



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Iraq

Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief – round 6

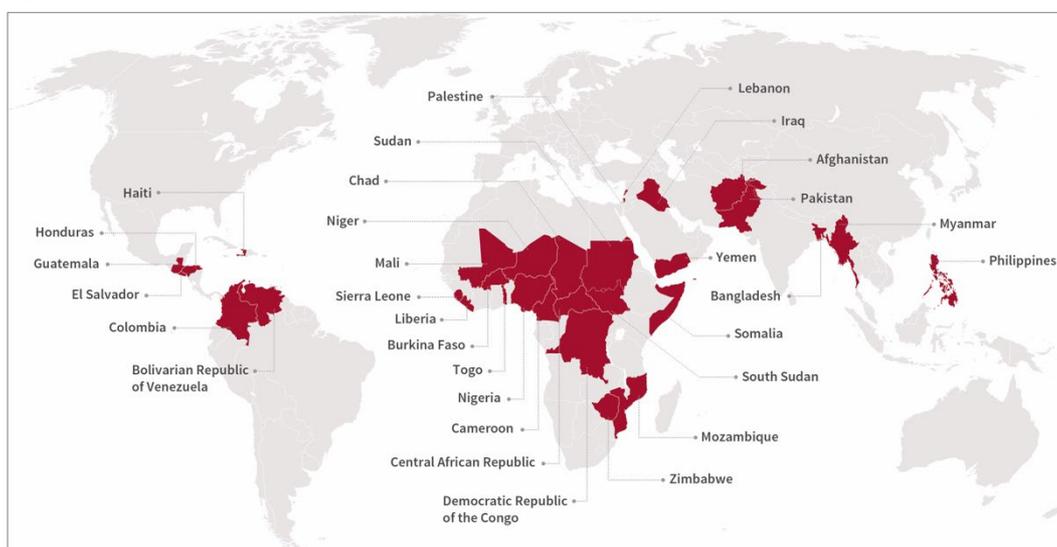
Results and recommendations
January 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in Iraq through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System in October 2021. This sixth-round survey was administered through computer-assisted telephone interviews in October and November – just after the harvest season. A total of 1 354 agricultural households were interviewed across four governorates, representing Iraq’s distinct agro-ecological regions.

The sampling frame was derived from a list of farmers from the Ministry of Agriculture, with additional snowball sampling. It therefore cannot be considered representative of either the entire population or agricultural population of Iraq. The target of 385 households per governorate was met in all sampled governorates except Dohuk, where the data-collection team did not have contact information for enough farmers. In this governorate, 51 percent of the target was reached.

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.

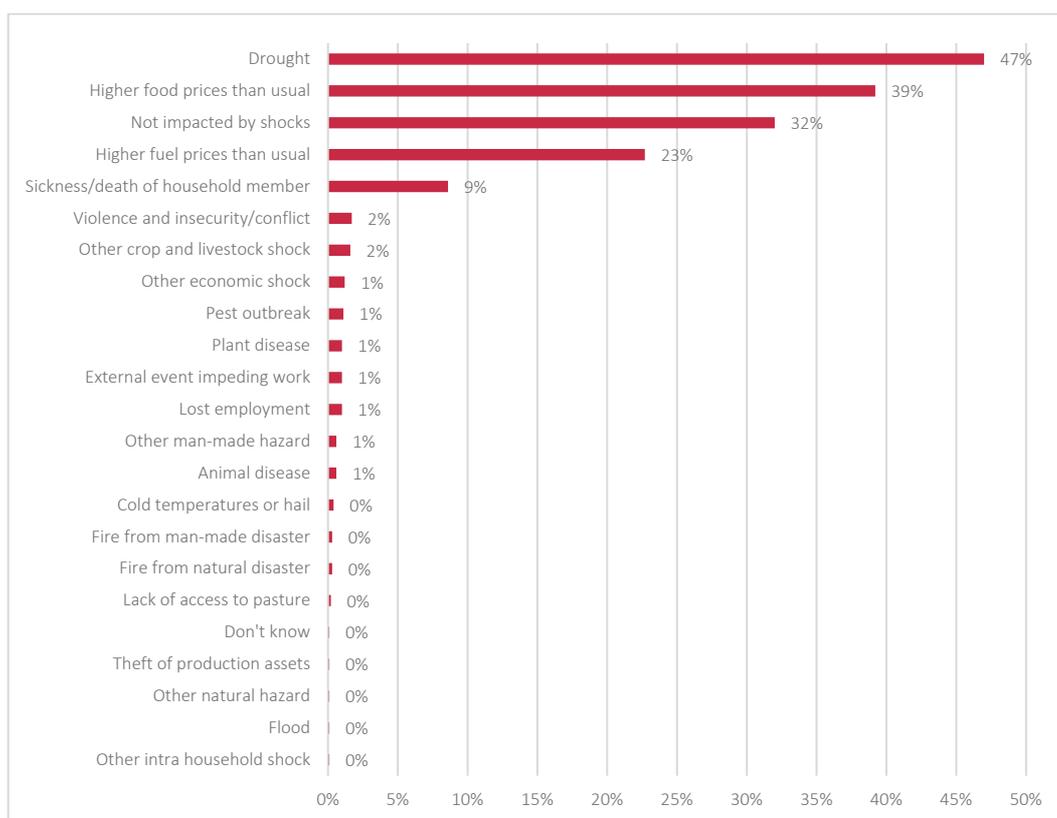
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insights on the context in Iraq and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

Among all those surveyed, 87 percent reported that their main income was derived from agricultural production. Of these respondents, 65 percent reported a decline in their income – mostly driven by drought and water scarcity (reported as a shock by 47 percent of households). Exceptionally high prices of food (reported by 39 percent of respondents) and fuel (23 percent) were also reported as a shock. More than double the number of households reported these latter two shocks than in the previous round of data collection in June and July 2021.

Figure 2. Most-reported shocks experienced by survey respondents (percentage)

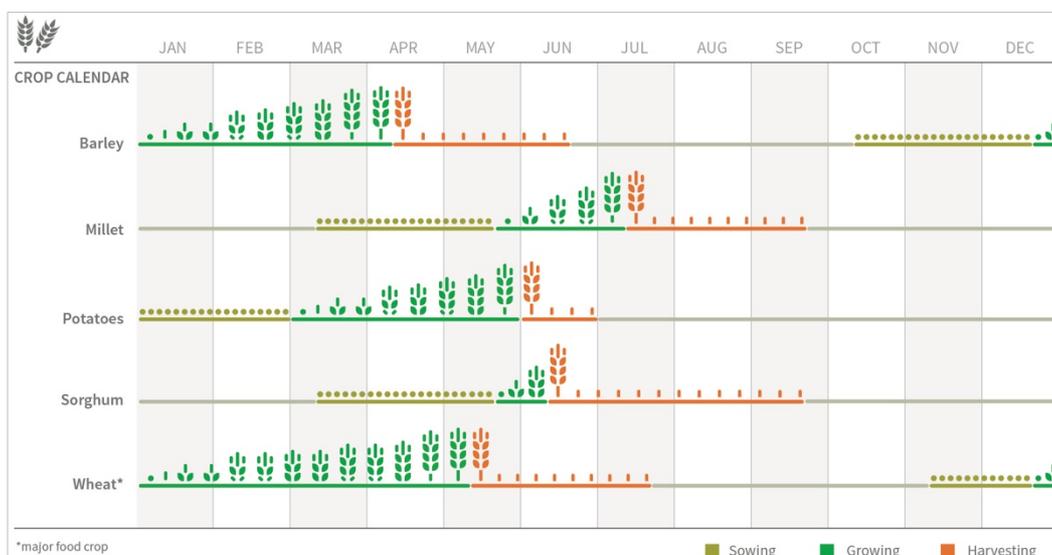


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Iraq: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 6 (October–November 2021).

Crops

The main food crop grown in Iraq is wheat, with barley, millet, sorghum and potatoes also cultivated widely (Figure 3). Of the 83 percent of respondents that identified as crop producers, half reported that they cultivate wheat as their main crop. Among crop producers, 81 percent cited difficulties with production in the previous three months. The main difficulties reported were a lack of access to fertilizers (by 79 percent), irrigation water (63 percent) and seeds (45 percent).

Figure 3. Iraq seasonal crop calendar

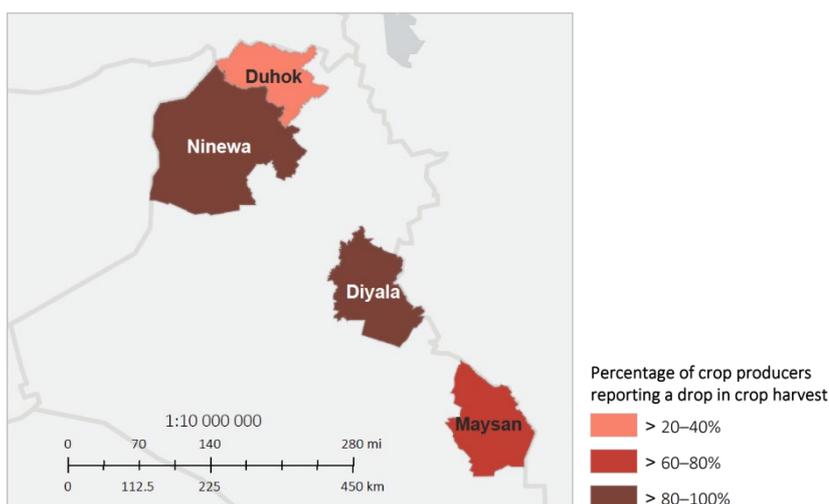


Source of data: FAO. 2022. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Iraq. In: *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations* [online]. Rome. [Cited 20 January 2022]. www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?lang=en&code=IRQ

These results are in line with the local context, in which drought and new dam construction in neighbouring countries has exacerbated water scarcity in Iraq. Farmers have also been affected by the devaluation of the Iraqi dinar since most agricultural inputs are imported and denominated in United States dollars, whereas most crops are sold domestically in Iraqi dinars. In addition, half of crop producers reported low selling prices for their production.

The combination of water scarcity and lack of access to inputs likely contributed to a decreased harvest for 72 percent of crop producers compared to a typical year. This drop in yields was greater than 80 percent in Diyala and Ninewa governorates (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Crop producers reporting a drop in crop harvest, by governorate (percentage of respondent crop producers)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Iraq: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 6 (October–November 2021).

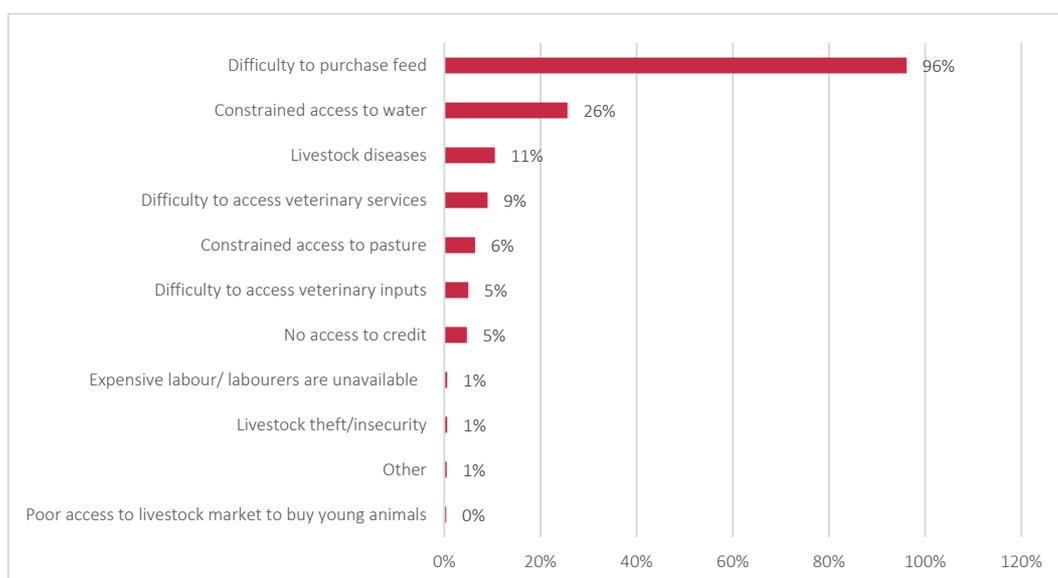
Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Iraq* [online]. [Cited 19 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Livestock

Livestock producers comprised 65 percent of the household survey sample. Production difficulties were reported by 91 percent of those identifying as livestock producers (Figure 5). The most common issues they faced were difficulty purchasing feed (96 percent) and constrained access to water (26 percent). These difficulties are likely a result of rising prices for imported inputs compounded by increasing prices for fodder and local cereals due to drought. Nearly half of all livestock producers reported resorting to distress sales; this was associated with high prices of animal feed and constrained access to water.

In addition, 47 percent of livestock producers reported difficulties with the sale of their production. The most commonly reported sales difficulties were low price for animals (by 88 percent) and high marketing costs (32 percent).

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

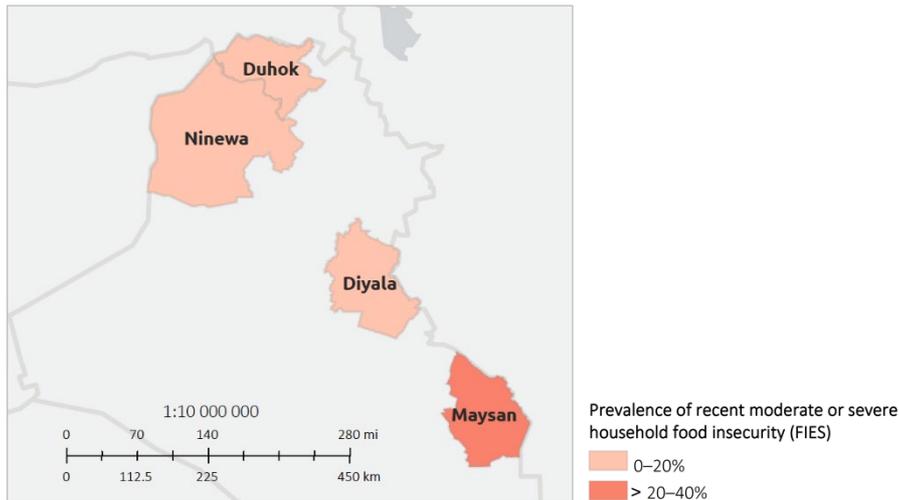


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Iraq: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 6 (October–November 2021).

Food security

Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) results indicate that 11 percent of respondents overall experienced moderate or severe recent food insecurity in the 30 days preceding the survey, with the highest concentration in Maysan governorate (Figure 6). Approximately 90 percent of respondents reported that they had adopted coping strategies to meet their household food needs in the previous 30 days. The top three coping strategies adopted were: decreasing expenditures on agricultural inputs (78 percent); purchasing food on credit or borrowing food (70 percent); and spending savings (48 percent).

Figure 6. Moderate or severe food insecurity (FIES results), by governorate (percentage of respondents)



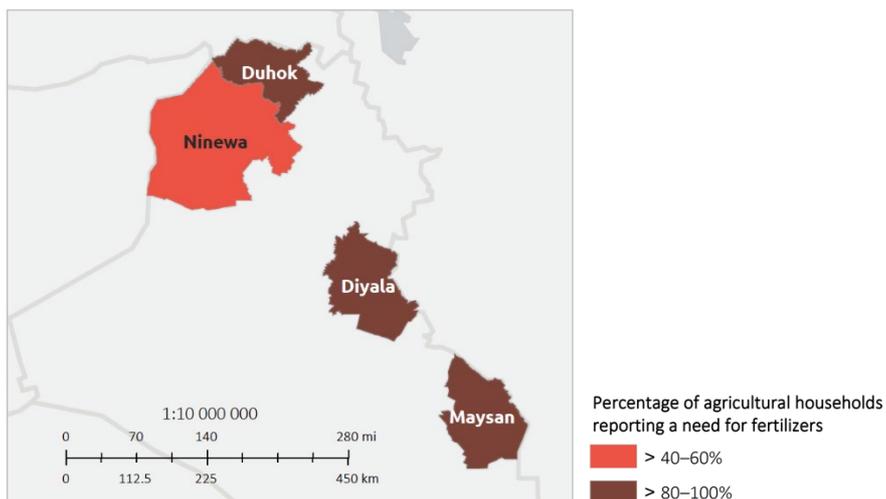
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Iraq: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 6 (October–November 2021).

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Needs

Nearly all respondents expressed the need for assistance in the coming six months. For crop producers, the most frequently cited need was fertilizers (91 percent); this need was particularly acute in Diyala and Duhok governorates (Figure 7). Other needs reported by livestock producers included seeds (74 percent) and irrigation water (57 percent). Livestock producers overwhelmingly indicated a need for support with access to animal feed (92 percent).

Figure 7. Agricultural households reporting a need for fertilizers, by governorate (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Iraq: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 6 (October–November 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Iraq* [online]. [Cited 19 January 2022]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Recommendations

- > In the context of persistent drought and water scarcity, the resilience of agricultural livelihoods can be strengthened through drought-mitigation measures such as soil and water conservation and conservation agriculture – particularly where access to natural resources may create tensions between returnees, host communities and other displaced groups.
- > Given crop producers' reports of lack of access to fertilizers, irrigation water and seeds, distribution of these inputs to vulnerable households should be prioritized before the next planting season.
- > Because of drought and rising prices, many surveyed livestock producers faced difficulties purchasing animal feed. Distribution of fodder and supplementary animal feed to livestock producers is urgently needed. In order to assist herders in accessing water for their animals, surface water resources should be developed in drylands and rangelands.
- > To address the overwhelming need for assistance with agricultural production in the coming months and alleviate the needs of vulnerable households (including returnees and host communities), inputs or cash-vouchers should be distributed in coordination with the World Food Programme.



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