Nigeria

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 5

Results and recommendations
January 2024

Data collection 11 to 30 October 2023
Key highlights

> At least three out of ten surveyed households reported experiencing a shock in the three months preceding the survey. The most reported shock was unusually high fuel or transport costs.

> About 27 percent of the respondent crop producers reported facing difficulties with production. The most reported difficulties were plant pests and diseases (30 and 38 percent, respectively), followed by access to fertilizer (29 percent) and soil erosion (21 percent).

> Livestock producers reported difficulties purchasing feed (51 percent), livestock disease or injury (39 percent), and difficulties accessing pasture (27 percent) and veterinary services (26 percent).

> According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), about 15 percent of the respondents experienced moderate or severe recent food insecurity, and 1 percent experienced the prevalence of severe recent food insecurity.

> Crop producers reported the need for inputs for crop and/or vegetable production (73 percent), followed by the need for infrastructure (21 percent), and training and technical knowledge or advice for crop and vegetable production (18 percent). Livestock producers reported the need for livestock feed (54 percent), followed by the need for veterinary services (39 percent) and livestock infrastructure (25 percent).

> It is recommended that cash+ be integrated into emergency assistance programming and that trainings on integrated pest and disease management, and soil conservation be intensified, while local veterinary services and rearing of improved livestock breeds to manage livestock diseases and boost livestock productivity are promoted.
Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in Nigeria through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. This fifth-round survey was conducted through computer-assisted telephone interviews from 11 October to 30 October 2023 and reached 3,306 households. Data collection took place at the peak of the rainy season, before or at the onset of harvest across five states: Adamawa, Borno, Katsina, Yobe and Zamfara. Data were collected at administrative level 2 in Zamfara, across all 14 local government areas. Data were weighted using population counts.

The fourth-round survey, which has been drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief, was conducted between 11 February and 1 March 2023, during the lean season. The third-round survey was conducted between 23 September and 24 October 2022, at the beginning of the harvest season, and the second-round survey was conducted between 26 June and 8 July 2022, during the planting period.

Figure 1: Countries with an established DIEM-Monitoring System


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 Nigeria and other countries.

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

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1 Nigeria has a total of 774 local government areas administered by a local government council.
Income and shocks

At least 32 percent of the surveyed households reported having faced a shock over the three months preceding the survey. The main shocks reported were unusually high fuel or transport prices (12 percent), unusually high food prices (9 percent), sickness, accident or death of a household member (7 percent), animal disease or animal death (6 percent), and crop pest outbreak and plant disease (5 percent, each) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)

The main sources of income reported were the production and sale of staple crops (39 percent), the production and sale of cash crops (8 percent), and the production and sale of livestock and livestock products (39 percent). A decrease in the main source of income over the three months preceding the survey, compared to the same period in a typical year, was reported by 9 percent of respondent households.
Fifty-five percent of the surveyed households were crop producers. About 27 percent of the respondents reported to have experienced crop production difficulties. The most reported crop production difficulties were plant diseases (38 percent) – especially in Borno (44 percent) and Yobe (41 percent) – pests (30 percent) – especially in Yobe (43 percent) and Adamawa (36 percent) – and access to fertilizer (29 percent) – especially in Zamfara (38 percent), Katsina (33 percent) and Yobe (31 percent) (Figure 4). Another major crop production difficulty was soil erosion reported by 21 percent of respondents, more prominently in Borno (28 percent) and Adamawa (26 percent).
Figure 4. Crop production difficulties reported (percentage of crop producers)

About 49 percent of the respondent crop producers faced difficulties selling crops. The main crop sales difficulties experienced in the three months preceding the survey were high transport or other marketing costs (87 percent), payment delays from traders or buyers, and usual buyers or customers not buying as much as usual or payment delays (21 percent, each).

In Zamfara, access to fertilizer was the most reported crop production difficulty (38 percent), mostly in the local government areas of Bukkuyum (70 percent), Talata Mafara (50 percent) and Maru (48 percent). Other reported crop production difficulties in Zamfara were plant disease (28 percent) – especially in Birnin Magaji (40 percent) and Zurmi (36 percent) – and pest outbreak (26 percent) – particularly in Birnin Magaji (50 percent), Gusau (39 percent) and Gummi (36 percent). Marketing cost was the most reported crop sales difficulty in Zamfara, ranging between 82 and 100 percent across all local government areas. This was followed by

payment delays, especially in Maradun and Bakura (31 percent), and Kaura Namoda (30 percent). When comparing the results to previous rounds, access to agro-inputs, such as fertilizer, remains a top production difficulty along with plant pests and diseases.

Livestock

About 49 percent of the surveyed households were livestock producers. Among them, 26 percent experienced livestock production difficulties. The main livestock production difficulties experienced were difficulties purchasing feed (51 percent) – especially in Zamfara (56 percent) and Borno (53 percent) – livestock disease or death (39 percent) – especially in Katsina (43 percent) and Yobe (42 percent) – access to pasture (27 percent) and access to veterinary services (26 percent) (Figure 5).

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

About 38 percent of the respondent livestock producers experienced difficulties selling livestock. The most reported livestock sales difficulty was high transportation or other marketing cost (83 percent). Other reported sales difficulties were lack of demand from usual traders or buyers (27 percent), and payment delays from traders/buyers (21 percent).
Seventy-two percent of livestock producers reported an increase in the number of livestock compared to last year because many more were born (63 percent). This was probably due to an abundance of pasture in some locations during the rainy season.

In Zamfara, difficulty purchasing feed was the main reported livestock production difficulty across the state, notably in Talata Mafara (79 percent), Bungudu (71 percent) and Maradun (67 percent). Livestock disease was the second most reported livestock production difficulty, especially in Birnin Magaji (50 percent), Gusau (38 percent) and Bungudu (29 percent). Marketing cost was the most reported livestock sales difficulty reported by respondents across all local government areas, ranging between 56 percent in Anka to 100 percent in Birnin Magaji.

When making comparisons to previous rounds, despite the fact that the previous rounds took place during different seasons, difficulty purchasing feed remains one of the most relevant livestock production difficulties at the same level of livestock diseases or death.

Food security

At least 87 percent of the households interviewed had a high level of dietary diversity, as measured with the household dietary diversity score (HDDS), followed by 12 percent of households with a medium level of dietary diversity and 1 percent with a low level of dietary diversity.

According to the household hunger scale (HHS), 97 percent of the households experienced little to no hunger over the three months preceding the survey, while 3 percent experienced moderate hunger.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) indicated that 15 percent of the respondents experienced moderate or severe recent food insecurity, and 0.8 percent experienced the prevalence of severe recent food insecurity (Figure 6).

Most of the households did not employ livelihood coping strategies (65 percent) as measured with the livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI). About 20 percent of the surveyed households put in place stress coping strategies – households mainly spent their savings and borrowed money. About 11 percent of the respondents put in place crisis coping strategies – mainly reducing health expenses – and 4 percent of the respondents employed emergency coping strategies (4 percent) – mainly begging (Figure 7).

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2 FIES results are subject to change. The country scale will continue to evolve over additional rounds of data collection allowing for more consistent comparability across rounds.
Figure 6. Recent food insecurity (FIES)

### Needs

About 86 percent of the surveyed households reported the need for assistance, notably in Zamfara (88 percent) and Katsina (87 percent), and mainly in the form of cash (80 percent).

Crop producers reported the need for inputs for crop and/or vegetable production (73 percent), mostly in Zamfara (50 percent), Adamawa (48 percent), and Katsina and Yobe (46 percent) (Figure 8). This was followed by the need for infrastructure (21 percent), and training and technical knowledge or advice for crop and vegetable production (18 percent).

Livestock producers reported the need for livestock feed (54 percent), mostly in Zamfara (32 percent), Adamawa (30 percent) and Katsina (29 percent), followed by the need for veterinary services (39 percent) and livestock infrastructure livestock (25 percent).
Figure 8. Needs reported by crop and livestock producers (percentage of households)

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

> Integrate cash+ programming for emergency assistance, as many respondents have indicated a preference for cash when compared to agro-inputs.

> Scale up investments in water for production (irrigation infrastructure, livestock watering points, etc.) to support the dry season in the north, off-season and year-round food production, and household income generation.

Medium- to long-term recommendations (6 months and beyond)

> Promote a market system approach linking farmers directly to markets (off-takers) as a means of increasing profitability and stabilization of household incomes. Encourage the formation of produce marketing groups to aggregate produce for marketing, and overcome high transportation and other marketing costs.

> Provide local veterinary services and encourage rearing of improved livestock breeds to manage livestock diseases and boost livestock productivity.

> Intensify training on integrated pest and disease management, and soil conservation to manage pests and diseases.

> Encourage the procurement of locally produced food for food assistance, enhancing the demand for food and increasing household income from crop sales.

> Promote value addition (processing, storage and packaging) to elongate shelf-life, and increase value and demand for farm produce.

> Boost livestock feed production through the integration of crops and pastures, growing pastures on marginal lands — such as borders with other countries — and the collection of crop stover and residue to produce alternative fodder to boost feed supply.

> Boost livestock feed processing through the use of grinding machines that chop and mix crop residue to produce mixed animal feed, and by training livestock producers in the production of multi-nutrient blocks using locally available materials.
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