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DIEM-Monitoring | AFGHANISTAN

ROUND 5 RESULTS

Monitoring the Impacts of Shocks to Agriculture Livelihoods and Food Security

November 2022
Objective of the Results:
Provision of data and Information for humanitarian actors to utilize for:
- Evidence-based programming
- Informed-decisions
- Resource mobilization
- Policy formulation, and
- Advocacy
to improve the agriculture livelihoods and food security.

Sampling and Data collection:
- Households survey (29 clusters per analytical domains) + key informants.
- Household respondents were randomly selected with 2-step cluster sampling and PPS.
- Data collected in July/August 2022 using in-person interview modality through Kobo toolbox in rural areas of the country.
- Data were weighted by the demographics profile and one a wealth proxy and validated with secondary sources.

Households Profile:
- 87 percent interviewed households were involved in agriculture.
- Only two percent of the respondents were female.
- Almost all were permanent residents.
- 63 did not have any production machine. 51 percent did not have transportation assets.

Surveyed household involved in:
- Crop production: 47%
- Both crop and livestock production: 13%
- Livestock production: 13%
- Non-Agriculture: 27%
SHOCKS AND INCOME

- Various types of shocks
- Income changes
SHOCKS AFFECTED AFGHAN HOUSEHOLDS

- Almost all the surveyed households faced at least with one economic, climate or agriculture shock.
- Economic shocks were predominant and upheaval with a growing trend: much higher food prices passed from a frequency of 62% in round 3 to 78% in round 4, and it was 89% in the current round.
- Among the climate and agriculture shocks, drought was a widespread shock: the frequency of citing drought increased from 59% in round 3 to 73% in the current round.
- Agricultural shocks (mostly plant diseases and pest outbreaks) were cited frequently with important differences by province.
- Various shocks have extremely undermined the coping capacity of all households, particularly the female headed households, during round 5 economic and intra household shocks more impacted female headed households.
- Much higher food prices (92 percent), sickness in the households (51 percent), other intra household (24 percent) were more frequent among female headed households.
In a separate survey, 100% households reported earthquake in Gayan, Spera and Barmal districts of Khost and Paktika.
Households reported a decline in primary sources of income

- The great majority of surveyed households had only one income source.
- Twenty-one percent of surveyed households had no income and exclusively used debt and saving.
- The decline in the primary source of income increased since round 3 and round 4. Almost all households reported a decline in their primary source of income in past 3 months compared to a normal year in round 5.
- All the female headed households reported a decline in their main income source comparing to meal headed households.
CROP PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

- Changes in area planted and cited reasons
- Crop production difficulties
- Harvest of crops
- Marketing difficulties
• wheat was the main crop grown by the households (75 percent), it was followed by grapes, maize, potato, tomatoes and other crops (25 percent).

• Households interviewed relied on canal irrigation (32 percent), manual irrigation (from surface water, groundwater) 23 percent and rainfed (20 percent).

• Farmers purchased seeds from market or agro-input shop and own production (73% and 20 percent, respectively).

• More than half of the crop producers (53 percent) cultivated less than 1 hectare of land while 44 percent cultivated 1 – 4.99 hectare of land

• The reduction in planted area is of major concerns in Afghanistan especially for high share of crop producers who cultivated wheat. This trend has been observed over previous rounds, but in this fifth round, the share of farmers that reduced the area planted has reached to the highest. 8/10 farmers planted less areas.

• The reduction in area planted during fifth round attributed to less availability of water for crops and lack of inputs (seeds and fertilizer in particular).

Predominant land size reported by crop producers (Round 5)
Almost all farmers endured immense difficulties with crop production with a growing trend.

81 percent farmers experienced challenges in terms of plant diseases during round 5.

Compared to the previous campaign, more households cited difficulties in accessing inputs (seeds). The trend show 19 percent increase comparing to round 3 of survey.

The trend show 43 percent increase comparing to round 3 of survey for accessing fertilizer.

Two thirds of the interviewed farmers faced difficulties accessing seeds in the previous planting season and are expecting the same difficulties in the upcoming season.

Higher seed prices, insufficient household income to buy seeds, and low-quality seeds were the most frequently cited reasons.
A drastic 96 percent of farmers declared a decrease (a lot and slightly less) in production comparing to a typical year, a large increase from the 75 percent that reported during round 4.

37 percent crop producers lost a little stock crops due to pests, rotting and mold, 15 percent lost half or more, 10 percent lost an important portion and the 10 percent lost almost everything.
Farmers faced marketing difficulties (round 5)

- Increasing trend of marketing difficulties, from 66 percent during round 3 to 68 percent in round 4, and 85 percent in the current round.
- The most frequent marketing difficulty was high marketing costs (including transportation).

Sixty percent of surveyed farmers in round five reported that their main crops were sold for a lower price in round 5 when compared to the average price over the same period during the previous season. The lower prices were frequent in south and eastern regions.
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

- Variation in herd size
- Livestock herding difficulties
- Condition of pastures
- Marketing of livestock
VARIATION IN HERD SIZE

- Main livestock reared by households included cattle, sheep and goats.
- Decrease in herd size was show growing trend. 78 percent of pastoral households reported a decreased in herd size compared the same time last year.
- The average variation was eight heads reported by pastural households during round 5. It was -3 among cattle herders and -12 heads among sheep and goat herders.
- The variation attributed to distress sales due to urgent household basic needs and not being able to feed the animal with a growing trend, death due to poor health / malnutrition, killing of animals for household.
- Almost half of the pastural households during round 5 purchased feed or fodder from markets. It is attributed with poor condition of pastures.

Proportion of livestock producers reporting a decrease in herd size compared to the last year

Reasons for variation of animals

- Sold more than usual because of distress sales
- Animals died of poor health, malnutrition or injury
- Killed or gave away more animals than usual for household consumption

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Proportion of livestock producers reporting a decrease in herd size compared to the last year

Proportion of livestock producers reporting distress sale due to urgent household basic needs or not being able to feed the animal
Proportion livestock producers faced with difficulties

LIVESTOCK DIFFICULTIES

9/10 pastural households faced with difficulties keeping livestock during round 5. The main constraints to livestock production were the poor condition of pastures, access to water, livestock diseases, difficulty purchasing feed and access to vet services and inputs with the growing trend. Almost half of the pastural households purchased feed or fodder on markets during round five of the survey.

Predominant livestock difficulties (Round 5)

Access to pasture (poor quality of pastures)
Access to water
Livestock diseases or death
Difficulty to purchase feed
Access to veterinary services
Access to veterinary inputs
Access to credit
Access to livestock market to buy young animals
Labour too expensive
Livestock theft
LIVESTOCK DIFFICULTIES BY PROVINCES

Poor Pasture

Animal Disease

Access to Feed for animals

R5 – Aug 2022

R4 – Apr 2022

R3 – Sep 2022

LIVESTOCK DIFFICULTIES BY PROVINCES

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R4 – Apr 2022

R3 – Sep 2022
LIVESTOCK MARKETING DIFFICULTIES

Livestock producers faced with marketing difficulties (round 5)

- The increase in marketing costs (including transportation) and the low sale price (in Kunar, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Paktika) were the most frequent marketing difficulties.

- This is consistent with the high frequency of stress sales. 8/10 livestock herder sold their animals with lower prices during round five of the survey, it was 5/10 in round 4.

Frequent marketing difficulties

- High transportation or other marketing costs
- Low selling prices [e.g. compared to input prices / inflation]
- Usual traders or local customers are not buying as much as usual
- Damage and losses due to delay or inability to access markets
- Difficulties to process product
- Closure of slaughterhouses or difficulties accessing slaughterhouses

Predominant livestock marketing difficulties by provinces (round 5)
FOOD SECURITY

- Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)
84 percent experienced recent moderate or severe food insecurity
• Household faced uncertainties about their ability to obtain food and have been forced to reduce, at times during the reference period, the quality and/or quantity of food they consume due to lack of money or other resources. Household lacked consistent access to food, which diminishes their dietary quality, disrupts usual eating patterns which impacted nutrition, health, and well-being.

17 percent experienced recent severe food insecurity
• Household faced severe food insecurity and had run out of food, experienced hunger, and at the most extreme, gone for days without eating, putting their health and well-being at grave risk.
The livelihood coping strategies index (LCSI) indicated that 33 percent of households adopted emergency coping strategies and 64 percent adopted crisis coping strategies.

**Crisis strategies** – consuming seed stocks saved for the next planting season (cited by 57 percent of respondents), decreasing expenditures on farming inputs (cited by 72 percent), decreasing expenditures on livestock inputs (cited by 45 percent), forgoing farming all of the land for the season (cited by 43 percent).

**Emergency strategies** – selling land/house (cited by 17 percent) is more difficult to reverse in the short term and threaten future production and income, marrying child (under 15) cited by seven percent.

Due to the post-harvest period in some provinces, we recorded an improvement of food diversity. In general, we need to distinguish the food consumption from the livelihood change, the latter being the most important problem in this case: improvements in food consumption are not likely to last long, due to the extreme decapitalization.
AGRICULTURE INPUTS MARKET

- Vendors marketing challenges
- Prices on inputs and demand
The interviewed agriculture input vendors were selling veterinary drugs (53 percent), fertilizer (46 percent), seeds (44 percent), farming tools and equipment (36 percent), livestock feed (34 percent) and livestock equipment (20 percent).

Nine out of ten vendors faced challenges in the past month preceding the survey. Lower sales, transportation and financial difficulties and higher operating costs are the most cited challenges. Vendors experienced changes in offering various types of products comparing to last year.

98 percent vendors reported prices of products have been significantly higher and a bit higher compared to usual time which stressed their clients to purchase lower quantities.

85 percent vendors reported level of sales have moderately and strongly decreased comparing to usual and almost two third of clients asking to purchase on credit.

Vendors cited changes in the overall quantities of seeds sold compared to normal year. Much lower and a bit lower quantities have been sold (22 percent, 64 percent, respectively).

AGRICULTURE INPUTS MARKET
NEEDS FOR ASSISTANCE

• Greatest needs for crop producing households
• Greatest needs for livestock producing household
• Greatest needs for non-agriculture households
98% of the surveyed households reported need for assistance. Cash or food and loan assistance among non-agriculture households, fertilizer, seeds, access to irrigation water and tools among crop producers, pesticides among both crop producers and livestock herders, animal feed and veterinary services among livestock herders are the most frequent needs reported.

### Greatest needs for assistance in the next 3 to 6 months (round 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Crop Producers</th>
<th>Livestock Herders</th>
<th>Both Crop Producers and Livestock Herders</th>
<th>Non-Agriculture Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeds</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizers</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to irrigation water</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to land</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal feed</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary services</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary inputs</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of animals with minimum guaranteed price</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restocking animals</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for processing product</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for transportation of animals or animal product [e.g. cold chains for milk]</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to tractors</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing support</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash or food assistance</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support or extension services</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEEDS FOR ASSISTANCE

Predominant Needs for Crop Production

Predominant Needs for Livestock Production

Predominant other Needs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Round 3 (Sep 2021)</th>
<th>Round 4 (April 2022)</th>
<th>Round 5 (Aug 2022)</th>
<th>Changes (R3 to R5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Households reporting shocks</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Households reporting decrease in main income</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Crop producing households reporting difficulties in crop production</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Crop producing households reporting less area planted than in a typical year</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>-32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Crop producing households reporting less harvest comparing to a typical year</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Crop producing households reporting sale difficulties</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Crop producing households sold crop in lower prices</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pastural households reporting livestock production difficulties</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pastural households reporting fewer animals than last year</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pastural households reporting sales difficulties</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pastural households reporting livestock price decrease</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pastural households reporting poor condition of pastures</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Household reporting moderate or severe Recent food insecurity (RFI)</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Households resorting to crisis/emergency coping strategy</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>-44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Households reporting need for assistance</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The results show a growing trend of high level of food insecurity across the country from September 2021, characterized by skyrocketing food prices, declining economy, successive droughts and floods as well as poor crop yield. These catastrophic impacts of shocks continue to undermine the coping capacity of households. Female headed households are particularly greatly affected having lost working opportunities and now experiencing a decline in their income.

The shocks adversely eroded the main income source of almost all the rural households comparing to normal years. Decline in the main income source increased from frequency of 73% in round 3 to 85% in round 4 and was 95% in round 5 (22 percent decrease since September 2021).

97 percent (crises:64%, emergency:33%) of the surveyed households in the fifth-round resorting crisis and emergency coping strategies to get food. Households to obtain food adopted crises coping strategies: Decreased expenditures on farming inputs (72%), consumed seed stocks that were to be held/saved for the next planting season (57%), decreased expenditures on livestock inputs (45%). The emergencies coping actions included selling house or all land (cultivable) or entire herd (17%) and migration of with entire household members (24%).

The farmers’ disinvestments in agriculture (area planted continues to be reduced for a growing share of farmers) 8/10 reported less area planted in fifth-round because of lack of water, agriculture inputs and market access opportunities. This, compounded by a rise in pests and diseases have further reduced the quality of crop yield within this analysis period which poses additional risk for domestic production.

Livestock herders have been forced to distress-sell herds (6/10 during fifth-round) to meet urgent basic domestic needs including putting food on the table. Whatever remains of their stock is still subjected to poor pasture, reduced access to water, inability to purchase animal feed, access to veterinary services as well as livestock diseases.

The assets depletion continues to threaten rural livelihoods, the sale of productive capitals make rural households more vulnerable to shock and in general reduce potential income flows.

The agriculture inputs markets has been disrupted as the results of shocks which affected agriculture households’ affordability to purchase agriculture inputs.

It is evident from the analysis that all the households are in need of assistance including access to cash for non-agriculture households. For the agriculture households, they need fertilizer, seeds, access to water for irrigation, pesticides, animal feed and veterinary services.

CONCLUSIONS

- The results show a growing trend of high level of food insecurity across the country from September 2021, characterized by skyrocketing food prices, declining economy, successive droughts and floods as well as poor crop yield. These catastrophic impacts of shocks continue to undermine the coping capacity of households. Female headed households are particularly greatly affected having lost working opportunities and now experiencing a decline in their income.

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- It is evident from the analysis that all the households are in need of assistance including access to cash for non-agriculture households. For the agriculture households, they need fertilizer, seeds, access to water for irrigation, pesticides, animal feed and veterinary services.
Short-term recommendations

- Identify and distribute a technical package targeting wheat, including drought, pests, and disease resistant seeds, fertilizer and training focused on seed treatment with fungicide and crop rotation for farmers targeting the upcoming planting season in Ghor, Daikundi, Faryab, Ghazni, Hilmand, Kandahar, and Kabul provinces.

- Improve the capacity of implementing partners to train farmers about pests and diseases, controlling mechanisms, safe usage of globally approved fungicides and promote seed treatment practices to control soil and seed borne diseases.

- Support livestock keepers/herders, especially those who have decapitalized, with livestock protection packages including concentrated animal feed for the upcoming winter season, deworming services, trainings and linkages to local extension services.

- Distribution of improved fodder (alfalfa, berseem, sorghum, maize, etc.), and where feasible introduce methods for making hay, silage, urea- treatment and concentrated feed.

- Provide vaccinations against viral diseases (lumpy skin disease, foot and mouth disease, anthrax, enterotoxaemia, and others), and increases community awareness to farmers’ livestock assets.

- Implement cash-for-work activities, especially for water harvesting, in rural areas to support purchasing power of the consumers and encourage the producers to produce.
Long-term recommendations

- Implement an integrated pest management approach through farmer field schools to train farmers on pest and disease life cycles, cultivation methods and appropriately control pests and diseases. Provide extension services by establishing a demand driven extension system.
- Build capacity of extension workers and farmers on the identification of pests and diseases and on time management.
- Establish farmers associations/groups at village/district level for conducting collective marketing activities (sorting, grading, packaging etc.) at the same time, these groups could engage in input procurement, such as safe pesticides and other inputs.
- Establish natural resources management/pasture management associations and increase their capacity for water preservation and natural resources.
- Promote artificial insemination interventions for dairy cows and goats at different levels and the provision of technical services and marketing opportunities.
- Promote home-based sustainable farming practices and healthy diets, including the production of nutrient-rich foods (especially legumes), processing, preservation and storage, but also disseminate best practices in food preparation and consumption (nutrition education).
- Support home-based livestock production, mainly poultry and ruminants, to enrich household access and consumption of animal sourced food.
- Explore opportunities, promote, and implement employment and sustainable income generation activities (e.g. employment though food and cash crop value chains and other opportunities arising from the agro-business sector and the intensification of agriculture to create employment).
- Establish home gardening or household level greenhouses to produce and process nutrient-rich foods.
“Thank You”

The Analytical Products and Geospatial Data are available at: https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/
DIEM Hub Tour
Q&A Session