



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Lebanon

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 3

Results and recommendations
September 2022

Data collection 17 July to 8 August 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with Lebanon's Ministry of Agriculture, conducted a household survey using computer-assisted telephone interviews from 17 July to 8 August 2022.

The survey targeted the agricultural population using contact information from the Lebanon Agricultural Production Survey, a large survey of farming households drawn from the Agricultural Census. It took place across seven governorates – Akkar, Baalbeck El Hermel, Bekaa, El Nabatieh, North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon – with 150 households selected in each governorate using probability proportional to size. A total of 1 050 interviews were completed, in which 98 percent of respondents identified as agricultural households. Data were weighted at the analytical stage to ensure that farm size and regional population distribution were adequately represented. Two previous surveys using the same methodology were carried out between 16 August and 16 September 2021 (Round 1), and 23 March and 13 April 2022 (Round 2).

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring System



Source of data: FAO. 2022. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. 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. 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.

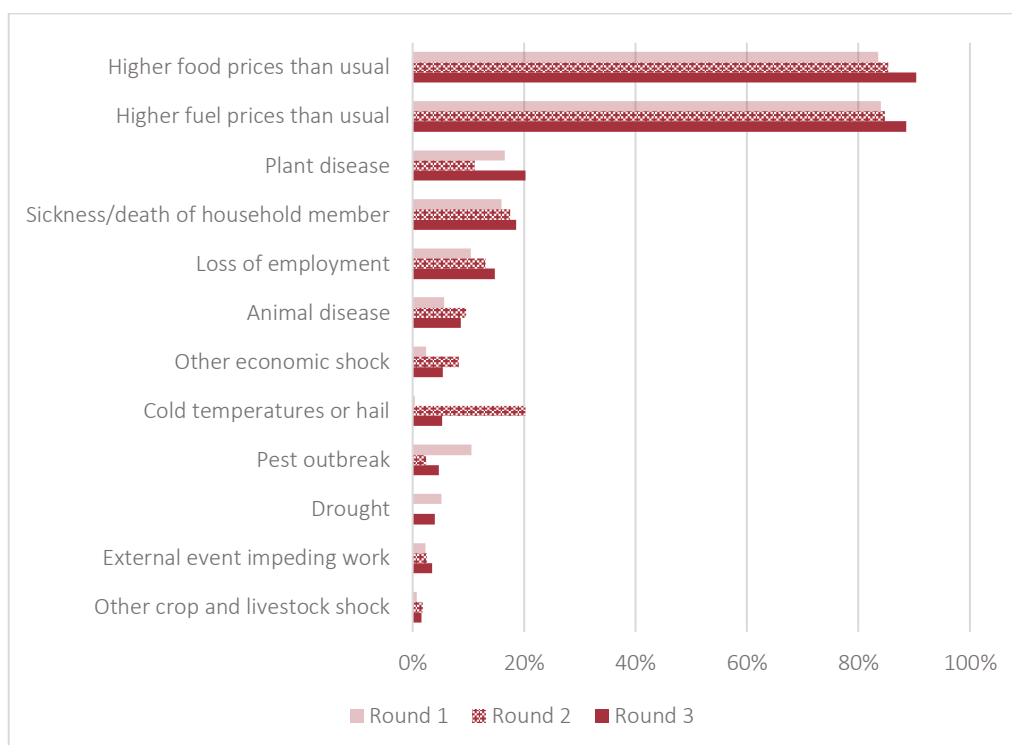
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of Lebanon and other countries.

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

Income and shocks

Around 96 percent of respondents reported experiencing shocks in the three months prior to the survey. High food and fuel prices were the most common shocks cited (90 percent and 87 percent respectively) (Figure 2). These findings are significantly higher than those reported in previous rounds. Inflation in Lebanon topped 200 percent in August 2022.

Figure 2. Main shocks experienced (percentage of respondents)

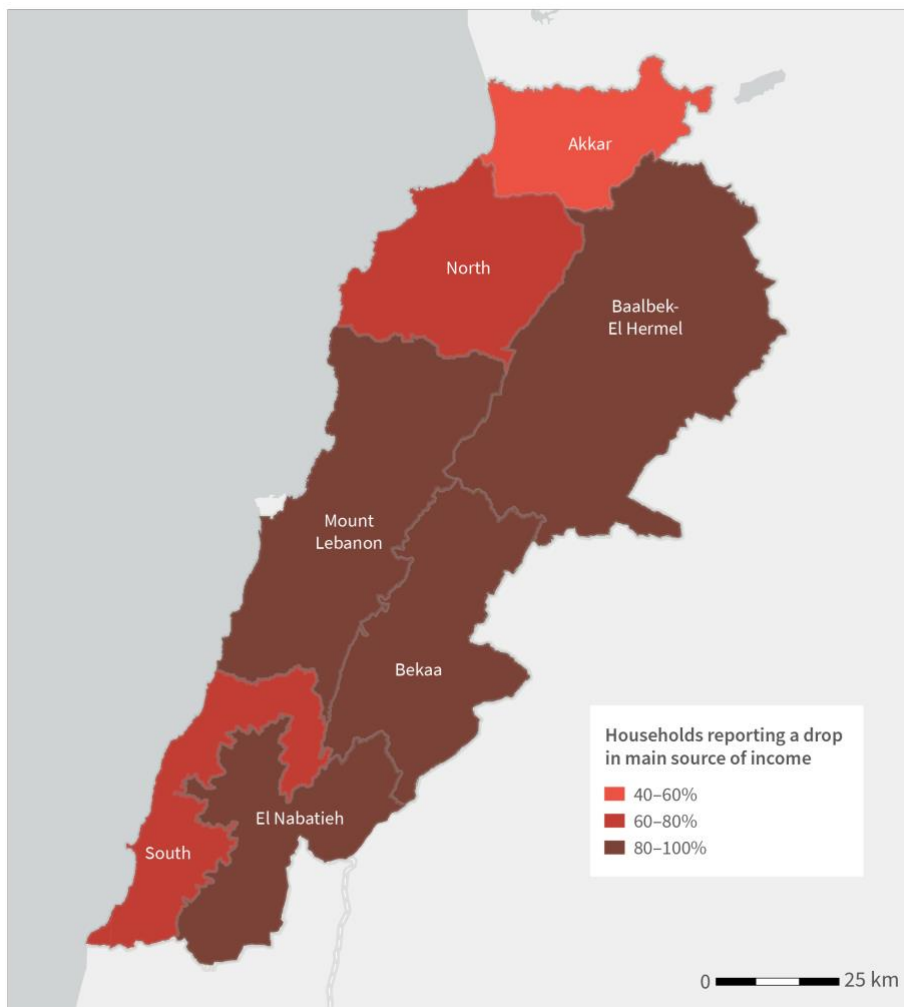


Source of data: FAO. 2022. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August–September 2021; March–April 2022 and July–August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 12 September 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

About 80 percent of the surveyed households (and over 90 percent of female-headed households) reported a decrease in their primary income source in the three months preceding the survey (Figure 3). Households in Akkar fared better than households in other governorates, possibly because farmers were able to sustain or slightly increase their income from the sale of

olive oil and earlier crop production and sales (potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables). Only 12 percent of households still reported being affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

Figure 3. Percentage of households reporting a drop in main source of income



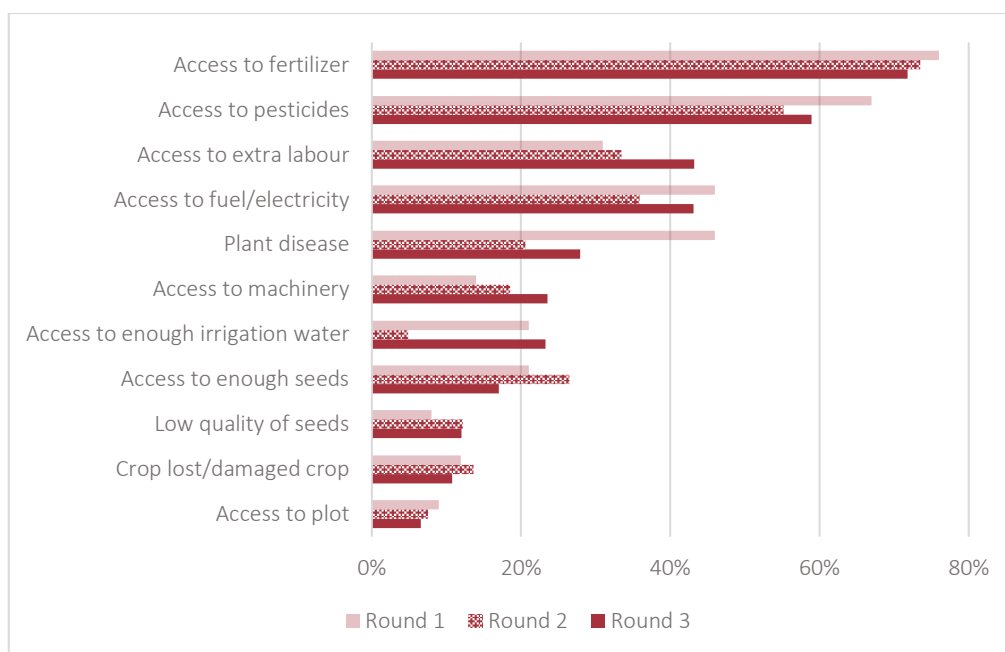
Source of data: FAO. 2022. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March-April 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 12 September 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Lebanon*. Cited 22 June 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore>

Crops

Over 89 percent of the surveyed households involved in agricultural activities were engaged in crop production. Seventy percent of whom were smallholder farmers with land size less than 1 hectare. Over 80 percent of crop producers faced production difficulties, with the most common difficulties being access to fertilizer (72 percent), pesticides (59 percent) and labour (43 percent) (Figure 4). These findings are similar to those of previous rounds as well as the continued reported decline in the expected harvest (by over half of the crop producers) compared to a typical year. The most common crop production difficulties were identical for male and female-headed households.

Figure 4. Main crop production difficulties (percentage of respondents)



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (August–September 2021; March–April 2022 and July–August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 12 September 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Crop area decreased for 18 percent of agricultural households, who were also using less costly agricultural inputs to maintain agricultural activity. The prices of agricultural inputs have been increasing gradually, in parallel with the depreciation of the local currency, increased prices on international markets since early 2022, and increased prices of fuel on the Lebanese market following the withdrawal of government subsidies.

Around 72 percent of crop producers reported difficulties in crop sales as a result of lower prices (80 percent), increased marketing costs (70 percent) and lower demand (27 percent). The higher marketing costs, which are due to higher transportation costs, have constrained farmers to market their crops through intermediaries or to sell them in nearby markets. Crop sales prices were the lowest reported of previous data collection rounds due to the increase in market supply during the spring-summer season and the decrease in exports of agricultural produce.

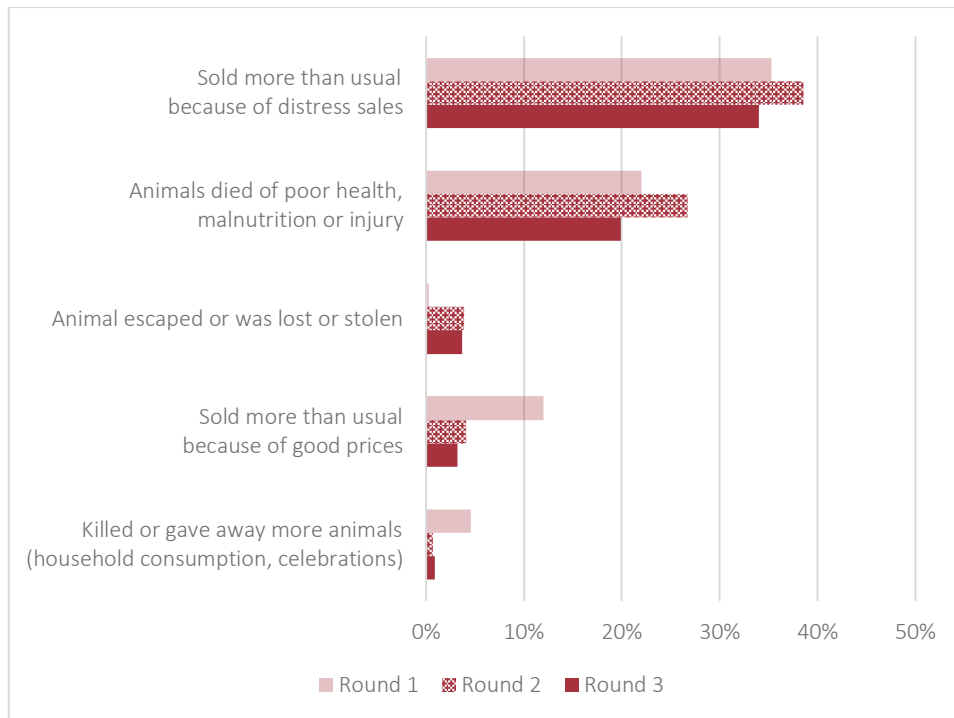
Livestock

Over 86 percent of livestock producers reported production difficulties namely, to purchase feed (87 percent), access veterinary inputs (61 percent) and veterinary services (62 percent). These difficulties are a consequence of increased prices due to inflation or imports. Most feed and veterinary inputs are imported and sold in U.S. Dollar (USD), or the equivalent based on market exchange rates.

Approximately two-thirds of livestock producers reported a decrease in the number of animals they owned compared to the previous year, primarily because of distress sales (34 percent) as in previous data collection rounds (Figure 5). Distress sales were predominantly reported by cattle (45 percent), goat (44 percent) and sheep (42 percent) producers. The most common livestock sales difficulties were lower prices (79 percent), smaller profits (40 percent) and low

demand (35 percent). Over 70 percent of the producers reported a decrease in selling prices, mostly in the North Lebanon and South Lebanon governorates. Livestock production and sales difficulties remained mostly consistent with those reported by livestock producers in previous data collection rounds, they were also similar between male and female-headed households.

Figure 5. Main reasons for the decrease in number of livestock (percentage of respondents)



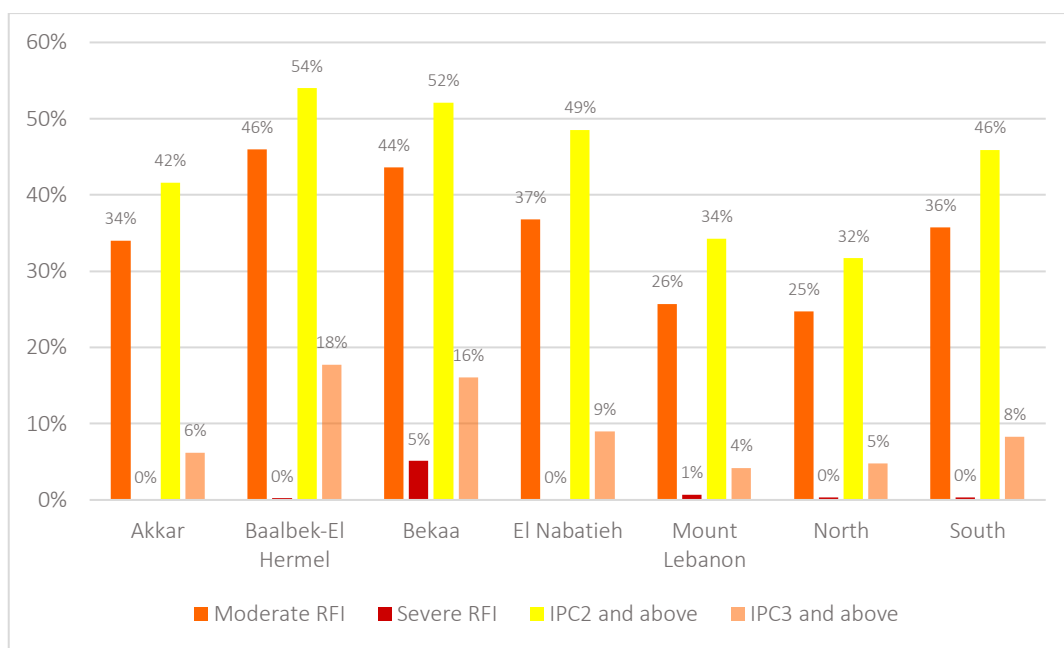
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Food security

The prevalence of moderate or severe recent food insecurity (RFI), assessed with the Food Insecurity Experience Scale¹ (FIES), was around 34 percent, significantly higher than that reported during the previous data collection round (21 percent). Bekaa (44 percent), Baalbeck-El Hermel (46 percent) and El Nabatieh (38 percent) showed higher than average RFI prevalence (Figure 6 shows the FIES estimates based on the 30-day period preceding the survey). The prevalence of recent household food insecurity with severity levels equivalent to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 (Crisis) or more was 9 percent (± 2.6 percent margin of error). Overall, more than 93 percent of households experienced little to no hunger.

¹ 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. RFI as measured by FIES



Source of data: FAO. 2022. Lebanon: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (July–August 2022). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. Cited 12 September 2022. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Nearly all (99 percent) respondents adopted coping strategies to meet their food needs, with the most being decreased expenses on agricultural inputs (93 percent), reduced health expenses (78 percent) and spent savings (57 percent). These most common coping strategies, as measured with the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index, were highly associated with increased fuel and food prices and loss of employment. A higher percentage of respondents resorted to crisis-level coping strategies compared to previous rounds. Overall, only 5 percent of respondents had low Household Dietary Diversity Scores (HDDS). Baalbeck-El Hermel had the highest percentage of respondents reporting low HDDS (13 percent). Low HDDS was highly associated with increased food prices. In parallel, over 80 percent of respondents reported an acceptable food consumption score (FCS). Households surveyed in South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and Akkar reported the poorest FCS.

Needs

Nearly 95 percent of the surveyed agricultural households indicated a need for assistance in the 3–6 months post-survey. Overall, over half of the respondents expressed a need for cash support. Crop producers reported a need for fertilizer (80 percent), pesticides (75 percent) and seeds (40 percent), whereas livestock producers reported a need for animal feed (33 percent), veterinary services (28 percent) and veterinary inputs (25 percent). Female-headed households had similar needs to male-headed households. These findings are in line with those of previous data collection rounds. Only about 13 percent of households received assistance in the three months preceding the survey, primarily as food (7 percent) and cash vouchers (2 percent).

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1-6 months)

- > Support the supply of crop inputs (seeds, fertilizer, etc.) by providing cash, vouchers or in-kind assistance. Strengthen the capacity of existing agricultural extension services to improve yields.
- > Support the supply of livestock feed and veterinary inputs by providing cash, vouchers or in-kind assistance. Strengthen the capacity of existing agricultural extension services to improve the prevention and control of the spread of animal diseases.
- > Support targeted food aid and/or cash assistance to the vulnerable agricultural households in collaboration with ongoing food assistance programmes. Continue to closely monitor the food security status of agricultural households and support the development of a food security surveillance system.

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

- > Provide technical and financial assistance and support programmes designed for small to medium holders (including but not limited to the promotion of good agricultural practices, grant schemes, etc.) to increase outcomes/agricultural productivity and generally improve food availability and access.
- > Support and encourage farmers to transition to solar energy and decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Support the adoption of good agricultural practices and modern technology in agricultural production.



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FAO. 2022. *Lebanon: DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 3. Results and recommendations, September 2022*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2250en>