



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Mozambique

Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) brief – round 2

Results and recommendations
February 2022

Revised version

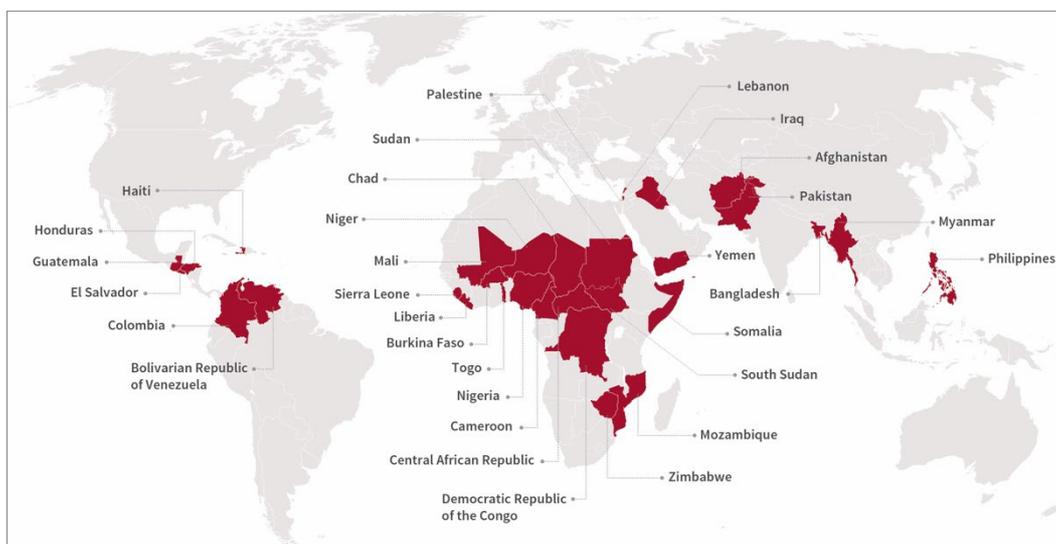
Methodology

This brief presents the results of a household survey conducted in Mozambique 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.

This second-round survey was representative at the provincial (admin 1) level with a 95 percent confidence level and a 6 percent of margin of error, covering 10 out of the country's 11 provinces. Only the province of Maputo City, the country's capital city, was excluded since it is predominantly urban.

Data were collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews between 26 August and 6 October 2021. A total of 2 206 households were interviewed. Between 197 and 252 households were sampled per province. Weights, computed based on population size and a wealth proxy (access to electricity), were applied to correct for disproportionate sampling.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring System



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

About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO established the 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 Mozambique and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

The majority of households (56 percent) experienced income shocks in the last three months preceding the interview. Cabo Delgado with 74 percent and Nampula with 61 percent are the provinces with the highest share of households who faced income shocks. This finding is expected given the on-going conflict, insecurity and violence in Cabo Delgado province, resulting in about 750 000 internally displaced people (IDPs) between 2016 and 2021.¹ Furthermore, more than half of households (58 percent) reported a larger than usual seasonal income reduction compared to the same period in a normal year. Cabo Delgado (86 percent), Gaza (77 percent) and Nampula (76 percent) stand out as provinces with the most households whose income dropped compared to a normal year.

A sizable share of households (39 percent) was affected by COVID-19 restriction measures with Nampula, Manica, Zambezia and Cabo Delgado as the most affected provinces. Closure of food markets and movement restrictions were the most cited measures affecting households' income generation. Agricultural households were more affected by measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 than non-agricultural households (41 percent versus 31 percent). Income shocks and declines were associated with COVID-19 restriction measures in about 50 percent of households, with similar pattern across provinces.

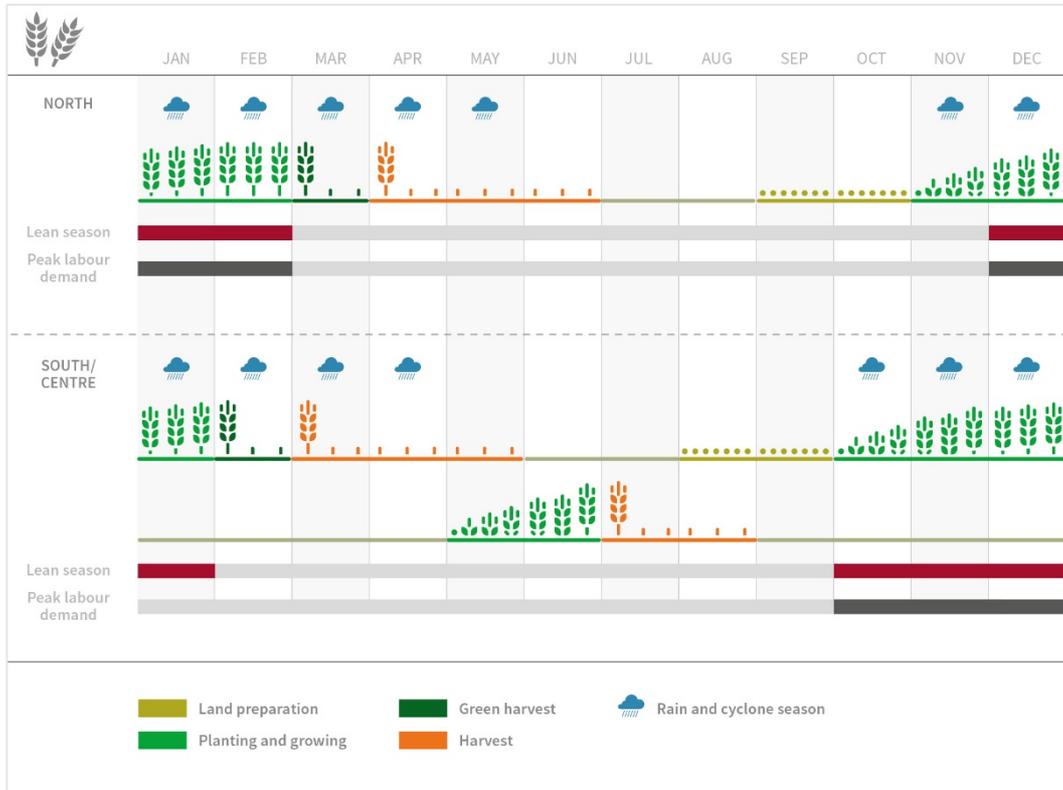
Crops

The survey was conducted largely during the period of land preparation for planting staple crops (Figure 2). Of the 69 percent of the households identified as crop producers, 48 percent cultivated maize as their main crop, followed by beans (13 percent). The main crop grown by crop producers varies across provinces. For example, maize and cassava are the main crops in Nampula and Inhambane; while maize and rice are the most grown crops in Zambezia and Sofala. As expected, crop producers were predominantly smallholders – 93 percent cultivated less than 5 ha, of which 35 percent cultivated less than 1 ha. Tete (22 percent) and Manica (17 percent) emerge as provinces with most households cultivating more than 5 ha. About half of crop producers expected a reduction in their harvest in the 2021/22 agricultural season, with little difference across all provinces except Tete (81 percent) and Manica (68 percent).

Production difficulties were reported by 69 percent of crop producers; of those who faced difficulties, 45 percent were affected by COVID-19 restriction measures. No major variation across provinces in terms of production difficulties. The most-cited production difficulties were insufficient irrigation water (42 percent), crop damage during growing season (41 percent) and low quality of seeds (19 percent) (Figure 3). In addition, 41 percent of crop producers faced difficulties with selling their produce; with minor variation across provinces except Nampula, Manica and Maputo provincial all with 55 percent of crop producers who experienced crop sales difficulties. The most frequently cited were: lower selling prices (50 percent), lower-than-usual purchases from buyers (36 percent) and higher marketing costs (21 percent).

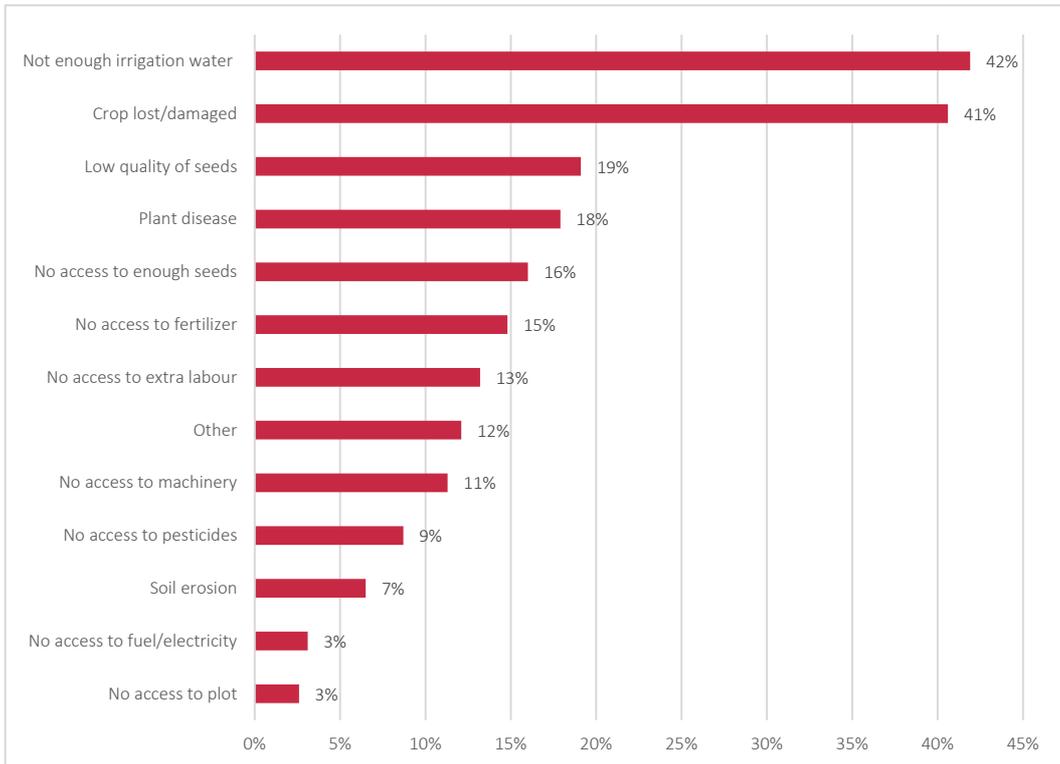
¹ Data about IDPs gathered from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Conflict, insecurity and violence in Cabo Delgado province drove hundreds of thousands IDPs to flee within the province and to neighboring provinces especially Nampula province.

Figure 2. Mozambique seasonal crop production



Source of data: Southern Africa: Mozambique, 2022. In: FEWS NET – Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Washington DC. Cited 26 January 2022. <https://fews.net/southern-africa/mozambique>

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



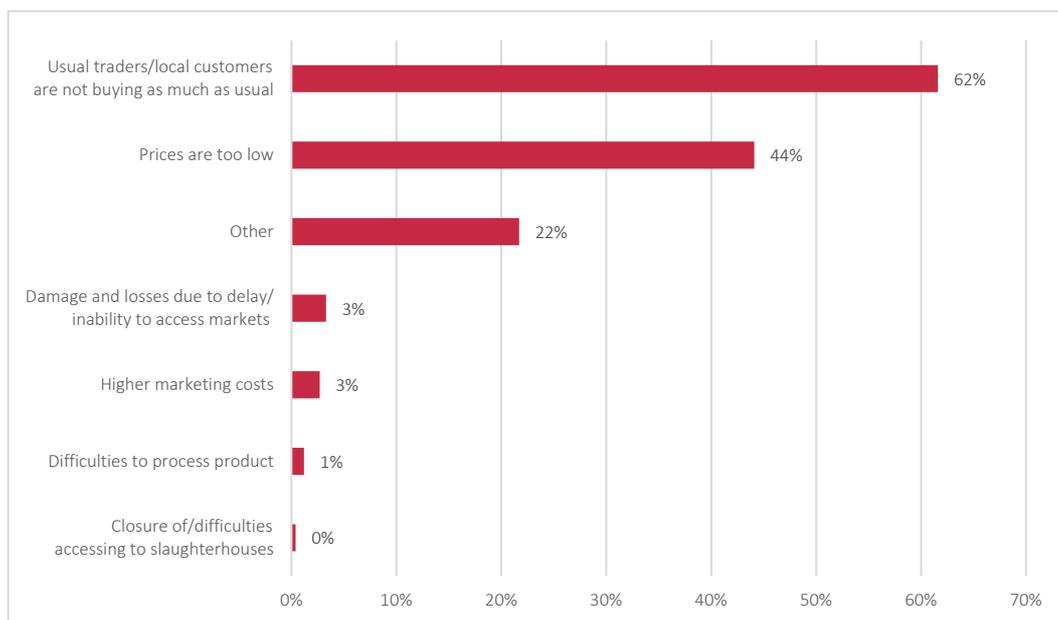
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Mozambique: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 2 (August–October 2021).

Livestock

Approximately 40 percent of respondent households owned animals with no differences across provinces. Of these, 49 percent owned poultry, 23 percent owned goats and 14 percent owned cattle. Poultry undoubtedly ranks first in all provinces, while goats rank second across all provinces except Tete and Gaza where cattle stand out as the second most owned animal. Compared to the previous year, 60 percent of livestock owners experienced a reduction in their herd size, with the main reasons being livestock death due to poor health (46 percent) and slaughtering more animals than usual (17 percent). Minor differences in terms of households who faced herd size reduction across provinces with the exception of Zambezia (76 percent) and Nampula (73 percent).

Among livestock owners, 46 percent faced production difficulties with the highest concentration of livestock owners facing production difficulties in Cabo Delgado (66 percent) and Niassa (61 percent). Among those who faced these difficulties, nearly half reported that they were affected by COVID-19 restriction measures, with similar pattern across all provinces except Tete (10 percent), Niassa (21 percent) and Inhambane (29 percent). The main difficulties faced by herders included livestock disease (51 percent) and difficulties purchasing feed (32 percent). Among livestock owners who sold their livestock and livestock products, nearly 50 percent faced sales difficulties. Cabo Delgado with 88 percent, Manica with 87 percent and Sofala with 85 percent stand out as provinces with the most livestock keepers who experienced sales difficulties. The most commonly cited difficulties with sales were: lower-than-usual purchases by buyers (62 percent) and lower selling prices (44 percent) (Figure 4).

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



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Mozambique: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 2 (August–October 2021).

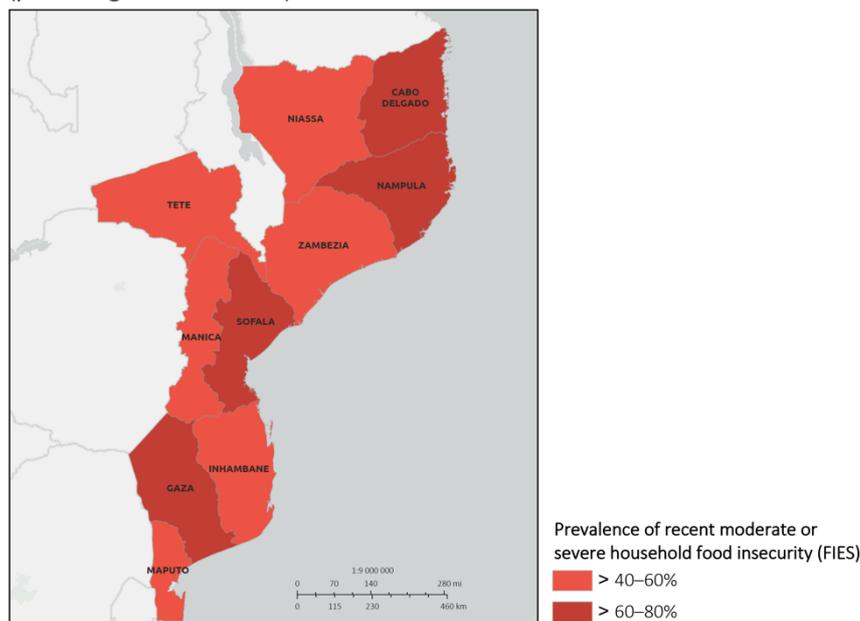
Food security

Based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), 58 percent of households experienced moderate to severe recent food insecurity (RFI), with severe RFI affecting 19 percent. The incidence of moderate or severe RFI was higher among non-agricultural (64 percent) than agricultural households (57 percent) and considerably higher among those affected by income shocks (65 percent) than those not affected (48 percent). The provinces with the highest prevalence of moderate or severe RFI were Nampula (at 68 percent), Sofala (67 percent) and Gaza (64 percent).

These results are largely consistent with Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) results, which indicated that Nampula (with 44 percent), Sofala (with 31 percent) and Gaza (with 22 percent) were among the provinces with the highest share of households resorting to Emergency-level coping strategies (Figure 5).

Based on Household Dietary Diversity Scores (HDDS), 14 percent of respondent households had low dietary diversity, 39 percent had moderate dietary diversity and the remaining 47 percent had high dietary diversity. Dietary diversity appeared to be negatively associated with RFI: the prevalence of moderate or severe RFI was considerably higher among households with a low dietary diversity (88 percent) than those with high dietary diversity (43 percent).

Figure 5. Prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity (based on FIES results), by province (percentage of households)



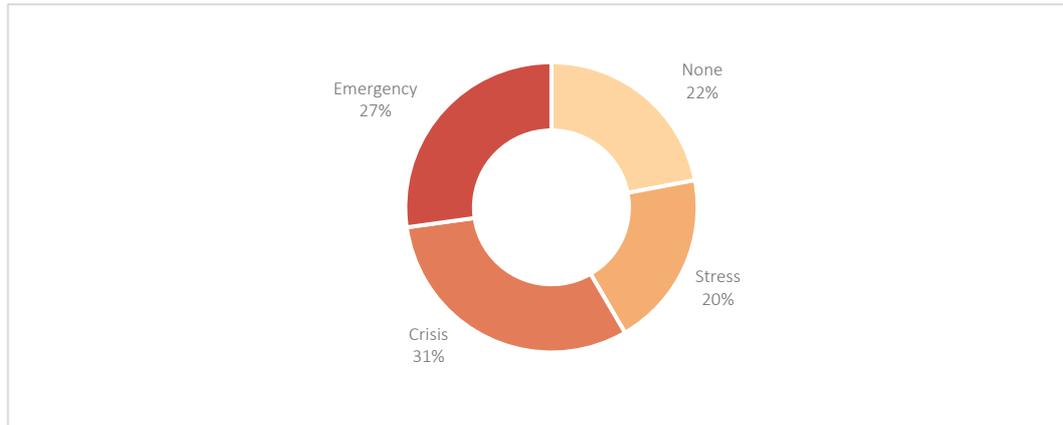
Source of data: FAO. 2021. Mozambique: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 2 (August–October 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Mozambique*. Cited 8 March 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

In addition, a sizable share of households (58 percent) had resorted to either Crisis- (31 percent) or Emergency-level (27 percent) coping strategies in the 30 days preceding the interview (Figure 6). The most commonly reported strategies included eating seed stocks (45 percent of households who resorted to coping strategies), decreasing expenditures on agricultural inputs (43 percent) and selling productive assets (32 percent). Employing these strategies could

potentially lead to reduced harvest and disrupt income generation – especially given the high percentage of crop-producing households across all provinces.

Figure 6. Coping strategies employed (based on LCSl), (percentage of households)

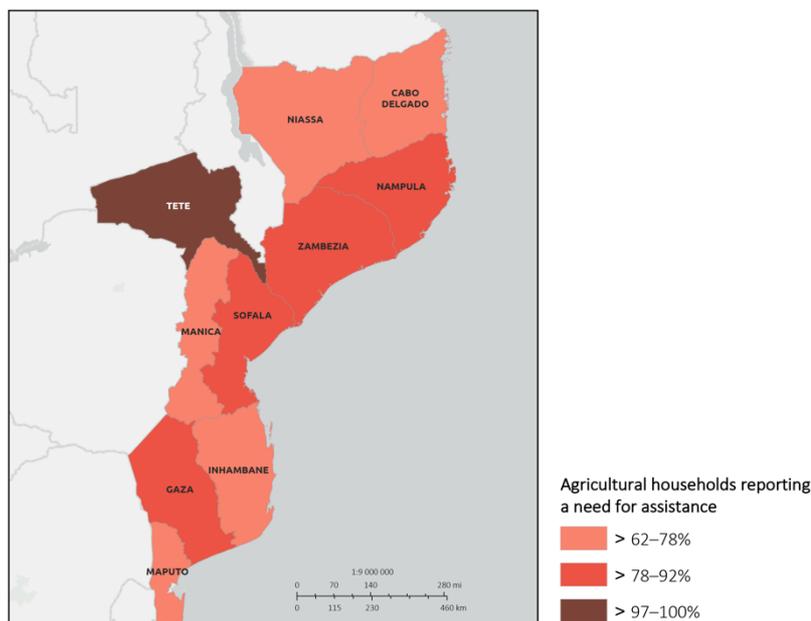


Source of data: FAO. 2021. Mozambique: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 2 (August–October 2021).

Needs

The need for assistance with agricultural production in the coming six months after the interview was reported by 82 percent of respondents, with the highest concentration of need in Tete province (Figure 7). The most commonly cited needs were for: seeds (by 54 percent), tools (33 percent), fertilizer (30 percent) and cash assistance (30 percent) (Figure 8). The percentage of households expressing the need for agricultural production assistance was comparable among shock-affected households and those not affected by shocks. Among all households, 95 percent did not receive any assistance in the three months preceding the interview.

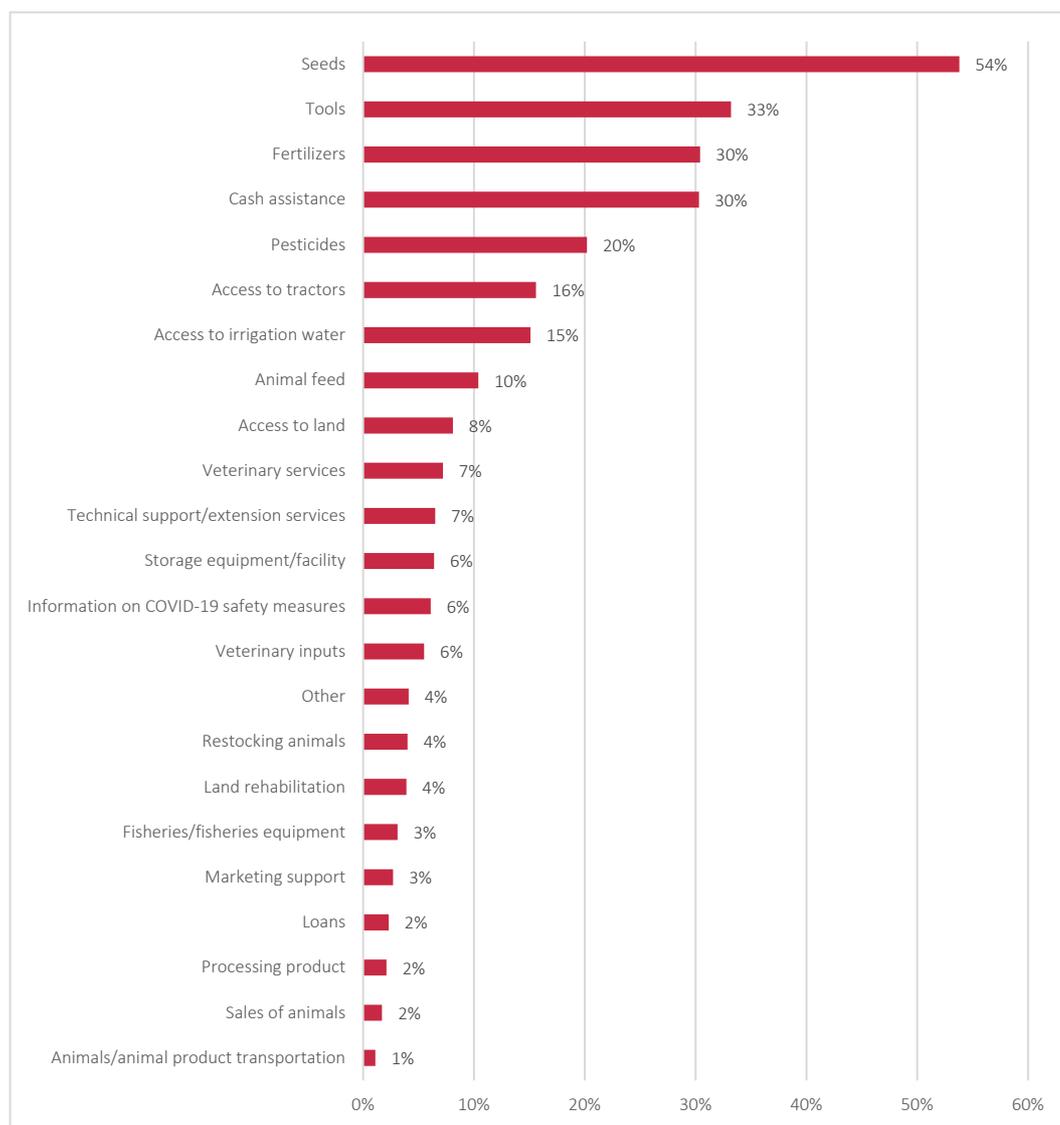
Figure 7. Households reporting the need for assistance, by province (percentage)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Mozambique: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 2 (August–October 2021).

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Mozambique*. Cited 7 February 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Figure 8. Most-reported needs for assistance (percentage of households)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. Mozambique: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results, round 2 (August–October 2021).

Recommendations

- > Considering that more than half of households experienced income shocks – especially income reduction and income shocks associated with COVID-19 restriction measures – the government and development partners should strengthen social protection programmes, including cash transfers complemented with resilience-building initiatives such as diversification of agricultural systems. Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Gaza provinces should be given special attention.
- > Given that the majority of crop producers expected harvest reduction across all provinces due mainly to limited access to yield-enhancing agricultural inputs and low resilience to shocks such as extreme weather, agricultural programmes promoting low-external-input, climate-smart and agro-ecological technologies to increase production and productivity should be given special attention. These programmes should be complemented by strengthened early warning systems to inform anticipatory actions.
- > Local support programmes to households – especially those relying heavily on agricultural production – should be prioritized, including through the provision of certified seeds, fertilizers, tools and other productive assets. Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces deserve higher priority.
- > The finding that the majority of livestock owners experienced a reduction in herd size (mainly due to livestock death and poor health) suggests the need to prioritize livestock-productivity programmes promoting good animal husbandry – especially disease control and animal nutrition. Assistance interventions should be tailed towards specificities of the main animals in each province.
- > This brief shows that recent food insecurity remains quite high in Mozambique, especially in the provinces of Nampula, Sofala and Gaza. It is therefore recommended that assistance interventions focus on improving food availability at the household level while building resilience among the most food-insecure households.



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This version of the brief has been revised for accuracy.

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