



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Bangladesh

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 5

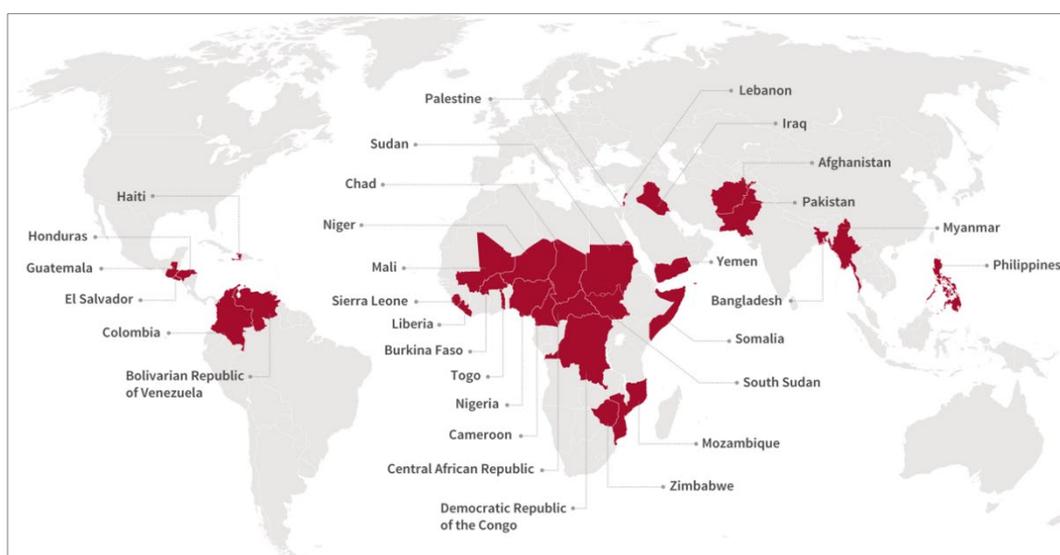
Results and recommendations
May 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in Bangladesh through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. This fifth-round survey utilized a random sample of 2 079 households across all divisions of the country. Households were surveyed over the telephone to monitor the impacts of shocks on livelihoods and food security.

The data, collected from 17 March to 2 April 2022, were weighted by the demographics of the division, urban/rural setting and the material of the house walls as a proxy for wealth.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World*. Cited 6 April 2022. www.un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

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.

About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO 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.

At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of Bangladesh and other countries.

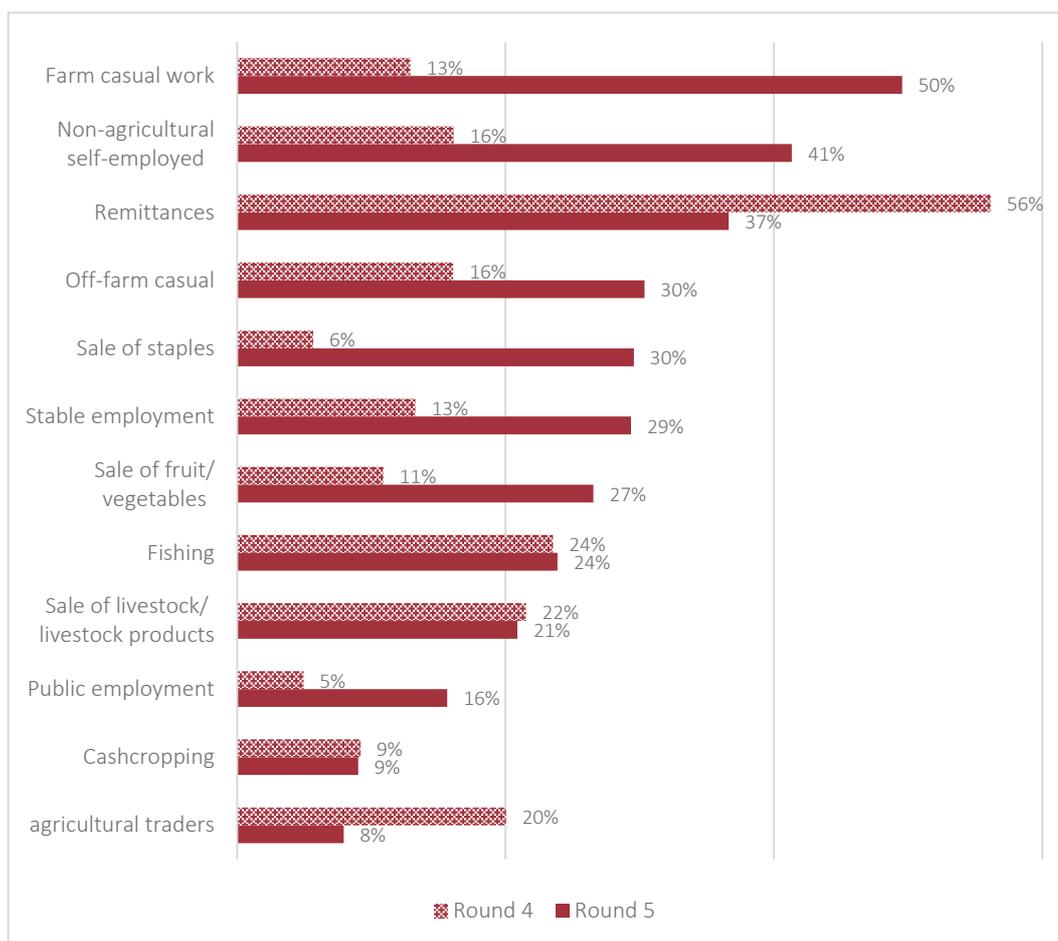
> Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

The most frequent shocks were unchanged from previous rounds and included sickness/death in the household, higher food prices and job losses. The frequency of sickness/death in the household increased from 18 percent in the previous round of data collected in October and November 2021 to 29 percent this round. Differences in the prevalence of economic shocks across divisions and hotspots¹ include a higher frequency of reported loss of employment in Barisal, Rajshahi and the hotspot of Barind; and high prices which affected Dhaka and Rajshahi.

In the round of data collected in April and May 2021, households relying on livestock were disproportionately affected by shocks and income losses. The trend was reversed in the October-November round, but in the current round, shocks affected households with livestock more than crop producers and non-agricultural households. The income from agricultural trade and farm labour declined the most, and agricultural sales mostly decreased for about a quarter of respondents (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of households reporting a drop in income by source



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–April 2022).

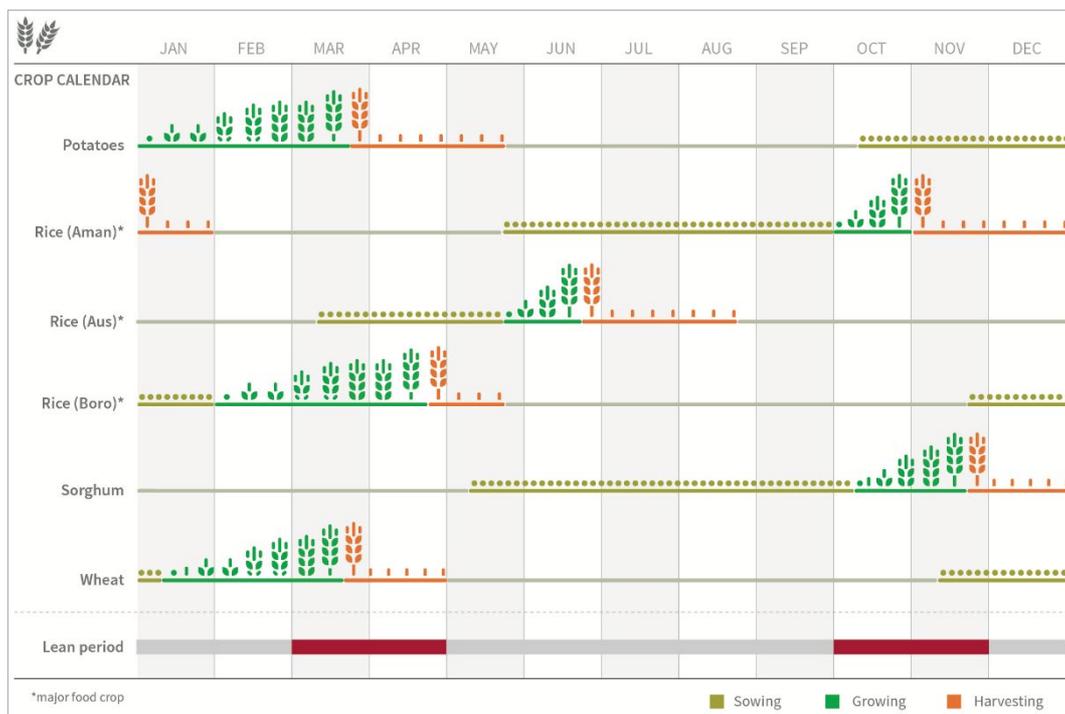
¹ Hotspots were developed by the [Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100](#), and take into account the Delta's distinct hydrological regions, and the type and magnitude of the natural hazards in each. There are six geographic hotspots: 1) Coastal Zones; 2) Barind and Drought Prone Areas; 3) Haor and Flash Flood Areas; 4) Chattogram Hill Tracts; 5) River System and Estuaries; and 6) Urban Areas. A seventh, cross-cutting hotspot addresses common issues that cut across the six geographical hotspots.

Crops

Eighty-five percent of rice farmers planted the same area or more compared to the previous round. Constraints to production remained the same and included plant diseases, access to pesticides, crop damages/losses, lack of water and access to fertilizer (Figure 4). Compared to the previous round, access to machinery, fuel/electricity and labour became less frequently cited difficulties; and access to seeds, fertilizer, lack of water and plant diseases were cited more. Some constraints affected certain districts more than others such as plant diseases which were particularly problematic in Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet; access to pesticides which was most difficult for farmers in Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi; damages/losses which were most frequent in Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet; and lack of water was most concentrated in Barisal and Dhaka.

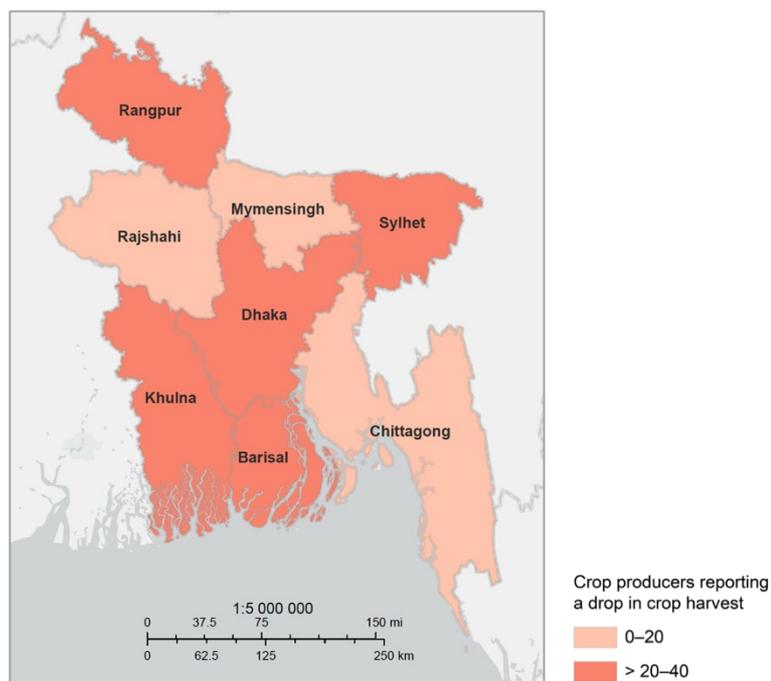
In this round, harvest expectations were reported as average/good, except for 20 percent of farmers. Thirteen percent cited marketing difficulties (compared to 81 percent during the previous round), however only 20 percent of farmers sold crops in the three months preceding the survey.

Figure 3. Bangladesh crop calendar



Source of data: FAO. 2021. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Bangladesh. In: *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. Rome. Cited 24 May 2022. fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=BGD

Figure 4. Percentage of crop producers reporting a decrease in production



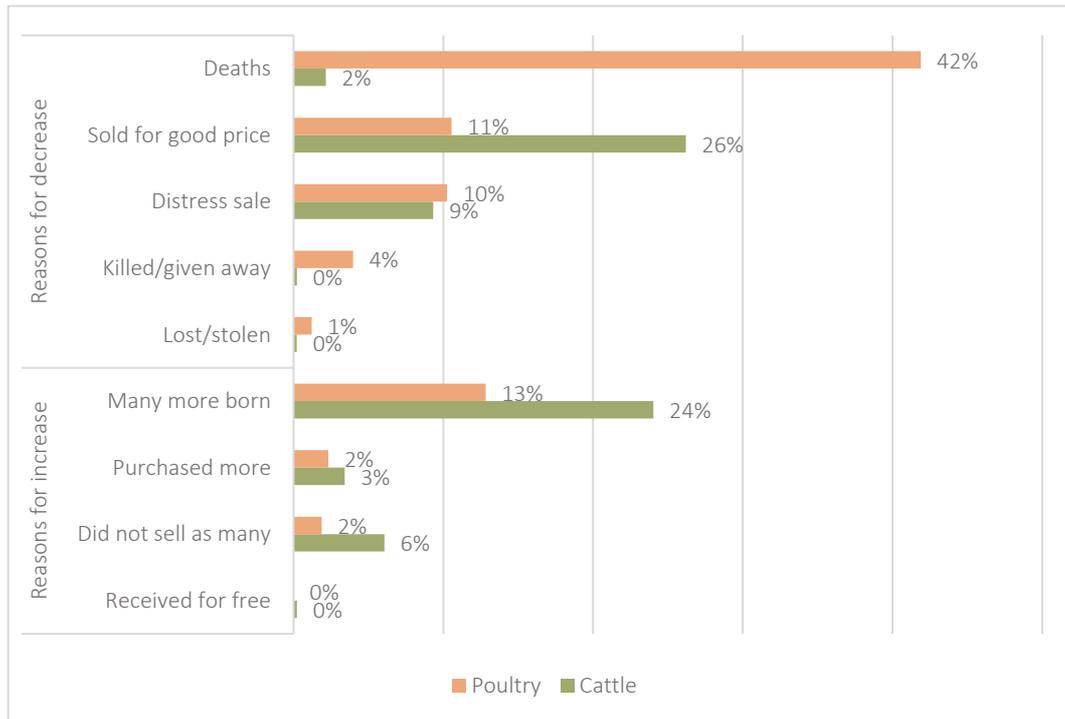
Source of data: FAO. 2022. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–April 2022).
Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Bangladesh*. Cited 25 May 2022.
<https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Livestock

Herds/flock size decreased for 74 percent of cattle and 80 percent of poultry producers. An increase in cattle herds was attributed to a favourable breeding cycle (Figure 5). Despite distress sales still being reported, herds also decreased for households taking advantage of good selling prices. Poultry death remains a concern and is concentrated in Chittagong and Dhaka. Difficulties feeding animals remained the most frequent, across all species, particularly in Dhaka and Rajshahi.

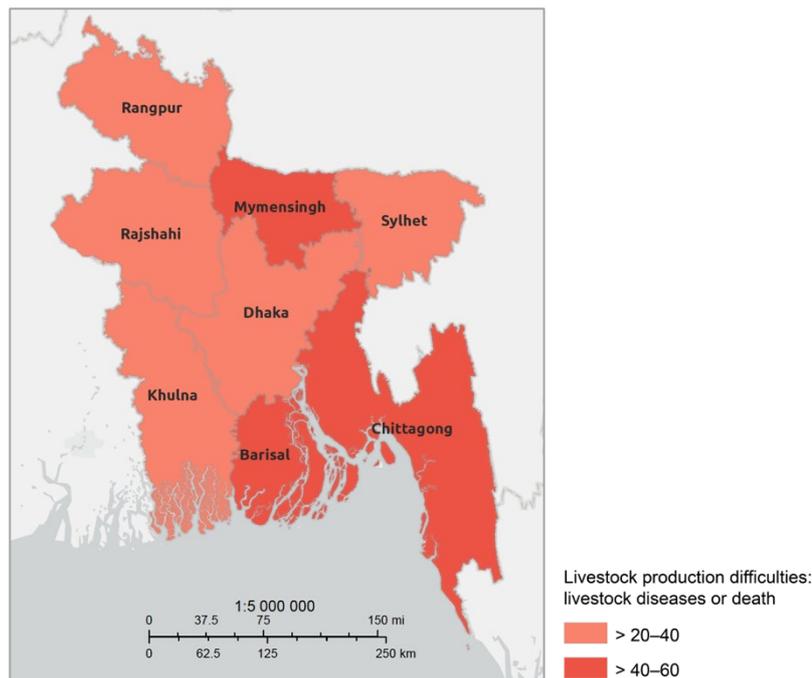
Compared to the previous round, the difficulties in cattle and poultry production remained similar. For cattle, access to veterinary services was reported as a much more frequent constraint, and death and disease decreased (Figure 6). For poultry, death and disease continued to be the main difficulty, coupled with more frequent problems like accessing drugs and other inputs. Other survey findings indicated that relying on self-produced fodder was associated with difficulties in accessing feed and, despite an increase in marketing costs, conditions have improved, particularly for cattle.

Figure 5. Reported reasons for variation in herds compared to the previous round (percentage of households engaged in livestock production)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–April 2022).

Figure 6. Percentage of livestock producers reporting diseases/death



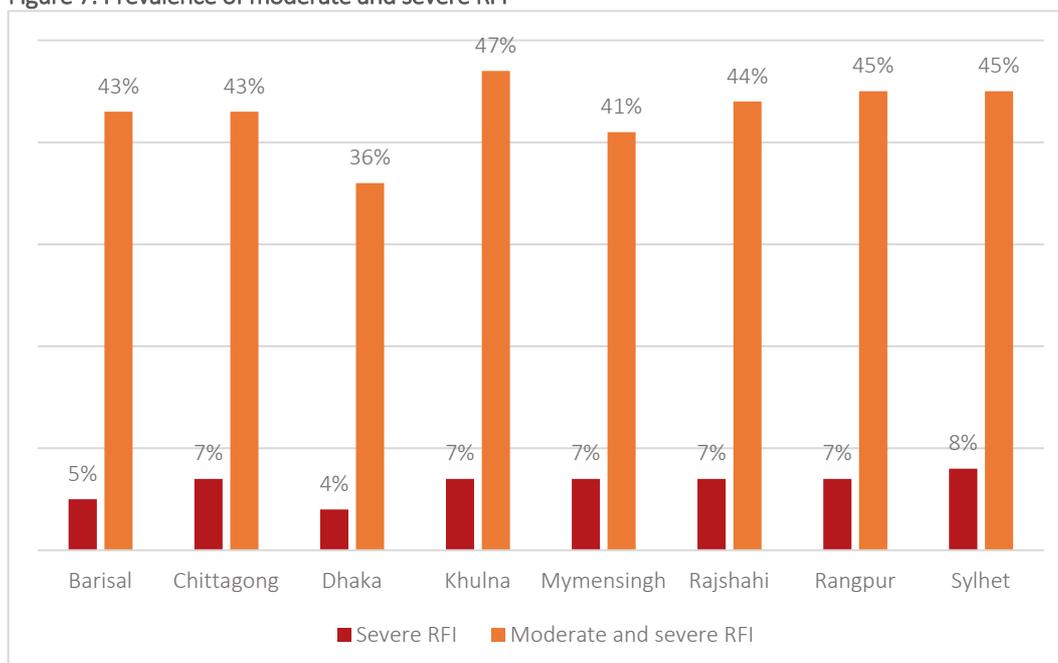
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Food security

At an aggregate level, food consumption has improved since the last round, but has not reached the level of April-May 2021 following the harvest. The Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) has also improved, with the percentage of households with crisis or emergency coping strategies moving from 21 percent in April-May 2021, to 57 percent in October-November 2021, to 48 percent in the current round. The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) improved in all divisions, with the exception of Khulna, and the share of households with low dietary diversity remains high in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur. The share of households depleting assets (crisis and emergency) increased in Khulna and Sylhet, and in the hotspots of Haor and the coastal zone. The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) also identified the highest prevalence of recent food insecurity (RFI) in Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Rangpur (Figure 7).

Shocks are likely to have had an impact on food consumption and livelihoods, but the worst outcomes were found among less wealthy households, suggesting that chronic and structural characteristics, such as poverty, determined vulnerability to shocks.

Figure 7. Prevalence of moderate and severe RFI



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Bangladesh: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–April 2022).

Needs

Cash assistance was the most reported need cited by 68 percent of respondents, and by 84 percent of non-agricultural households.

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

- > Improve access to veterinary services, particularly for poultry, and in the Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions.
- > Implement asset-building interventions to support agricultural livelihoods, as a means of building resilience to shocks, particularly in Sylhet, Khulna and Chittagong.

Long-term recommendations

- > Despite close to normal precipitation recorded in recent years, an important share of farmers reported lack of water, round after round. Water management and retention interventions at community levels should be piloted nationwide, but with a priority in the southern part of the country. These interventions could be combined with cash-for-work or other social protection activities.
- > Given the high proportion of farmers reporting plant diseases and problems accessing pesticides, FAO should promote extension services on the correct, judicious and efficient use of pesticides.



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