



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Somalia

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 4

Results and recommendations
July 2022

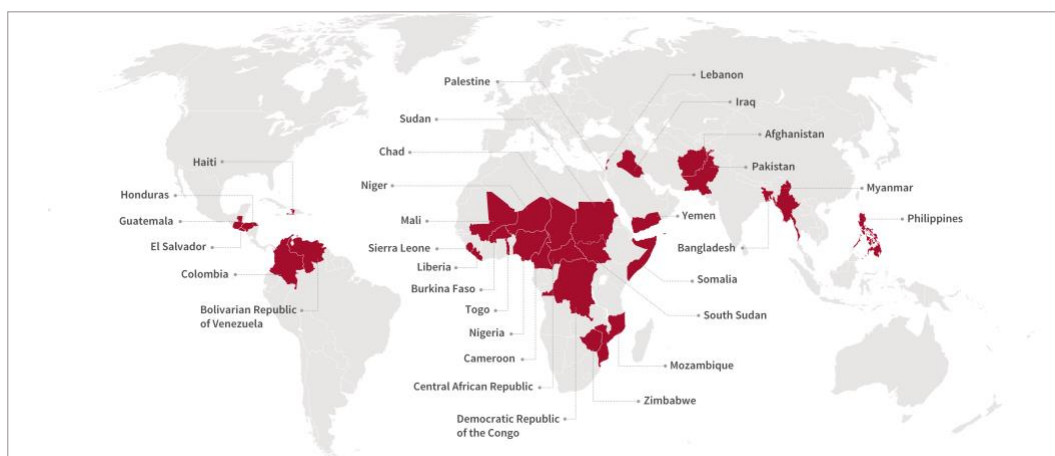
Data collection 7 April to 27 May 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in Somalia through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. This fourth-round survey utilized panel data and random digital dialing (RDD) techniques reaching 2 950 households, approximately 160 agricultural households per region. Nugaal, Sanaag and Middle Juba regions were not representative at a regional level because there were fewer than 90 households interviewed in each of these regions.

All the regions of Somalia were targeted for data collection except Banadir. Therefore, 17 out of 18 regions were surveyed. The surveys were conducted from 7 April 2022 to 27 May 2022 through computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). The delay in data collection was due to the Eid holidays and political instability. The previous third-round survey was conducted from 23 July to 17 August 2021 and is drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *DIEM-Monitoring*. Rome. Cited 6 April 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World*. Cited 6 April 2022. 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.

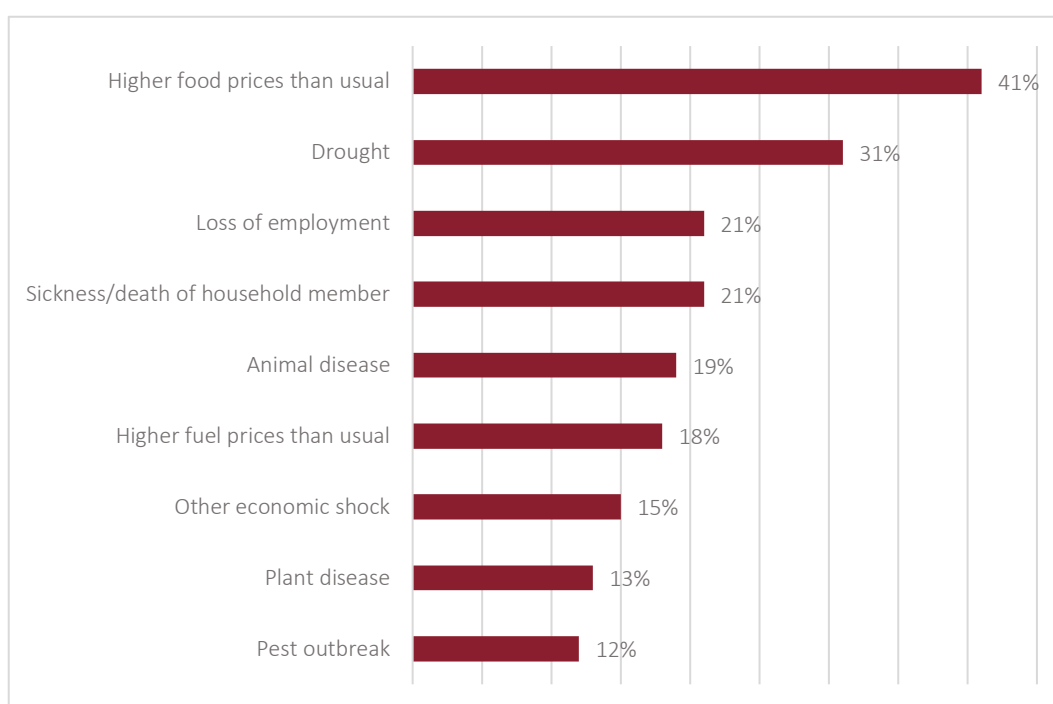
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of Somalia and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

Of the surveyed households, 83 percent reported at least one shock in the three months preceding the survey. This represents a large increase compared to the previous round where 23 percent of the surveyed households reported at least one shock. The main shocks reported this round included higher-than-usual food prices (41 percent) – compared to 9 percent during round three – drought (32 percent) and fuel prices (18 percent). In round three, less than 10 percent and only 3 percent of households cited drought and fuel prices, respectively, as a main shock, representing a considerable increase in round four (Figure 2). Higher food prices were reported across the country, with the main drivers being the severe ongoing drought and rising global food and fuel prices, partially attributed to the war in Ukraine.

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022). Rome. Cited 10 July 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

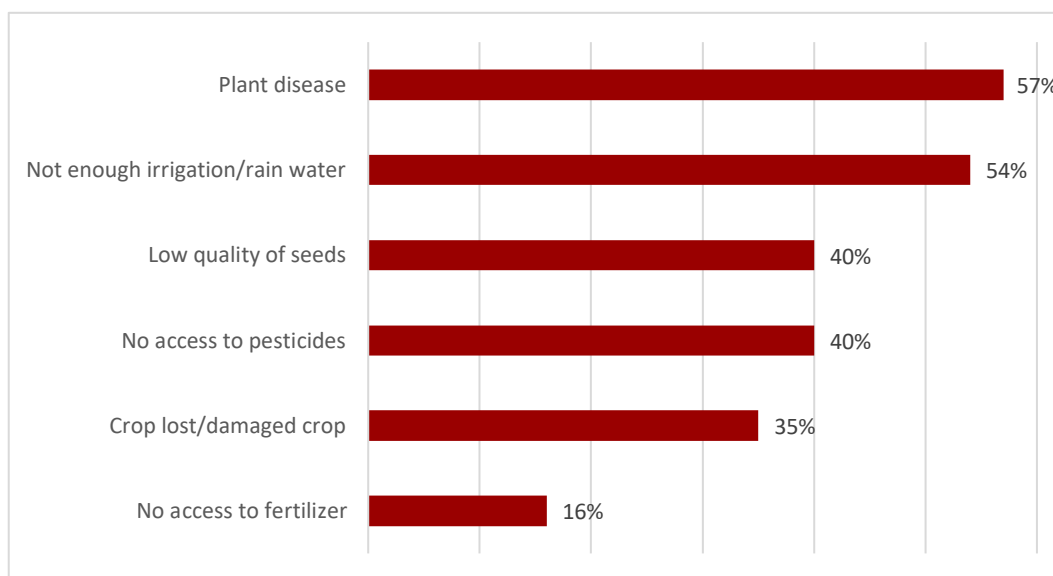
Twenty-one percent of surveyed households reported that their primary income source during the past three months was livestock keeping and the sale of livestock products, while about 18 percent reported that their primary income source was farming, production and the sale of cereals. About 15 percent were self-employed in non-farming activities and 9 percent were only able to access food and other necessities by accumulating debt. Twenty-four percent of households had a secondary source of income and 5 percent reported a third income source. Compared to a normal year, 70 percent reported a decrease in their main income source in the three months preceding the survey, 14 percent of households reported an increase and 11 percent indicated no change in main income source.

Crops

Data collection occurred between April and May 2022, which was after the *Deyr* season. Off-season harvests had been completed, and it was the same time as the first half of the *Gu* cropping season in Somalia. Given that it was still early in the *Gu* season, the surveyed households were asked about the performance of the 2021 *Deyr* season that had recently ended. According to remote sensing data released by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), rainfall performance during the 2021 *Deyr* season was below-average, resulting in a third consecutive below-average rainy season for much of the country.

The majority of the surveyed cropping households (67 percent) relied on rain for agriculture. During the 2021 *Deyr* season, maize, millet, sorghum and beans were the principal crops grown. Overall, 72 percent of households reported cropping difficulties in the *Deyr* season, up from 44 percent in the third round. These difficulties included plant diseases, which were reported by 57 percent of households, an increase from 31 percent in the previous round. Additionally, 54 percent of households experienced crop production difficulties during the growing season due to lack of access to irrigation or rainfall water, up from 32 percent in the previous round of data collection. Low seed quality affected 40 percent (up from 30 percent in the previous round), lack of insecticides affected 40 percent in comparison to 30 percent in the previous round, crop damage affected 35 percent (slightly higher than the 29 percent reported in the previous round), and lack of fertilizer affected 16 percent in comparison to 21 percent in the previous round (Figure 3). The majority of households relied on market purchases for seed (82 percent) and 41 percent relied on their own production.

Figure 3. Main difficulties affecting crop producers (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022). Rome. Cited 10 July 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Half of the interviewed households experienced crop marketing challenges that comprised of low farm-gate prices reported by 53 percent of households, high transportation costs (56 percent), reduced demand (36 percent) and access to the market (18 percent) due to the lack of infrastructure.

Of the cropping households, 65 percent reported that they reduced the area planted in the *Deyr* season. In addition to combined shocks and cropping challenges, 66 percent of households reported that the crop yield decreased compared to a normal year. In Bay, Gedo, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Sool and Waqooyi Galbeed over 70 percent of interviewed households reported reduced yield in the *Deyr* season.

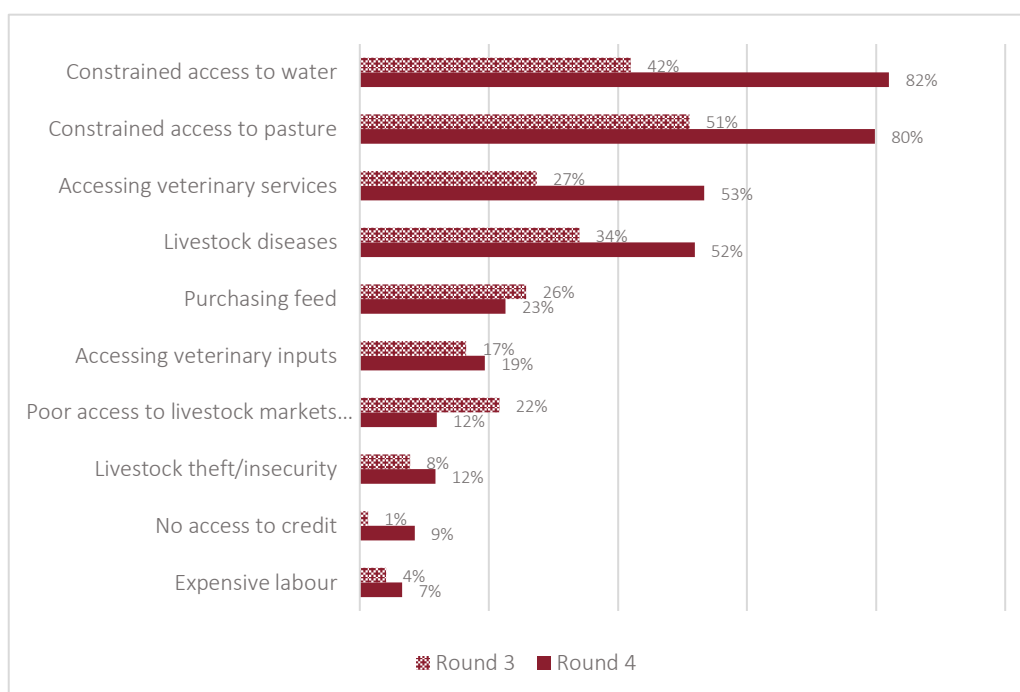
This survey requested responses following the poor 2021 *Deyr* season. The following 2022 *Gu* season, which runs from April to June, also performed extremely poorly, with many areas of Somalia, particularly central and northern areas, resulting in one of the lowest quantities of rain ever recorded during a *Gu* season. According to the FEWS NET report issued in June 2022, this resulted in an unprecedented fourth consecutive below-average rainy season. A well below-average harvest is expected in July 2022, driving further deterioration in food security.

Livestock

Survey results indicated that the main livestock reared by households included goats, cattle and camels. There was a decrease in herd size reported by most households (94 percent). This decrease was attributed to death due to poor health or injury (87 percent), distress sales due to urgent household basic needs or fear of not being able to feed the animal (35 percent), killing of animals for household consumption (32 percent) and loss (21 percent).

Livestock production difficulties were reported by 78 percent of households and included: lack of access to water (82 percent) and pasture (79 percent), lack of access to veterinary services (54 percent), livestock diseases (52 percent), high cost of feed (22 percent) and difficulty accessing veterinary inputs (19 percent) (Figure 4). The majority of pastoral households (60 percent) reported difficulties marketing livestock products. The difficulties comprised of low livestock prices (78 percent), high transportation costs (44 percent) and low demand for animals (40 percent).

Figure 4. Main difficulties affecting livestock producers (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July–August 2021 and April–May 2022). Rome. Cited 10 July 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Compared to the previous round, there was a significant increase in the percentage of livestock rearing households identifying access to water as a challenge they faced, almost doubling from 42 percent in the previous round to 82 percent. Limited access to pasture has also been a significant concern, with the proportion rising from 51 percent in the previous round to 80 percent in this round. Additionally, access to veterinary services has increased by a factor of two and the percentage of respondents reporting livestock diseases increased from 34 percent to 52 percent. However, compared to the previous round, fewer households reported difficulties buying feed and having limited access to the livestock market.

Food security

According to the IPC analysis conducted in May 2022, 7.1 million people, which is almost half of the population of Somalia, were projected to be in crisis or worse food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) including 4.7 million people in crisis (IPC Phase 3), 2.1 million people in emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 213 000 in catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) between June and September 2022. Nugaal, Mudug, Galgaduud, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle, Bakool, Bay and Banaadir all had populations in catastrophe (IPC phase 5). The analysis also found an increased risk of famine in several areas of southern and central Somalia through September 2022. As of May 2022, an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five face acute malnutrition, including 386 400 who are likely to be severely malnourished through the end of 2022.

Of the surveyed households, 46 percent have a high dietary diversity score (HDDS) (IPC indicative phases 1 and 2), about 42 percent have medium HDDS (IPC indicative phase 3) and about 12 percent are experiencing low HDDS (IPC indicative phase 4 and 5).

According to the household hunger scale, about 58 percent of respondent households experienced moderate hunger (indicative IPC phase 3), with about 7 percent experiencing severe hunger (indicative IPC phases 4 and 5). The remaining 18 and 17 percent experienced slight or no hunger, respectively. The regions with the highest percentage of households experiencing moderate or severe hunger included: Bari (75 percent), Bakool (74 percent), Hiiraan (72 percent), Sool (71 percent), Bay (71 percent), Galgaduud (67 percent), Lower Shabelle (67 percent), Middle Shabelle (66 percent), Gedo (65 percent) and Mudug (62 percent).

Over 59 percent of interviewed households engaged in emergency coping strategies to access income and food, with 27 percent engaging in crisis coping strategies, 13 percent engaging in stress coping strategies (Figure 5). Only 1 percent of the surveyed households reported not having to engage in any coping strategies. In Bakool, Bari and Bay, 70, 73 and 66 percent of households, respectively, employed emergency coping strategies to access food and income.

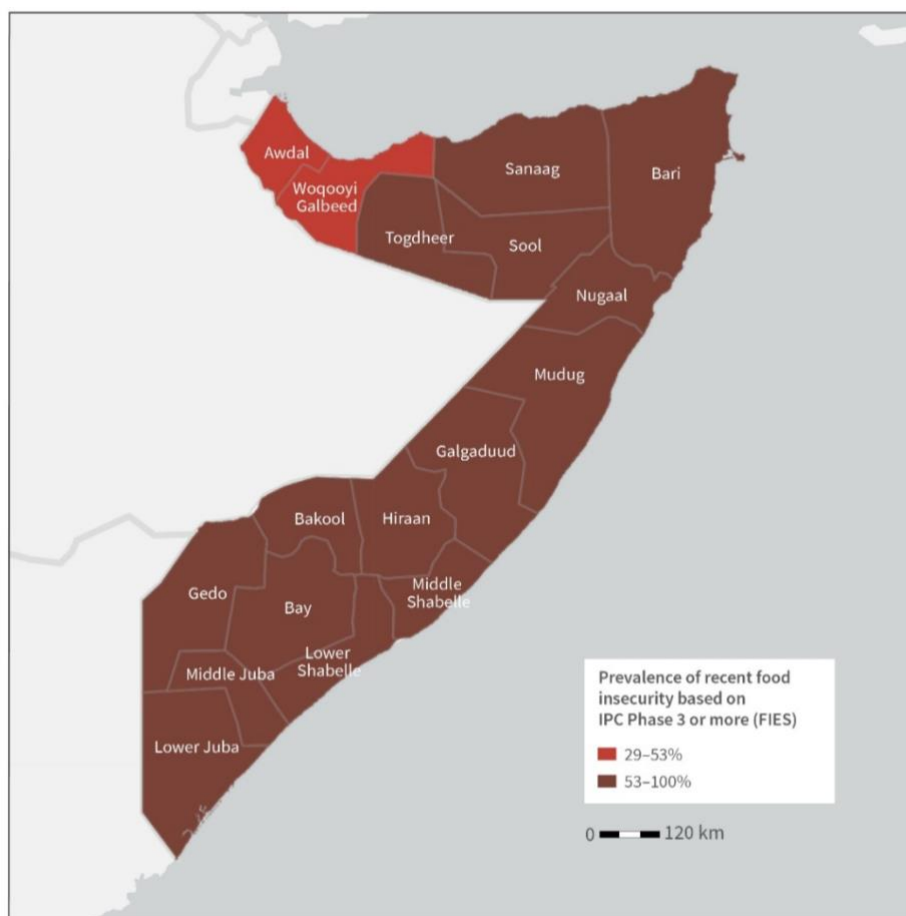
Figure 5. Livelihood coping strategies (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022). Rome. Cited 10 July 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Compared to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) results from the previous round, the fourth-round of data collection reveals increased food insecurity. FIES estimates that the prevalence of moderate and severe recent food insecurity (RFI) is 73 percent (± 2.3) up from 47 percent in the previous round. FIES also indicates that severe RFI is estimated at 33 percent (± 1.1), up from 18 percent. Furthermore, when the FIES threshold is in line with the definitions adopted in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 58 percent (± 2.5) had moderate RFI, in line with IPC Phase 3 or above. All of the regions that were surveyed had high levels of severe RFI, although Bay, Bakool, Hiiraan, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Middle Jubba, Middle Shabelle, Nugaal, Sanaag and Sool had the highest levels of severe food insecurity (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Prevalence of recent food insecurity based on IPC Phase 3 or more (FIES)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Somalia: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (April–May 2022). Rome. Cited 10 July 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Somalia*. Cited 21 June 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Needs

Somalia is one of the countries that has been worst hit by the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa, following four consecutive failed agricultural seasons with the prospect of a fifth. According to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Somalia, 7.7 million people are in need.

The majority of the surveyed households (98 percent) stated a need for assistance in the next 3–6 months. The needs prioritized by households included cash or food assistance (90 percent), access to irrigation water (40 percent), seeds (34 percent), veterinary services (29 percent), animal feed (26 percent), animal restocking (19 percent), and veterinary inputs (19 percent).

Of the surveyed cropping households, the top priorities reported were cash and food (85 percent), seeds (69 percent), access to irrigation water (49 percent), access to equipment such as tractors (30 percent), fertilizer (25 percent) and loans (19 percent). More than 80 percent of households countrywide reported needing food and cash assistance, showing that there were no significant regional differences in this regard. Pastoral households reported needs including cash and food assistance (90 percent), access to water for their animals (41 percent), animal feed (44 percent), veterinary services (43 percent), veterinary inputs (28 percent), restocking animals (28 percent) and loans (21 percent). Non-agricultural households, meanwhile, cited cash and food (90 percent) and loans (19 percent) as their prioritized needs.

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

- > Food assistance, cash transfers, and supplementary feeding are urgently needed to save lives.
- > Water trucking for the provision of safe drinking water and water for domestic use is recommended to prevent water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases at a household level.
- > Distribute agricultural inputs such as organic fertilizer, farm tools and equipment.
- > Scale up veterinary services and inputs, such as vaccinations and medicines, to curb livestock pests and diseases. Conduct animal feed distributions and encourage off-take programmes by the government to buy livestock in poor health in the context of the current drought.

Long-term recommendations (6 months and beyond)

- > Scale up and provide climate and pest resilient seed varieties to farmers to increase crop production.
- > Repair and expand irrigation infrastructure, especially along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, to increase productivity and supply food to other parts of the country.
- > Invest in bore hole construction, and water harvesting and storage techniques to curb water shortages during the dry season.
- > Protect farmers from exploitation at farm-gate level and link farmers to markets. Enable farmers to have access to accurate market information and training on finance and negotiation skills.
- > Support farmers to create cooperatives to market their products through and help them to advocate for increased support from the government and non-governmental groups.



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