

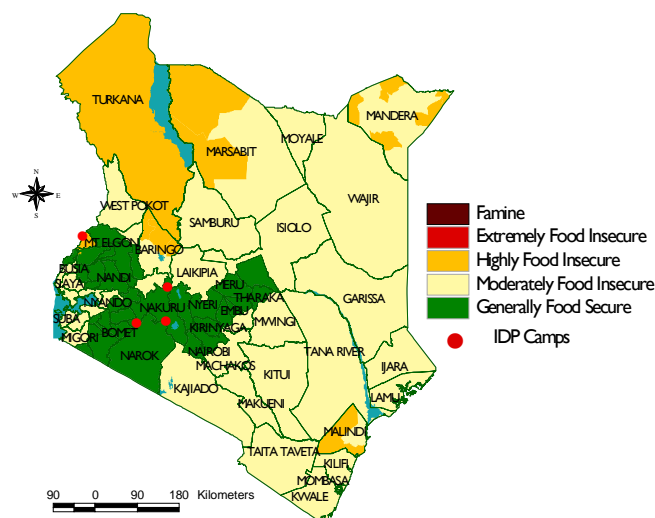
KENYA Food Security Update

August 2008

Food security summary

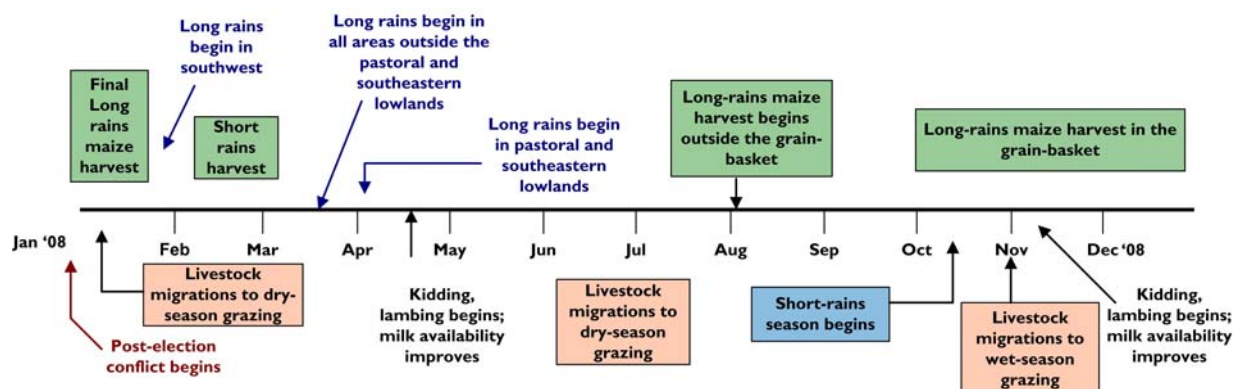
- Findings from the Kenya Food Security Steering Group's (KFSSG) multi-sectoral food security assessments suggest worsening food security. An estimated 1.38 million persons require a comprehensive, integrated intervention to avert a food security crisis from September 2008 through March 2009.
- The areas reporting the most severe deterioration in food security include the northern, western, a few eastern pastoral areas, and localized areas of the coastal lowlands.
- While poor long rains have accelerated the decline in food security, livestock losses as a result of the *peste de petits ruminant* (PPR) disease, high and rising food prices, and debilitating conflict have accentuated the impacts of poor rains.
- National maize output is tightening and the Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) holds less than a quarter of the 360,000 MT statutory requirement. High food prices and below average long rains harvests will make it expensive for the government to finance the balance later in the marketing year (April-July 2009). Judicious timing of imports is required to ensure that neither consumers nor producers are unduly penalized
- The Government of Kenya (GoK) intends to import an estimated 80,000 MT by October, before the onset of the key harvest in November.

Figure 1. Current food security conditions



Source: ALRMP and KFSSG

Seasonal calendar and critical events timeline



Source: FEWS NET

Long-rains assessment findings suggest deepening food insecurity

The KFSSG, led by the GoK and comprising partners drawn from the UN, donors, and NGOs, conducted comprehensive cross sectoral food security assessments in July and August in order to clarify the impacts of the long rains and other causal factors on household food security. The assessments were intended to provide recommendations on desired response options that should alleviate current food insecurity, while strengthening the resilience of livelihoods to withstand future shocks and hazards. See Annex 1 on page 6, for recommended response options.

Specific objectives were to:

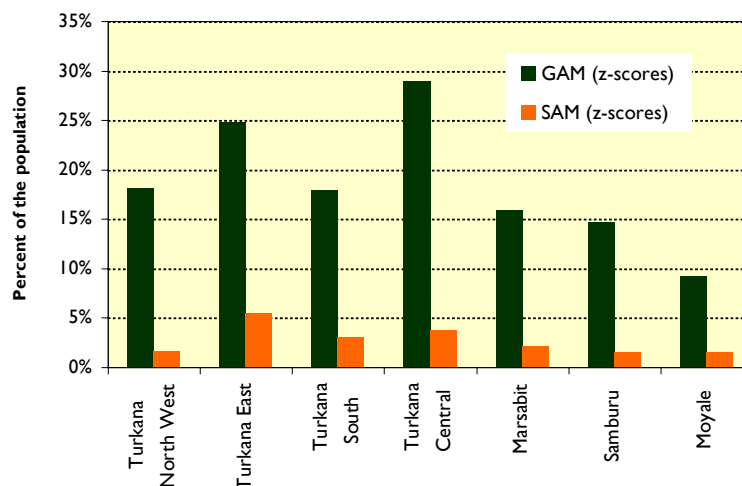
- Ascertain the quality and quantity of the long rains, and assess their impact on all key sectors.
- Establish required non-food interventions, with particular emphasis on programs that promote recovery and build household resilience.
- Assess the need for food interventions in food insecure areas, including options for food for work, food for assets, and general food distribution.
- Establish the impacts of other compounding factors such as conflict, livestock disease, and floods, on the food security of households in assessment districts.
- Assess the impacts of the post-election crisis on the food security of affected households, predominantly in the Rift Valley Province.
- Identify geographic areas, or population groups, where nutrition surveys are required to provide further information on causal factors and propose remedial action.

Summary of findings

Assessment areas reporting the most severe deterioration in food security

The single most worrisome deterioration in food security was witnessed in substantial parts of the **northern; eastern pastoral and coastal clusters**, namely, the areas shaded orange, including most of Turkana; northwestern Marsabit; southern; western, and eastern Mander District; and most of Malindi and Baringo districts, as shown on Figure 1. An estimated in these areas 500,000 persons are highly food insecure. The deterioration in food security in these areas has resulted from poor rainfall during the long rains, which had multiple impacts on pasture and livestock conditions and water availability, resulting in accelerated early migrations, loss in livestock body conditions and increased susceptibility to disease, and heightened conflict as competition for resources and deteriorating terms of trade as livestock reduced while the price of cereals increased markedly. Most of these areas received less than 30 percent of normal rains during the season, which lasted for less than one month. In addition, exceptionally high food

Figure 2. Malnutrition rates in worst-affected areas



Source of Data: MoH, UNICEF and ALRMP

prices, ranging between 70-120 percent above the 5-year average, characterize the worst-affected areas. Food insecurity is compounded by the spread of the highly virulent PPR disease, which has a mortality rate of 50-80 percent among sheep and goats and has caused substantial livestock losses in Turkana and Samburu, in particular, and is spreading rapidly to other pastoral areas. Serious water shortages have pushed the price of water from KES 20 to 60 per 20-liter can, in the affected areas of Marsabit, for example, further eroding purchasing capacities.

The deteriorating conditions are manifested by heightened rates of child malnutrition where GAM rates (Weight for Height; Z-scores) in parts of Turkana and Mandera were 28 and 24 percent, respectively, eroding last year's gains. Figure 2 illustrates the high rates of child malnutrition in areas reporting the most severe decline in food security. Extensive trekking distances of 15-20 km, instead of the seasonal norm of 7-10 km, have caused a marked deterioration in livestock body conditions. Unrelenting conflict has also compromised livestock production; rendered extensive areas inaccessible, thus resulting in poor utilization of pastures; caused the closure of markets; and resulted in the loss of human life and livestock. The worst conflict-hit areas include extensive areas of southern, central, and northern Turkana, Nyiro and Baragoi in Samburu, and Loiyangalani and North Horr in Marsabit.

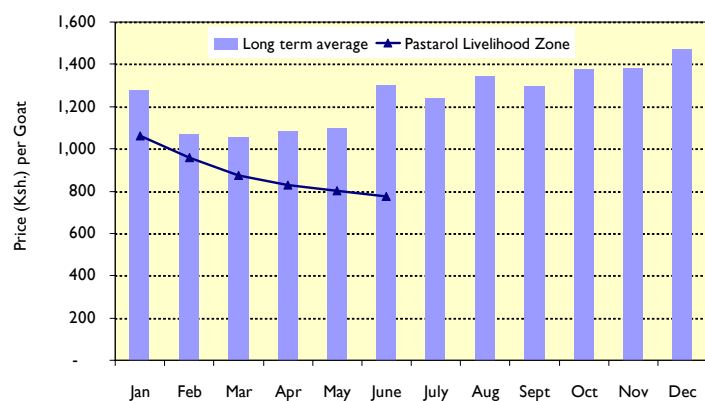
Prospects for the next six months depend on the quality of the short rains season and the implementation of recommended interventions tabulated in Annex 1 on page 6. Current interventions include water trucking, limited livestock off-take, food distributions to 1.1 million people, and the supplementary feeding program. An expanded food and non-food intervention is imperative in the worst affected areas of the northern and eastern pastoral clusters. If the October-December short rains are poor, the food security status of pastoralists could decline to emergency levels.

Assessment areas reporting moderate deterioration in food security

The food security situation has also deteriorated in the remaining areas of the **northern and eastern pastoral clusters**, and across significant areas of the **agropastoral and marginal agricultural clusters**.

Most of the areas shaded yellow on Figure 1 fall into this category, where an estimated 500,000 persons are moderately food insecure. The long rains were characterized by an early cessation, and most areas reported less than 50 percent of normal rainfall. The poor rains resulted in livestock and pastoralists having to trek distances of up to 10 km as drought conditions set in earlier-than-usual. In addition, livestock diseases, particularly the PPR in Samburu, Pokot, and Marsabit; the Foot and Mouth Disease in Laikipia; as well as the Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia in Samburu and Baringo districts, resulted in movement quarantines and closure of markets, thus limiting trade. Figure 3 shows the downward trend in livestock prices. Besides, food prices are 50-80 percent higher than normal, while crop yields declined by up to 80 percent in the agropastoral areas of Baringo, Laikipia, and Isiolo. Conflict between pastoralists in Wajir and Garissa has spilled into Sericho in Isiolo District, while conflict between herders and crop growers in the Tana Delta is causing displacements and negating livestock production.

Figure 3. Declining livestock prices in the agropastoral Baringo



Source of Data: ALRMP and KFSSG

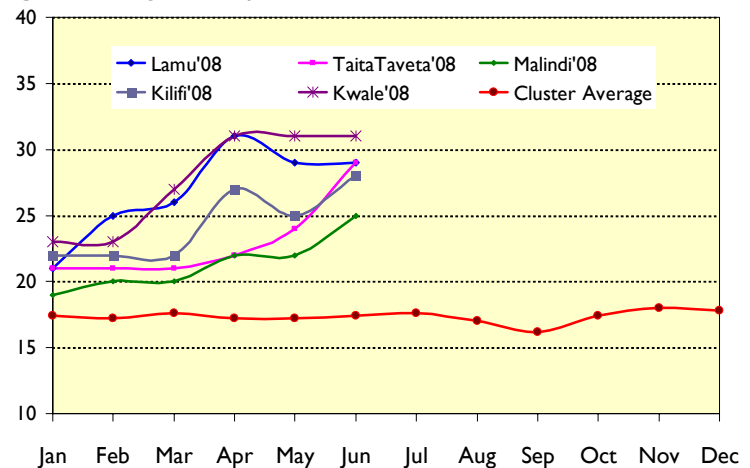
Similar deterioration in food security was reported in the **marginal agricultural cluster** in the lowlands of Mwingi, Kitui, Makueni, Machakos, Mbeere, Tharaka, Malindi, Kwale, Kilifi, Laikipia, and Tana River districts. An estimated 80 percent to a near total crop failure occurred in significant areas. Only some of the drought tolerant pigeon peas, sorghums, and millets survived. The poor season closely followed the failed short rains harvest, the most critical season in the marginal areas. Purchasing capacities were pressurized by a 60 percent increase in the price of food and non-food commodities since the beginning of the year, resulting in accelerated sales of the small stock (instead of restocking) so as to meet the food shortfall following the dramatic rise in food prices. Marginal agricultural households have limited resilience, and their coping capacities have been eroded by repeated droughts and flood episodes in the coastal areas of Tana River and Malindi districts. Worryingly, high stunting rates of over 30 percent, especially in the coastal Malindi, Kilifi, and Kwale districts are also indicative of an extended period of under nutrition, which requires urgent redress.

The prognosis for large parts of the **marginal agricultural** and **coastal clusters** is highly precarious as a result of two consecutive failed seasons. In addition, the high population density of these areas, compared to pastoral areas, suggests that numbers requiring emergency interventions would easily double. In the event that the October-December short rains fail, agricultural households are likely to face a livelihood crisis and require expanded humanitarian assistance.

Assessment areas reporting improved or stable household food security

Although food insecurity has accentuated in many areas of the assessment districts, households in localized **agro pastoral** areas, parts of the **eastern pastoral** areas, and along the **coastal strip** experienced generally favorable rains. In agropastoral areas of Moyale, Samburu; pastoral areas including north and north east of Mandera, northern and southern Wajir, most parts of Garissa District and parts of Tana River District where food security is unchanged; in mixed farming areas of Malindi, Kwale, Kilifi, Tharaka and Lamu, food security has improved. In these areas, an estimated 230,000 persons were moderately food insecure with a risk of becoming highly food insecure; however, this risk is no longer present due to the favorable rainfall.

Figure 4. High maize prices in the Coastal Lowlands



Source: ALRMP and KFSSG

Improvements in food security are attributed to above normal long rains, ranging between 120-150 percent of normal in parts of the identified zones. The good rains set in early and uncharacteristically continued into July in several areas, promoting regeneration of pastures and recharging of water points. As a result, higher-than-normal livestock prices, ranging 30-80 higher than respective averages, were reported in the pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones. Increased milk yields have kept rates of child malnutrition low, yet high stunting rates remain characteristic of coastal districts. There is also limited migration of livestock from wet season grazing areas, thus upholding livestock body conditions. However, August crop harvests in marginal agricultural and agropastoral areas were only 70-80 percent of normal, due to the erratic rainfall pattern during the long-rains season.

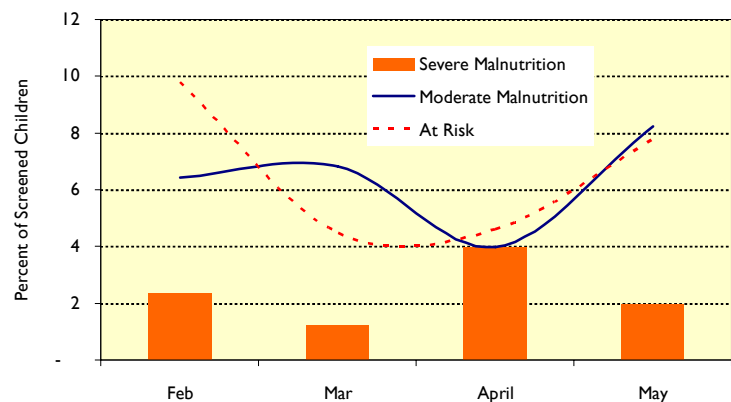
While prospects for the marginal agricultural farmers, agro pastoralists, and pastoralists in this category are favorable and will be strengthened even further if the short rains are favorable, concerns remain. Floods have compromised fish breeding in coastal districts, leading to a decline in output; poor agronomic practices have limited the extent to which good rains can translate into increased production; food prices remain over 50 percent higher than normal levels, and crop output will not compensate for the increase (see Figure 4). Most households are net buyers of maize, and high prices will have little impact in increasing incomes of producer households. In addition, good grazing conditions are likely to result in an influx of livestock from neighboring deficit areas, leading to deterioration of vegetation and increased susceptibility to conflict and disease spread.

Post-election violence affected areas remain in the Emergency status

Food insecurity in areas affected by the post-election violence as well as in many parts of Mt Elgon is consistent with perhaps the worst food security levels in the country. Nationally, fewer than 20,000 IDPs remain in camps and would be classified in the Emergency category, in the absence of on-going food and non-food interventions by the GoK, Red Cross, the UN, NGOs, and partners. The households have lost virtually all their capital and household assets, and their food security is dependent upon successful return to pre-election status, which is unlikely to occur in the short or medium term, if at all.

An estimated 250,000 former IDPs have returned to their homes or to settlements close to their homes. Their food security remains precarious and is likely to remain as such through the medium term, because the extent of their livelihood loss far exceeds the scope of current interventions. The returning IDPs need to be monitored closely to ensure that households who were formerly food secure do not become food insecure. Already, rates of child malnutrition among the IDPs including children in the Mt Elgon area are approaching precarious levels due to the impacts of protracted conflict and

Figure 5. Malnutrition rates in IDP camps



Source of Data: UNICEF, MoH and KFSSG

displacements. A further 200,000 persons have integrated with family members following the post-election conflict. The households remain highly vulnerable as they also lost much of their ability to maintain their livelihoods. In addition, households who accommodated the displaced are largely small-scale farmers in the Central, Western, and Nyanza highlands and have also experienced deterioration in their food security as they have had to compromise their own production to maintain additional household members, amidst rising food and non-food prices. The magnitude and depth of the food security shock among IDPs suggest that interventions need to be expanded significantly to avoid entrenching food insecurity in previously food secure livelihoods. Proposed interventions are outline in Annex 1.

Imports to compensate for tightening domestic maize supply

The national maize supply situation remains tight, and the MoA anticipates a harvest of 2.3 million MT between August 2008 and January 2009, about 10 percent lower than the short-term average. Low carryover stocks, in addition to a SGR that is holding about 63,000 MT, instead of the statutory requirement of 360,000 MT, suggest that the consumption needs of 3.2 million MT may not be met, even if the short rains are normal. In order to

address the likely shortfall in national supply, the GoK plans to import about 80,000 MT of maize from South Africa by October 2008, to cover for the immediate gap and probably import additional maize next year, before the end of the marketing year in July 2009. However, maize imports will be staggered because harvesting of the main long-rains crop begins in November and ends in January, while harvesting of the short-rains crop begins in February and ends in March. While imports from November through March would compromise producer incomes, maize prices remain well above average levels, and nearly all the vulnerable households are effectively net buyers of maize.

Conclusion

The 2008 long-rains assessments have revealed measured improvements in food security fundamentals in the eastern pastoral districts and in localized areas of other pastoral, marginal agricultural, and agropastoral areas. However, food security has deteriorated in most other areas, with the most severe deterioration in the northwestern pastoral livelihood. Poor rains, PPR, and other livestock diseases, unprecedented rise in food and non-food prices, crop failure, crop destruction by wildlife, conflict, and substantial gaps in livelihood-building interventions have all combined to accentuate acute and chronic food insecurity across the most vulnerable arid and semi-arid areas of the country. Proposed interventions tabulated in Annex 1 on page 6 offer the only realistic hope of averting an acute food and livelihood crisis, or an emergency in some instances, in the event that the short rains are poor. The GoK, donors, and NGOs need to implement collaboratively recommended actions expeditiously, so as to mitigate the need for a larger and more costly humanitarian need in a few months' time.

Annex 1: Options for response

The assessment reiterates the need for decisive action to implement integrated cross-sectoral interventions that address the causes, rather than the symptoms of food insecurity. However, food security has accentuated since the last assessment, and needs have expanded. Table 1.1 summarizes the required emergency interventions by sector.

Table 1. Summary of Priority Interventions by Sector, September 2008-March 2009

	SECTOR	INTERVENTION	COST
1.	AGRICULTURE SECTOR	Provision of drought-tolerant seeds; post-harvest management; provision of farm inputs, tools, and equipment.	KES 480M (USD 7.2M)
2.	LIVESTOCK SECTOR	Mass livestock vaccination and pest control; control of PPR; livestock off-take; re-stocking; pasture management; and hay supplementation.	KES 493M (USD 7.4M)
3.	FISHERIES SECTOR	Fish stocking, cold storage, and provision of fishing equipment.	KES 24M (USD 0.3M)
4.	HEALTH AND NUTRITION	Management of acute malnutrition; nutrition surveillance; mobile outreach; expanded immunization; provision of effective insecticide-treated nets; micronutrient supplementation; and nutrition education.	KES 200M (USD 2.0M)
5.	WATER SECTOR	Water trucking; borehole rehabilitation; desilting water sources; rain water harvesting; provision of PVC tanks; rehabilitation of shallow wells.	KES 282M (USD 4.3M)
6	FOOD SECTOR	Purchase of about 65,000 MT of cereals, pulses, oil, CSB and salt, plus transport and other associated costs.	KES 3.9B (USD 58M)
	Grand Total		KES 5.37B (USD 80M)