



**Sample size:** 3 388 households

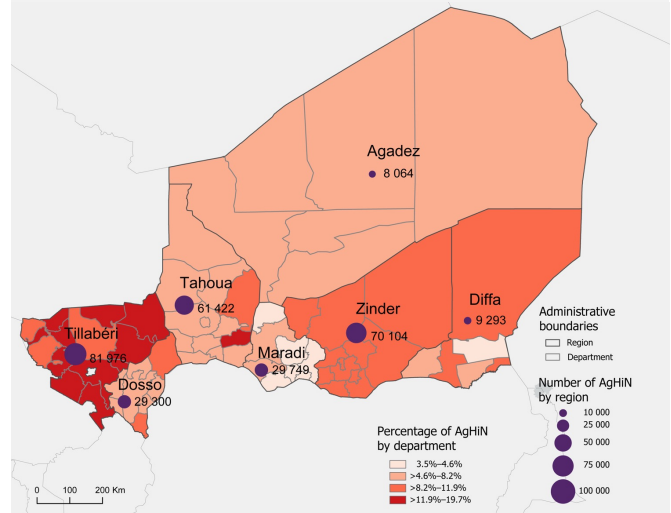


**Recommendation period:** until the end of April 2026 (end of the rainy season harvest, off-season for agriculture and internal livestock transhumance)

**Key highlights**

- According to estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ (FAO’s) Data in Emergencies (DIEM), nearly 290 000 agricultural households (representing approximately 2.1 million people and 9 percent of the total population) in the Niger – excluding the urban community of Niamey – require emergency agricultural assistance to maintain their food security. The majority of these households are located in the regions of Tillabéri (81 976), Zinder (70 104) and Tahoua (61 422), followed by Maradi (29 749) and Dosso (29 300) (Figure 1).
- Agricultural households in need of emergency assistance (AgHiN) have poor food consumption, primarily due to economic shocks (reported by 51 percent of households), combined with shocks disrupting agricultural production (36 percent) and, to a lesser extent, exposure to natural disasters (24 percent) and insecurity (12 percent – particularly in the regions of Tillabéri, Diffa and Dosso). The vulnerability of AgHiN is linked to structural economic and productive weaknesses, as well as specific climatic and security shocks. Among the AgHiN, 53 percent were exposed to conflict and insecurity in the year preceding the survey. Combined with other structural factors – low asset endowment, precarious housing and distance from basic services – insecurity is a key driver of vulnerability.
- Despite a generally favourable 2025 agricultural and pastoral season from an agroclimatic perspective, and given the aforementioned structural vulnerabilities, 78 percent of livestock farmers in need reported a decrease in the size of their herds, and 75 percent of crop farmers reported lower harvests compared with a normal year.

Figure 1. Number of AgHiN by region and percentage of AgHiN by department



Note: Please refer to the disclaimer on the last page for the names and boundaries used in this map.

Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

- In the agriculture sector, the reported difficulties mainly concern production: 89 percent of crop farmers and 60 percent of livestock farmers reported facing at least one production constraint. These mainly involved crop pests, water shortages, and crop and livestock diseases.
- While three-quarters of the AgHiN reported no major marketing difficulties, some constraints persist, including losses related to storage, difficulties accessing markets and decreased demand. These constraints should not be overlooked.
- Food assistance remains the top priority for the AgHiN (96 percent), followed by support for agricultural activities (60 percent), generally combined with other types of assistance. The most frequently requested forms of agricultural intervention are the provision of inputs for crop production, the development of agricultural infrastructure and access to veterinary services and livestock feed. In the six months preceding the survey, 91 percent of the AgHiN had received no assistance. The very high beneficiary satisfaction rate (96 percent) suggests that coverage and alignment with production constraints are the main challenges.

- Analysis of the survey results suggests a phased response in the areas with the highest concentration of AgHiN – Tillabéri and Liptako-Gourma – prioritizing households facing additional vulnerability factors (displacement and disability). The response should include:
  - food assistance during the lean season to stabilize consumption and prevent asset sales;
  - distribution of inputs aligned with the agricultural calendar to restore productive capacity; and
  - support for agricultural services and infrastructure.



### Agricultural households in need of assistance

In the Niger – excluding the urban area of Niamey – 289 908 agricultural households, representing 2 129 284 people, require emergency assistance to support their food security. They represent 10 percent of the agricultural population and 9 percent of the total population in the areas covered by the eleventh round of DIEM-Monitoring data collection.



### Where are the agricultural households most in need of assistance?

The AgHiN are primarily located in the regions of Tillabéri (81 976), Zinder (70 104) and Tahoua (61 422), followed by Maradi (29 749) and Dosso (29 300). They are less numerous in Diffa (9 293) and Agadez (8 064). Tillabéri has the highest prevalence of AgHiN relative to the total population (17 percent) (Figure 1).

At the department level, there is a high concentration of AgHiN in the departments of the Liptako-Gourma region – Ouallam, Say, Téra and Tillabéri (19 percent).



### Who are the AgHiN?

The AgHiN live in precarious conditions, characterized by a strong dependence on agricultural activities and limited access to productive assets. Their livelihoods are exposed to economic and productive constraints, as well as insecurity – particularly in the Tillabéri region.

### Sociodemographic characteristics and living conditions

The majority of the AgHiN are male-headed households (96 percent) and have a demographic structure and

dependency ratio similar to those observed in the overall agricultural population.<sup>1</sup> However, their living conditions are characterized by greater housing insecurity: only 24 percent live in permanent housing – 60 percent reside in semi-permanent dwellings and 16 percent live in non-permanent shelters. Access to essential services is limited and only 52 percent of these households have access to drinking water, 32 percent having access to electricity and 7 percent having access to improved sanitation facilities.

The overall level of education of the head of household remains low. The majority received a religious education (46 percent), while 44 percent reported having no formal education (44 percent). Primary, secondary and higher education were rarely reported.

Certain vulnerability characteristics are more frequently observed among the AgHiN. One in four households includes at least one person with a disability and 9 percent include at least one displaced person. Twenty-two percent of households reported having a pregnant woman.

### Sources of income and the economic situation

Two-thirds of the AgHiN derive their income from the agriculture sector. Diversification remains limited, with 75 percent of households having only one source of income. Food crop production is the main source of income (36 percent), followed by day labour off the farm (20 percent), livestock production (13 percent) and self-employment off the farm (7 percent). Cash transfers, social assistance and rental income remain marginal.

According to the results of the eleventh round of DIEM-Monitoring, the average quarterly income of the AgHiN is XOF 108 140, which is lower than the average for the agricultural population (XOF 130 354). Incomes vary according to the agricultural activities carried out: households dependent exclusively on crop production have the lowest incomes (XOF 89 331), while livestock farmers have higher incomes on average (XOF 173 687), and mixed farmers have incomes in the middle range (XOF 129 334).

### Structure of agricultural activities and productive profiles

The majority of the AgHiN practice mixed crop and livestock farming (61 percent); 20 percent practice only crop farming – primarily subsistence crops – and 20 percent practice only livestock farming – mainly sedentary. Transhumant systems remain a minority (3 percent).

<sup>1</sup> AgHiN

Average age of the head of household: 48.9 years

Average household size: 7.5 people

Total dependency ratio: 2.16 (child dependency ratio: 2.06; elderly dependency ratio: 0.10)

Subsistence crops constitute the main source of income (36 percent), with livestock and animal products representing the second source of income (13 percent). Market gardening and cash crops remain marginal.

Access to agricultural inputs remains the main constraint for the AgHiN: 31 percent do not have access to inputs, and 60 percent of those who do report having access only to organic fertilizer.

### Food insecurity

The food security of the AgHiN is generally poor and characterized by widespread reliance on emergency coping strategies, limited dietary diversity and high levels of food insecurity (Table 1). Twenty-eight percent of households adopt crisis coping strategies and 59 percent adopt emergency coping strategies, as measured by the livelihood coping strategy index. According to the Household Hunger Scale, nearly 60 percent reported moderate or severe hunger, while 24 percent had low dietary diversity and 34 percent had high dietary diversity, as measured by the household dietary diversity score. Finally, according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, 70 percent of the AgHiN experience moderate or severe food insecurity.

## Why are the agricultural households in need of assistance?

Figure 2 demonstrates a more favourable overall environment for the entire agricultural population in the latest DIEM-Monitoring round. Shocks affecting agricultural production and income were generally less severe than in previous DIEM-Monitoring rounds: 57 percent of the AgHiN reported not having experienced a shock, compared to 28 percent during the seventh, eighth and ninth rounds (2023–2024), and only 11 percent during the tenth round (October 2024).

The analysis of exposure to shocks by region reveals significant heterogeneity: in Tillabéri, 58 percent of the AgHiN reported experiencing shocks. Diffa, Dosso and Maradi follow, while Agadez and Zinder appear relatively less affected. Maradi and Zinder recorded the highest levels of shocks related to household health. Dosso and Tillabéri are characterized by a high prevalence of crop pests and diseases, while Diffa and Tillabéri have the highest levels of insecurity and violence.

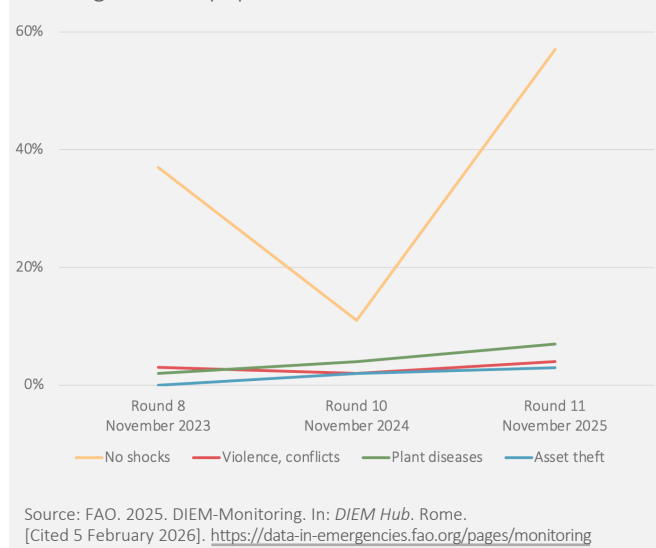
At the department level, agricultural shocks particularly affected Filingué, Bouza, Dakoro, Gaya and Ouallam (crop

Table 1. Food security indicator results for the AgHiN

Livelihood coping strategy index	No strategy	1%
	Stress	12%
	Crisis	28%
	Emergency	59%
Household Hunger Scale	Little to none	19%
	Slight	23%
	Moderate	53%
	Severe	6%
Household dietary diversity score	High diversity	34%
	Medium diversity	42%
	Low diversity	23%
Food Insecurity Experience Scale	Moderate or severe	70%
	Severe	30%

Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Figure 2. Evolution of the main shocks reported by the total agricultural population



pests and diseases, and drought), while insecurity mainly impacted N’Guigmi, Ouallam and Téra. Some departments experienced multiple shocks (Dogondoutchi, Filingué and Gaya), suggesting areas of structural vulnerability where interventions should combine support for agricultural production, climate risk management and livelihood protection.

## Economic shocks and shocks to production

Economic shocks are the main source of vulnerability for the AgHiN. More than half of the AgHiN (51 percent) reported an economic shock, compared with 13 percent of the total agricultural population (Figure 3). Rising food prices are the most frequently cited shock (27 percent), but their prevalence in the total population (8 percent) has decreased compared with the average of previous rounds (30 percent). The AgHiN remain highly sensitive to market dynamics and struggle to absorb price fluctuations, particularly due to low and undiversified farm incomes.

Shocks related to agricultural production are the second most significant factor shaping the environment of the AgHiN. More than a third (36 percent) reported a shock directly affecting their production, compared with 18 percent in the overall agricultural population. The most significant differences concern plant diseases (16 percent compared with 7 percent), animal diseases (11 percent compared with 4 percent) and, to a lesser extent, pest infestations (13 percent compared with 10 percent).

## Climate hazards

Natural disasters affected relatively few households (9 percent) during the eleventh round, whereas the tenth round (September 2024), was marked by historic floods

that affected up to 39 percent of households. In August 2025, heavy rains caused flooding in 122 municipalities, affecting 32 251 households, particularly in areas along the Niger River. Rainfall conditions are mixed across the country, with localized deficits in Tillabéri, northern Tahoua and central Diffa, and dry spells at the beginning of the season that delayed or destroyed the first plantings in some areas (FEWS NET, 2025).

Despite this generally favourable context, the AgHiN remain more affected by climate hazards: 24 percent reported a natural shock, particularly drought (13 percent) and flooding (6 percent).

## Idiosyncratic shocks and social constraints

Internal household shocks remain frequent among the AgHiN (27 percent), and were primarily related to illness or death (19 percent compared with 14 percent for other agricultural households). While their prevalence has decreased compared to previous rounds (average of 36 percent), these shocks continue to affect livelihoods by reducing available labour and increasing unavoidable expenses. These findings support the integration of social protection mechanisms into support programmes, as well as the preferential targeting of households that have experienced disabling illnesses, injuries or deaths.

## Insecurity and anthropogenic shocks

Anthropogenic shocks further shape the vulnerability profile of the AgHiN. Seventeen percent of the AgHiN reported such a shock, compared with 6 percent of the total agricultural population. Direct exposure to insecurity or conflict affected 12 percent of the AgHiN (compared with 3 percent for other agricultural households).

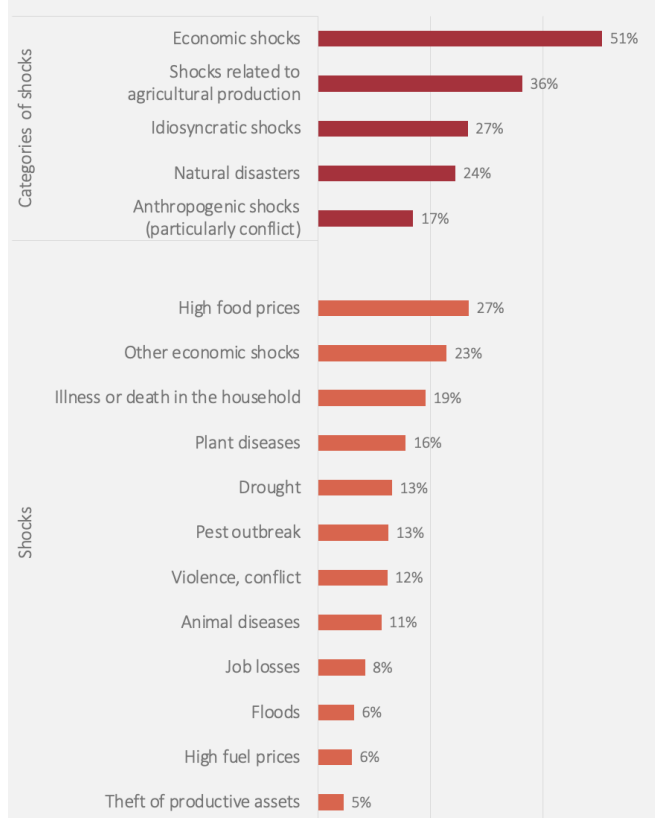
The most affected regions are Tillabéri (26 percent), Diffa (15 percent) and Dosso (14 percent), with particularly high levels in the Liptako-Gourma region (31 percent).

Insecurity includes restrictions on access to fields or fishing areas (reported by 11 percent of the AgHiN), land theft or occupation (6 percent), livestock theft (5 percent) or reduced livestock mobility (5 percent) (Figure 4).

## Crop farmers' production and marketing difficulties

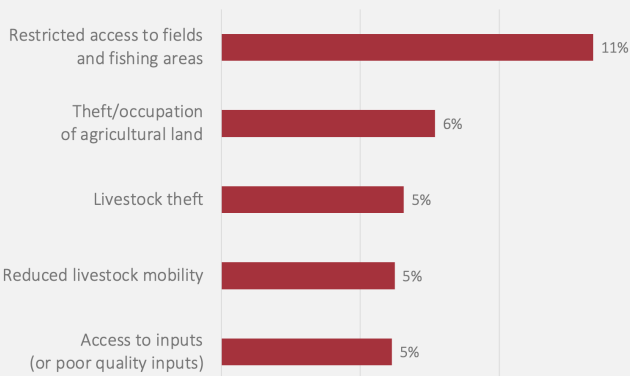
The AgHiN are overwhelmingly affected by production difficulties, with 89 percent reporting at least one constraint during the reporting period, compared with 61 percent of households not considered to be in need. The most frequently reported difficulties are pest infestations (32 percent) – particularly among bean producers (54 percent) – and plant diseases (17 percent). Water scarcity (28 percent) – limited access to irrigation or rainfall deficits – is another key constraint on agricultural production and reflects household vulnerability to climate hazards. Limited access to agricultural inputs – seeds (14 percent), fertilizer (16 percent) and pesticides

Figure 3. Shocks most frequently reported by AgHiN



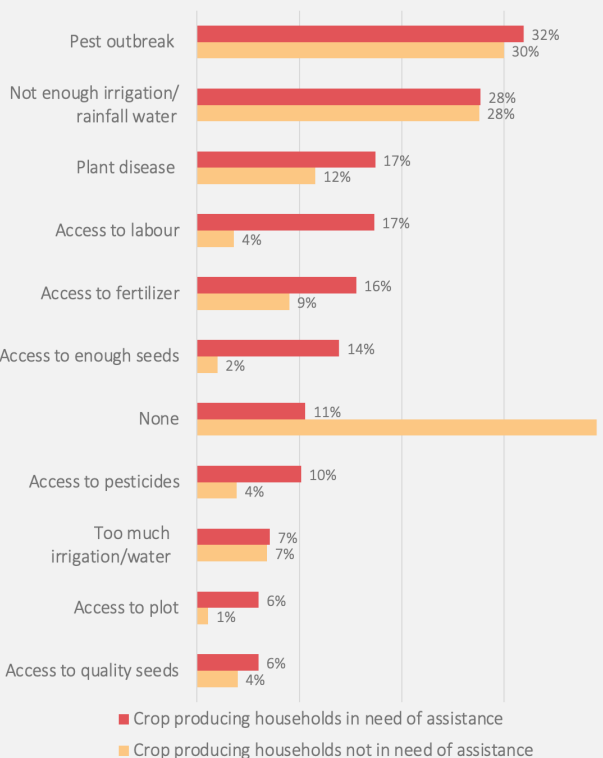
Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Figure 4. Impact of insecurity and conflict on the agricultural activities of the AgHiN



Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Figure 5. Crop production difficulties (crop producing households)



Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

(10 percent) – and labour (17 percent) reduces households’ ability to maintain adequate production levels.

These constraints highlight the structural inequalities in access to factors of production that affect the AgHiN compared with other households (Figure 5).

As a consequence of these production constraints, 41 percent of the AgHiN reported cultivating smaller areas than in a normal year, and 75 percent reported lower harvests, despite favourable agroclimatic conditions. Adequate water supply at the beginning of the growing season had allowed for promising production prospects in most regions (SIMA).

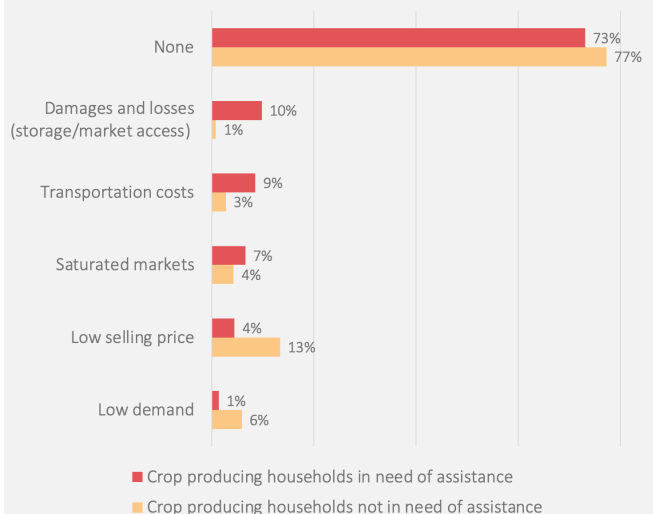
Seventy-three percent of the AgHiN reported not having encountered any difficulties marketing their harvests over the three months preceding the survey (77 percent for other households) (Figure 6). These results indicate that crop marketing is not a major vulnerability factor for the majority of the AgHiN, even though these households are proportionally more likely to sell part of their production (51 percent) than other households (27 percent).

This interpretation, however, requires some qualification: at the time of the survey, only a small proportion of farmers were selling their produce, as harvesting was still underway. Furthermore, the higher proportion of sales observed among the AgHiN may reflect an increased need to generate cash.

When cited, marketing difficulties mainly concern damage and losses related to storage and/or market access (10 percent), as well as high transport or marketing costs (9 percent). The lack of suitable equipment, storage infrastructure and financial resources to absorb costs reduces households’ ability to sell produce and increases their exposure to post-harvest losses.

In this context, market conditions appear to be secondary in explaining the vulnerability of the AgHiN. Market

Figure 6. Marketing difficulties (crop producing households)



Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

saturation (7 percent) and low selling prices (5 percent) are cited less frequently, despite a decline in crop prices observed over the past year (SIMA). This price trend is confirmed by 65 percent of households selling their harvests, while 70 percent of livestock farmers reported stable or rising prices, suggesting a more favourable market dynamic.

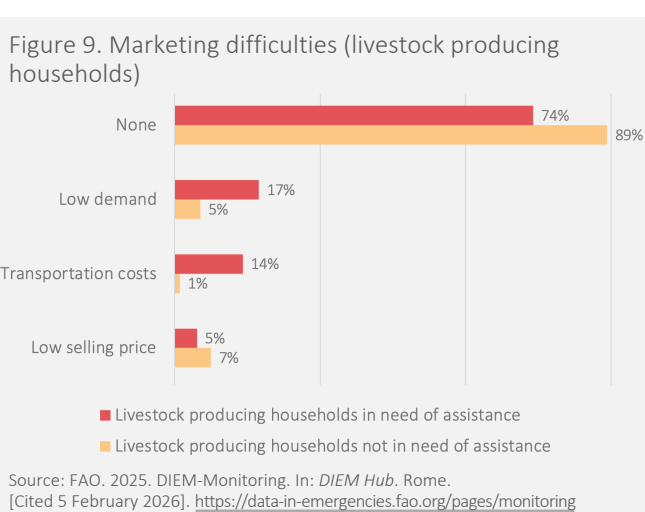
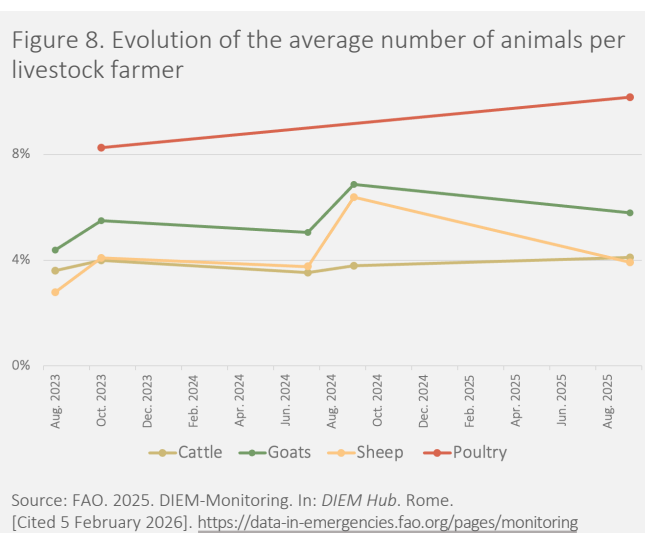
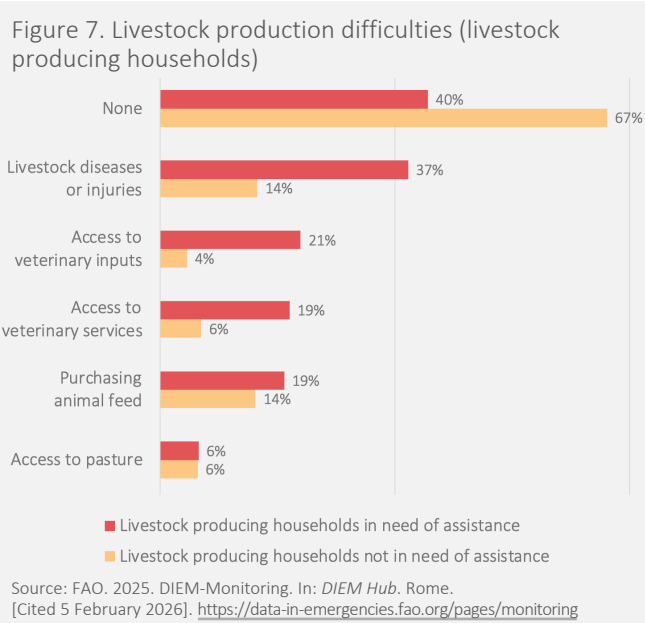
### Livestock farmers' production and marketing difficulties

Despite very favourable conditions for livestock farming in 2025 (good vegetation cover and filling of surface water points and favourable terms of trade [WFP, 2025]), 60 percent of livestock farmers in need of assistance reported facing production difficulties over the three months preceding the survey (compared with 33 percent of other livestock farmers). Livestock diseases and injuries (37 percent), and access to inputs and veterinary services (21 percent and 19 percent, respectively) are the most frequently cited issues (Figure 7). Nearly one in five livestock farmers in need of assistance (19 percent) report difficulty purchasing animal feed, while limited access to pasture is cited by 6 percent.

The survey reveals a significant decline in livestock numbers: 78 percent of the AgHiN reported a decrease in the number of animals (61 percent for other households). This decline affects all types of livestock, but is more pronounced for small ruminants (69 percent and 66 percent of goat and sheep farmers, respectively). Poultry and cattle farmers are less affected (50 percent and 38 percent, respectively) (Figure 8).

Distress sales are the main reason for this decline (35 percent) – reflecting urgent cash needs – followed by attractive selling prices (30 percent) and animal deaths (19 percent). While some positive trends – births (17 percent) or animal purchases (5 percent) – were observed, they did not offset the overall losses. These developments indicate that, despite a favourable pastoral environment, livestock farmers in need of assistance are struggling to maintain or rebuild their herds, highlighting the persistent economic and structural pressures on their livelihoods.

Among the livestock farmers in need of assistance, 27 percent reported marketing their production (compared with 28 percent for other farmers), and 74 percent reported no marketing difficulties over the three months preceding the survey (compared with 89 percent for other farmers) (Figure 9). Decreased demand (17 percent) and high transport and marketing costs (14 percent) are the most frequently cited constraints, but remain secondary to the those affecting livestock production.



## Vulnerability and resilience factors

The analysis highlights that the probability of a household being classified as requiring assistance is primarily determined by structural factors related to livelihoods, productive capacities and exposure to economic and agricultural risks, rather than by isolated demographic characteristics or the occurrence of a one-off shock.

Income structure and the degree of livelihood diversification are major determinants of vulnerability, as is dependence on a single source of income – particularly rainfed agricultural production. When diversification exists, it is often limited to other agricultural activities, which reduces households' capacity to absorb shocks related to price fluctuations, yield declines or climate hazards. Conversely, combining complementary income sources – such as livestock farming or non-agricultural activities – strengthens household resilience by helping to stabilize incomes and limit the use of negative coping strategies.

The characteristics of production systems are also a determining factor. Households engaged in both farming and livestock rearing generally have a greater capacity to absorb shocks. Thanks to the functional diversification of their assets, they benefit from better climate risk management and greater flexibility in their economic strategies. Conversely, highly specialized systems – particularly those focused on food crops – appear more sensitive to production fluctuations and market constraints.

The type of crops grown is also a differentiating factor, as crops that are more resilient to climate hazards and adapted to local agroecological conditions (such as sorghum) are associated with a lower probability of being in need of assistance.

Another major determinant concerns access to the means of production and agricultural assets. Limited access to inputs, equipment, or labour increases vulnerability by limiting productivity and increasing exposure to production losses. Conversely, owning productive assets – including livestock – strengthens resilience by allowing for adjustment during periods of stress. Vulnerability appears to be less linked to the absolute volume of assets than to households' ability to mobilize effectively and in a diversified manner.

Finally, certain social and structural factors significantly influence the likelihood of being in need of assistance. The presence of displaced persons or people with disabilities within the household is associated with increased vulnerability, due to the additional constraints placed on the available workforce, access to markets and the capacity to maintain productive activities, particularly in areas affected by insecurity (ACF, 2024). When combined with a limited productive base or a strong dependence on agricultural income, these factors act as risk multipliers.

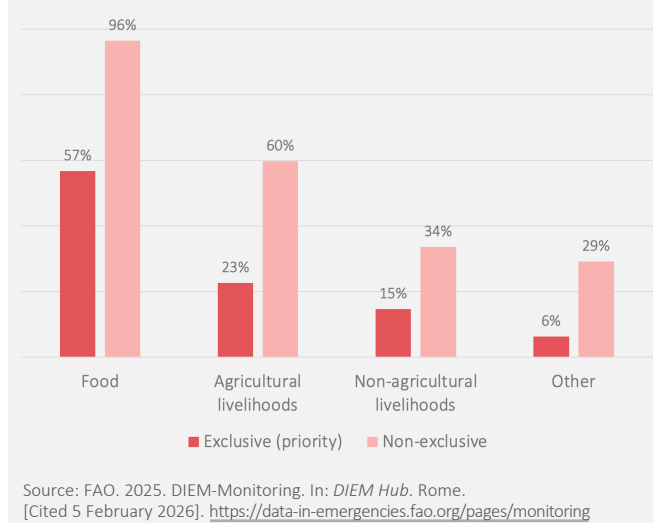


## What kinds of assistance are prioritized by the AgHiN?

Food assistance is the most frequently requested type of support by the AgHiN. It was mentioned by 96 percent (non-exclusive responses) and identified as a priority by 57 percent (Figure 10). This preference reflects the prevalence of difficulties accessing food.

Support for agricultural activities was cited by 60 percent of the AgHiN, with 23 percent considering it a priority over other types of assistance. Only 2 percent require agricultural support exclusively, with the majority considering it in conjunction with other forms of assistance (58 percent) – primarily food assistance (57 percent). Forty percent of the AgHiN do not require agricultural assistance. The intervention categories deemed most relevant for supporting agricultural livelihoods primarily reflect production constraints: inputs and infrastructure dedicated to crop production (46 percent and 29 percent, respectively), veterinary services (25 percent) and livestock feed (23 percent) (Figure 11). These results confirm needs mainly focused on restoring production capacity and securing agricultural assets, consistent with the aforementioned production difficulties. Training and technical advice, both for crop (15 percent) and livestock (11 percent) production, as well as marketing support (10 percent), appear to be complementary needs. Interventions related to fishing or aquaculture remain marginal, as these activities are not widely practiced by the surveyed population.

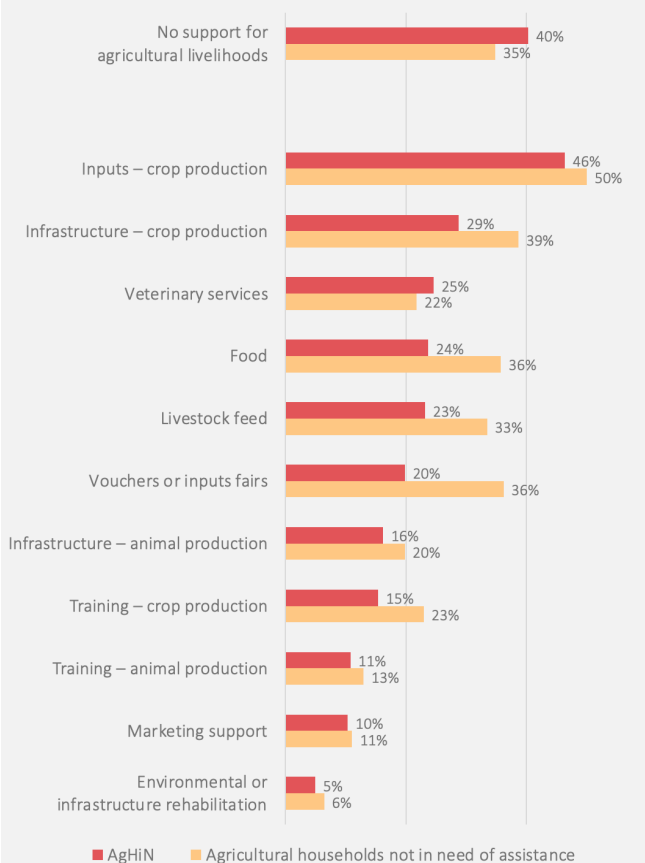
Figure 10. Assistance requested by the AgHiN



The results suggest that interventions aimed solely at compensating for temporary production or income deficits remain insufficient to sustainably reduce the vulnerability of the AgHiN. The most relevant programmatic interventions lie in the structural strengthening of livelihoods, particularly through access to inputs and productive assets, support for mixed farming systems and the promotion of income diversification.

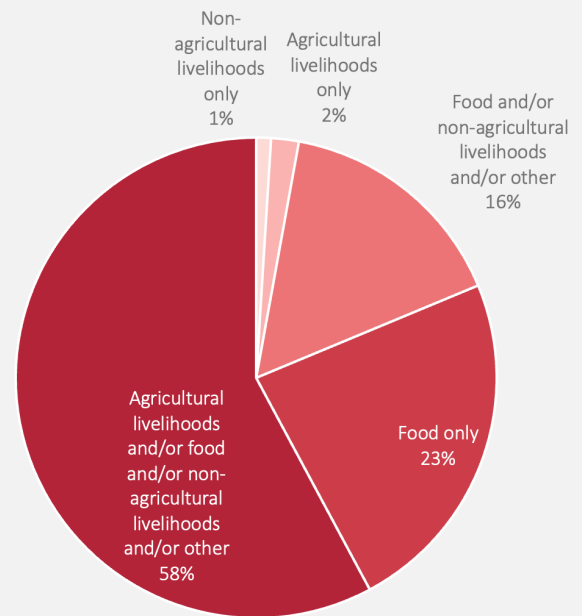
From this perspective, approaches combining production support, economic diversification, and technical capacity building appear best suited to preventing households from entering or remaining in need of assistance. Furthermore, targeting households facing specific structural constraints – such as displacement or disability – is a key lever for increasing the effectiveness of interventions and strengthening the resilience of agricultural systems to recurring shocks.

Figure 11. Assistance for agricultural activities requested by the AgHiN



Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Figure 12. Assistance required by the AgHiN



Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>



### What was the quantity and quality of the assistance received?

Despite their vulnerability, the vast majority of the AgHiN (91 percent) reported not receiving any assistance during the reference period. Food assistance was the main form of assistance received (6 percent), followed by cash transfers (2 percent), while direct support for agricultural livelihoods was negligible (1 percent).

Assistance appears very limited in scope and is primarily geared towards meeting immediate consumption needs, even though DIEM-Monitoring analyses have identified major challenges related to agricultural production capacity.

A detailed analysis of the assistance modalities confirms this discrepancy. Interventions related to strengthening agricultural livelihoods reach a marginal proportion of the AgHiN. Vouchers and input fairs reach less than 2 percent of households, and support for crop, livestock and fish production reaches less than 1 percent. Rehabilitation or marketing support interventions are virtually non-existent.

These results highlight a gap between the constraints faced by the AgHiN and the assistance actually provided, which remains largely focused on short-term solutions. This situation limits the restoration of productive capacity and prolongs dependence on food assistance.

Among the AgHiN receiving assistance, the level of satisfaction is nonetheless high, with 96 percent reporting satisfaction with the assistance received (90 percent for the entire agricultural population). Delays in receiving assistance were rarely mentioned (1 percent), and insufficient quantities are less frequently reported by the AgHiN (2 percent) than by the total agricultural population (5 percent). The results suggest that the assistance provided is generally perceived as adequate to meet immediate needs. However, this high level of satisfaction must be interpreted considering the low overall coverage rate. The main challenge lies more in access to assistance and its suitability to structural constraints than in the perception of its quality.

The limited coverage observed can be explained by security constraints in affecting access to certain areas, insufficient funding levels, and a focus by stakeholders on emergency responses during the lean season.

These results highlight the need for better coordination of assistance. While 60 percent of the AgHiN require support for agricultural production, only 1 percent report having actually received it. Future interventions would benefit from combining short-term food assistance with targeted productive support, prioritizing access to agricultural inputs, veterinary services and production infrastructure, particularly in the lead-up to the agricultural season.

Strengthening productive capacities appears essential to reducing dependence on food assistance and supporting the sustainable recovery of livelihoods. Better integration of humanitarian and agricultural recovery responses would allow for a closer alignment between the assistance provided and the structural constraints identified among the AgHiN.



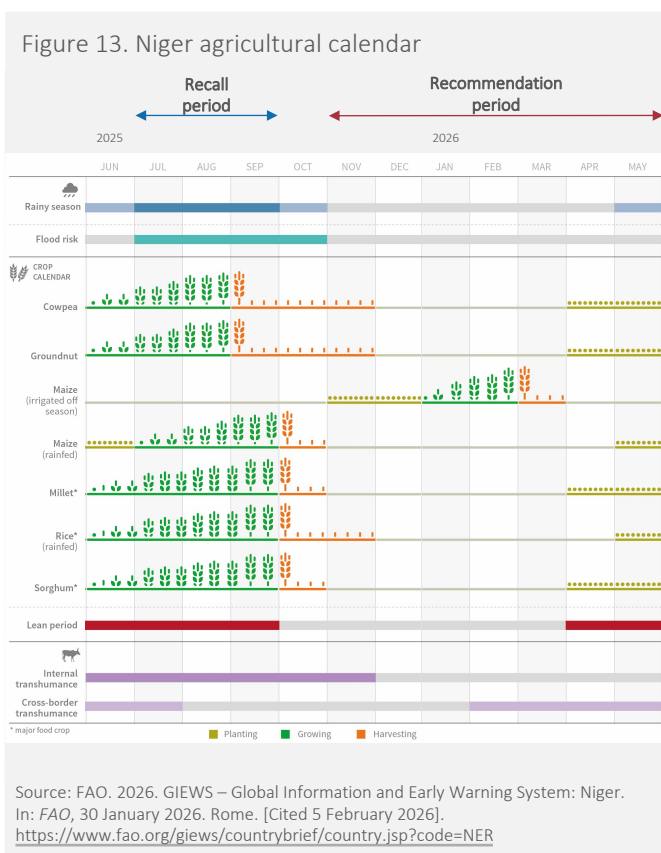
### When do agricultural households need assistance?

The needs of agricultural households follow a seasonal pattern determined by the cycle of agricultural and pastoral activities, and by annual fluctuations in access to markets and intervention areas. The need for assistance is generally highest during the lean season (Figure 13), which extends from June to September. The constraints encountered simultaneously during this period exacerbate the vulnerability of the AgHiN as they seek to meet immediate consumption needs, explaining the high demand for food assistance observed.

The rainy season – June to September – is also a critical period for agricultural livelihoods. The need for agricultural inputs – particularly seeds and fertilizer – is especially high in May and June, before and at the beginning of the agricultural season, a period during which decisions directly influence production outcomes. Interventions aimed at distributing inputs, organizing seed fairs or supporting veterinary services are more effective when implemented between April and June, before the full onset of the rainy season. Beyond this period, the impact on production becomes limited. However, the rainy season also coincides with a deterioration in physical access to certain areas, due to flooding and the deterioration of rural roads, which complicates the implementation of activities and households' access to markets.

In pastoral and agropastoral areas, the period preceding the rains – March to June – corresponds to the pastoral lean season, characterized by a scarcity of pasture and water sources, as well as a decline in livestock health. The need for livestock feed and veterinary services is particularly high during this period. Interventions aimed at preserving pastoral assets – particularly the distribution of livestock feed and health campaigns – are therefore most relevant between February and May, to prevent livestock losses and premature sales during adverse conditions.

After the harvest – October to January – the need for emergency assistance decreases. This period represents a strategic window for recovery interventions and capacity building, such as the rehabilitation of agricultural



infrastructure, technical training and support for processing, marketing and community activities. Access conditions are more favourable, allowing for more effective implementation and better preparation for the following season.

These factors underscore the importance of seasonal planning for interventions. Food and cash assistance remain priorities during the lean season (June–September) to prevent the erosion of productive assets. Production support should be deployed before the agricultural season for crops (April–June) and at the end of the dry season for pastoral activities (February–May) to maximize the impact of interventions on yields and livelihoods. Finally, the post-harvest period (October–January) is conducive to interventions aimed at recovery and strengthening production systems. A phased approach, combining emergency assistance and productive support according to the agricultural calendar, is essential to address urgent needs while supporting the sustainable recovery of households in need of assistance.

## Methodology

### Survey parameters

As part of the DIEM-Monitoring system, FAO conducted a household survey between 9 October and 15 November 2025 to assess agricultural livelihoods and food security in the Niger. Data collection was carried out through computer-assisted telephone interviews and covered all regions of the Niger (Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder), with the exception of the urban community of Niamey. In five of these regions, strategic departments were selected based on the survey objectives and FAO programmatic priorities to obtain granular information at administrative level 2:

- Diffa: Diffa, Goudoumaria and N’Guigmi
- Dosso: Dogondoutchi and Gaya
- Maradi: Dakoro, Guidan-Roundji and Madarounfa
- Tahoua: Abalak, Bouza and Madaoua
- Tillabéri: Filingué, Ouallam and Téra

A margin of error of 10 percent and a 95 percent confidence interval were used, with a sampling design effect of between 1.5 and 2.8 – depending on the sampling frames available for each stratum. The target sample size was set at between 160 and 240 households per stratum of interest. A panel strategy, combined with random numbering and the use of contacts selected by the 2025 National Food and Nutrition Security Survey, was used.

Following data collection, 3 388 households were interviewed (Table 2). The collected data were weighted based on population size, the proportion of agricultural

households (crop farmers and livestock farmers), the education level of the head of household and access to drinking water. More than 100 households were interviewed in each department – with the exception of N’Guigmi – allowing for the derivation of indicative results for the departments of interest and results representative at the regional level.

### Calculation of the number of AgHiN

This indicator represents the number of agricultural households requiring emergency assistance. It is calculated based on four components:

1. engagement in agriculture;
2. indication of acute food insecurity;
3. expression of livelihood needs; and
4. recent exposure to covariant shocks (agricultural and economic shocks).

The calculation is carried out in several steps:

1. **Composite food security index** – A matrix inspired by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET, 2021) is developed to align the indices from the DIEM-Monitoring survey (Household Hunger Scale, household dietary diversity score and the livelihoods coping strategy index) with the phases of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/Cadre Harmonisé. Each household is classified into an IPC phase based on a specific combination of the three indicators measured by the DIEM-Monitoring survey.
2. **Filtering based on agricultural needs** – Only food-insecure households expressing a need for agricultural assistance are included.
3. **Filtering based on shocks experienced** – Only households that have experienced at least one recent covariate shock are included, with idiosyncratic shocks excluded.
4. **Identification of agricultural households** – The proportion of households engaged in agriculture (crop and/or livestock production over the 12 months preceding the survey) is calculated using DIEM-Monitoring data.
5. **Ratio to the total population** – The proportion of households meeting the four preceding criteria is selected and multiplied by the total population – by stratum – using WorldPop data.
6. **Number of agricultural households in need of assistance** – The number of people in agricultural households in need of assistance is then divided by the average household size at each stratum (derived from the DIEM-Monitoring survey) to determine the final number of agricultural households in need of assistance.

Table 2. Survey sample and estimate of agricultural populations in need of assistance

Region (administrative level 1)	Department (administrative level 2)	Planned sample (households)	Realized sample (households)	AgHin	AgPiN	Total population	Share of AgPiN in the total population	Share of AgPiN in the agricultural population
<b>Agadez</b>	Aderbissinat, Arlit, Bilma, Iferouane, Ingall, Tchirozerine	160	160	8 064	55 374	671 873	8.2%	9.9%
<b>Diffa</b>	Diffa	184	191	1 863	13 203	206 137	6.4%	12.0%
	Goudoumaria	186	227	1 350	10 234	134 592	7.6%	8.6%
	N'Guigmi	80	192	762	5 565	148 019	3.8%	7.2%
	Bosso, Maïné Soroa, N'Gourti, N'Guigmi	108	183	5 934	39 929	424 924	9.4%	11.7%
<b>Dosso</b>	Gaya	234	234	6 059	46 419	476 412	9.7%	10.1%
	Dogondoutchi	221	221	5 050	39 348	353 102	11.1%	11.5%
	Boboye, Dioundiou, Dosso, Falmey, Loga, Tibiri	160	160	17 991	123 539	2 126 432	5.8%	6.0%
	<b>Maradi</b>	Dakoro	168	236	7 788	64 809	818 063	7.9%
Guidan Rourdji		182	181	8 202	64 905	917 992	7.1%	7.8%
Madarounfa		181	211	3 317	26 413	578 315	4.6%	5.0%
Aguié, Bermo, Gazaoua, Mayahi, Tessaoua, Maradi (town)		160	160	11 140	83 448	2 367 223	3.5%	4.5%
<b>Tahoua</b>	Abalak	151	228	7 809	59 104	613 608	9.6%	11.0%
	Bouza	101	236	10 975	91 212	617 651	14.8%	15.7%
	Madaoua	166	210	8 554	66 014	822 127	8.0%	8.6%
	Bagaroua, Birni N'Konni, Illéla, Keita, Malbaza, Tahoua, Tassara, Tchintabaraden, Tillia, Tahoua (town)	160	160	32 424	223 246	3 012 779	7.4%	8.8%
	<b>Tillabéri</b>	Filingué	192	192	6 612	53 558	390 980	13.7%
Ouallam		149	231	3 954	36 124	404 078	8.9%	9.5%
Téra		125	191	8 001	68 098	573 516	11.9%	14.5%
Abala, Ayerou, Balleyara, Banibangou, Bankilaré, Gothèye, Kollo, Say, Tillabéri, Torodi		160	160	67 044	460 475	2 339 095	19.7%	20.9%
<b>Zinder</b>	Belbedji, Damagaram Takaya, Dungass, Gouré, Kantché, Magaria, Mirriah, Takeita, Tanout, Tesker, Zinder (town)	160	160	70 104	505 041	5 279 314	9.6%	10.2%
<b>Total</b>		3 388	4 124	292 997	2 136 058	23 276 232	9.1%	10.1%

Source: FAO. 2025. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *DIEM Hub*. Rome. [Cited 5 February 2026]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

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