households in Bekaa governorate).

Figure 6. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity (FIES), by governorate (percentage of respondents)



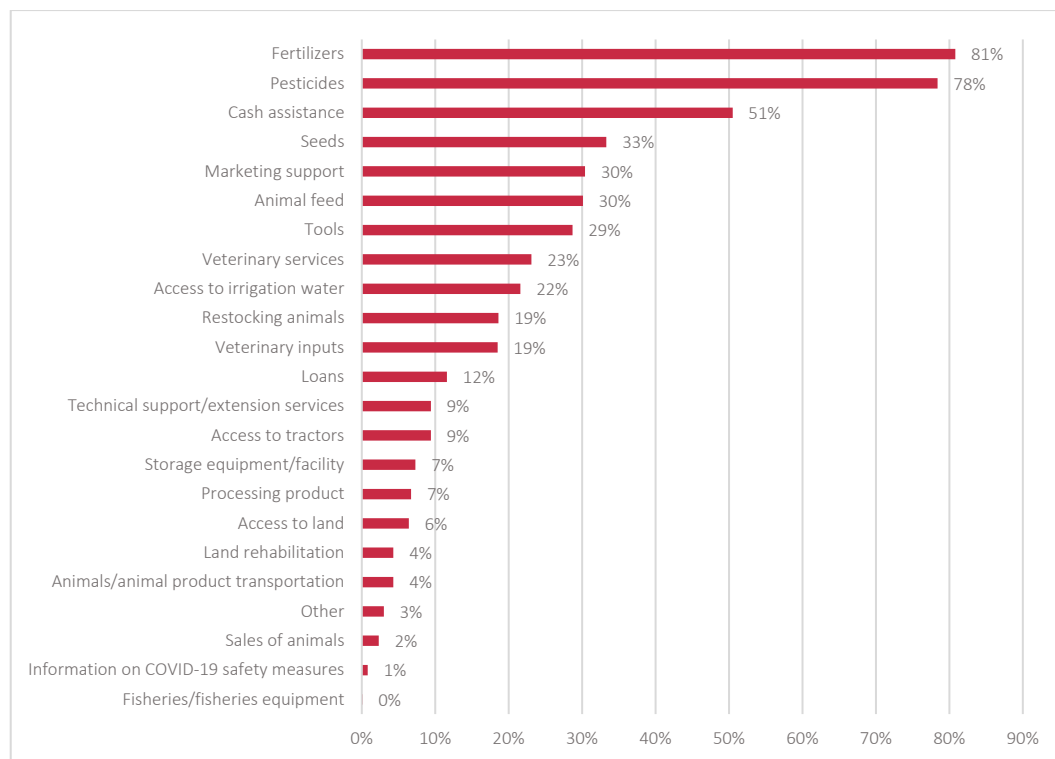
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (August–September 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Lebanon* [online]. [Cited 17 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Needs

Nearly all agricultural households surveyed indicated a need for assistance in the coming six months. The needs of each livelihood group were aligned with their production difficulties: more than 80 percent of respondents expressed the need for fertilizers and 78 percent reported that they required support with accessing pesticides (Figure 7). Livestock producers primarily indicated the need for support with accessing feed, veterinary services and inputs. Half of all respondents also expressed the need for cash support.

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



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

Recommendations

- > With challenges accessing inputs reported by many crop producers, more than half were anticipating a decreased harvest. Cash assistance and subsidies are required to assist farmers with purchasing agricultural inputs.
- > Increased marketing costs and lower demand led nearly 45 percent of respondent crop producers to report difficulties selling their production. In order to address this challenge, technical assistance should be provided in crop aggregation, producers' integration into markets and productive alliances for increased price bargaining power.
- > Purchasing feed was a key constraint for most livestock producers, and many also faced challenges in accessing veterinary services and inputs. Critical support is needed to enhance livestock producers' access to the inputs and services they need to sustain their herds – reducing their vulnerability to livelihood shocks.
- > Given the prevalence of recent moderate and severe food insecurity, and the adoption of coping strategies, surveyed households may be at risk of further deterioration in food security if their coping capacity is exhausted over time. Targeted food and cash assistance should be provided to farmers in need.



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