

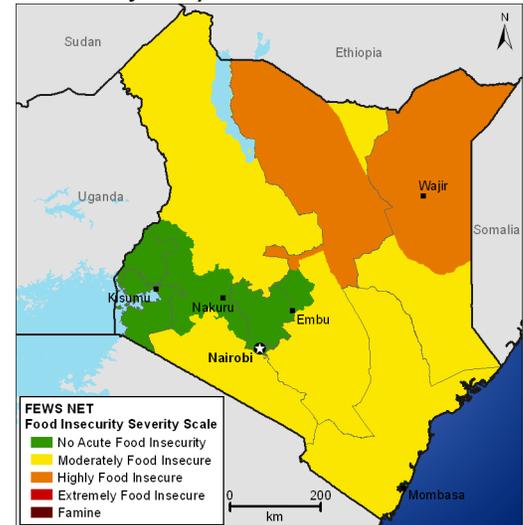
KENYA Food Security Outlook

January through June 2011

Key Messages

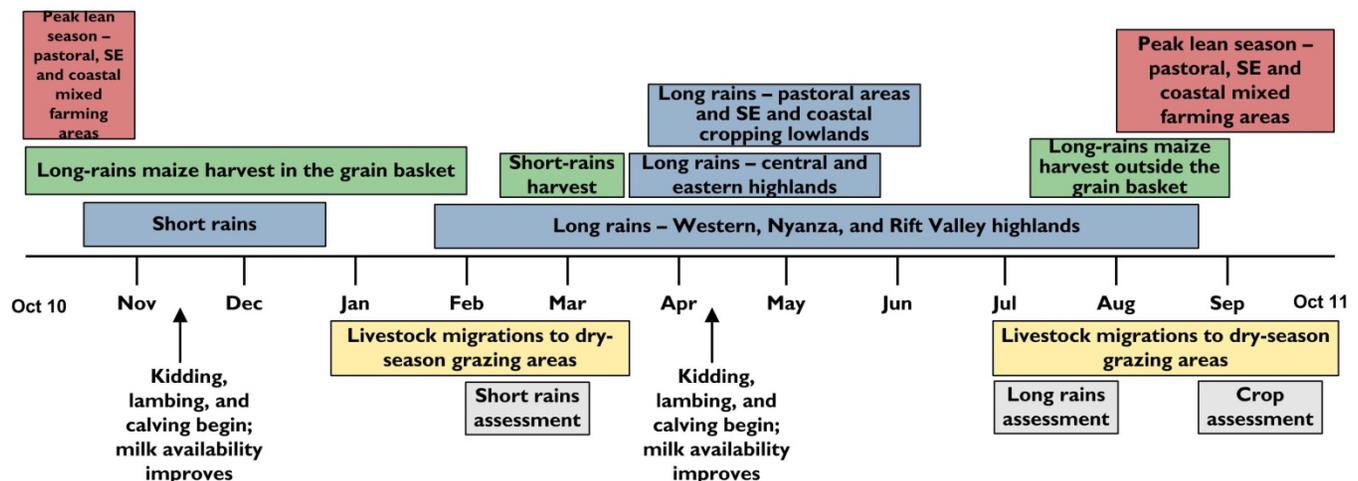
- Pastoral food security is increasingly precarious and may rapidly deteriorate if necessary interventions are not instituted urgently. The worst-affected districts are Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera, and Wajir districts. Accelerated deterioration of grazing resources, particularly water, is likely to result in exceptionally long trekking distances, haphazard migrations, and heightened clustering of livestock. In addition, outbreaks of livestock disease and conflict may exacerbate the deterioration of food security.
- The poor performance of the rains in the short rains-dependent southeast and coastal marginal agricultural areas is likely to result in extensive crop losses. Worst-affected are Mwingi, Kitui, Tharaka, Mwea, Kwale, Kilifi and Malindi. Low household food stocks, coupled with reduced on-farm casual labor opportunities, may precipitate significant food deficits, particularly for the very poor and poor households throughout the outlook period.
- While the long rains are likely to improve the food security of many of the pastoral and marginal agricultural farming households from April through June, recovery from the current drought will take a significant amount of time. Inability to institute urgent cross-sectoral mitigation interventions would negatively impact the tenuous recovery further, particularly as livelihoods will have been significantly eroded.

Figure 1. Current estimated food security outcomes, January 2011



For more information on FEWS NET's Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

Seasonal calendar and critical events timeline



Current Food Security Outcomes

Pastoral Areas

Pastoral food security has deteriorated for most households, following unfavorable October to December 2010 short rains. Most pastoral areas received less than half of the normal rainfall, with rains also being poorly distributed. As a result, the recharging of water sources and regeneration of pasture and browse has been very poor. Distances to water for both livestock and domestic use have increased and are well above average. Consequently, the number of households requiring water sourced from trucks has increased substantially, particularly in Marsabit, Mandera, Isiolo, Wajir, and parts of Garissa. Already, conflicts over water have been reported in Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, Tana River, Baringo, and West Pokot. Depletion of grazing resources has precipitated the widespread migration of livestock into areas outside of the pastoral areas, including movement into Uganda from Turkana and West Pokot; into Ethiopia from parts of Marsabit and Moyale; into Isiolo and Meru North, from Moyale, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa, and Samburu; and toward the mixed farming zones in Tana River, Baringo, and Laikipia.

Longer trekking distances have resulted in declining livestock productivity, with milk production reducing significantly for a majority of households while livestock body conditions are similarly declining. An upsurge of endemic livestock diseases, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP), and Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) has been reported in Wajir, West Pokot, Baringo, Laikipia, Garissa, and Mandera. The more virulent Peste des Petits Ruminants is suspected in Wajir, Garissa, and Kajiado. Although livestock prices are still higher than the respective five-year averages, livestock prices are decreasing, particularly in Baringo, Samburu, Garissa, Mandera, Turkana, Tana River, Wajir, and Laikipia districts, depicting a worsening situation. Cereal prices are 25 to 90 percent above the five-year average in Garissa, Turkana, Mandera, Wajir, and Marsabit, worsening further pastoral terms of trade and access to food. Quarantines imposed on livestock trade in parts of Kajiado and West Pokot have also constrained household purchasing as pastoralists have been unable to sell livestock.

While morbidity incidences have remained within seasonal norms, the nutrition status of children below five years of age is starting to worsen, likely due to reduced access to food. According to Arid Lands Resource Management Program (ALRMP) surveillance, the percentage of children 'at risk' of acute malnutrition (with Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) less than 135mm) has increased by five to 20 percent in Wajir, West Pokot, Baringo, Tana River, Garissa, Mandera, and Isiolo within the last month. MUAC rates were particularly high (over 20 percent) in Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, and Wajir in December. However, current MUAC rates are 10 to 45 percent below the five-year average in Turkana, Mandera, Tana River, and Laikipia, attributable, in part, to the impacts of ongoing supplementary feeding programs. Currently, pastoral households are facing food deficits and are increasing their employment of undesirable coping strategies, such as the skipping of meals for most of the day; increasing indebtedness through the purchase of food on credit; sharing of relief food rations; and withdrawing children from schools as households migrate. The majority of very poor and poor pastoral households, particularly in Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera, and Wajir, are in highly food insecure, with only a few categorized as moderately food insecure.

Southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas

The short rains, which account for over 70 percent of annual output in most of the southeast and coast marginal agricultural zone, have performed poorly, resulting in the wilting of crops, limited regeneration of forage, and the inadequate recharging of water sources. As a result, the availability of short-cycle crops have reduced and household food supplies have been severely constrained for very poor and poor households. In addition, on-farm casual labor opportunities have reduced, subsequently lowering incomes for those households. The better-off households still holding marketable maize surpluses have reduced incomes due to lower than normal maize prices, which are 15 to 40 percent below respective five-year averages in Nyeri, Kitui, Meru North, and Taita Taveta.

Nevertheless, some limited regeneration in pasture and browse, coupled with the recharging of water sources, occurred, resulting in improved livestock productivity manifested in good livestock body conditions, improved milk production, and above-average livestock prices. For instance, goat prices, which have increased by 10 to 20 percent in the last month, are 20 to 100 percent above the five-year average in Nyeri, Kitui, Makueni, Mbeere, Taita Taveta, Kilifi, and Kwale districts.

Unfortunately, the majority of very poor and poor households are not deriving benefits that have accrued from improved livestock productivity, due to low livestock holdings.

While the majority of households are uncharacteristically relying on market purchases to source cereals, the prevailing below-average prices have been beneficial to households who are still able to access cereals. The nutrition status for children under five years of age suggests that there is continued food access for households. For instance, the percentage of children under five years old ‘at risk’ of acute malnutrition as measured using MUAC, is 20 to 50 percent below the five-year averages in Kwale, Taveta, Kitui and Mbeere. Though MUAC rates are relatively low in coastal areas, averaging less than 10 percent, they remain above the five-year average. Very poor and poor households, who are currently moderately food insecure, are increasingly applying undesirable coping strategies such as the skipping of meals, sand harvesting, and charcoal production. Some households in this category are relying on external food aid through the Food for Assets program. The middle income and better-off households are categorized as being not acutely food insecure since they have diverse sources of income and are not employing undesirable coping strategies.

Most likely food security outcomes, January through June 2011

The most likely food security outcomes for the January through June 2011 period are premised on the following assumptions:

- The April through June long rains are likely to be normal.
- Implementation of required cross-sectoral interventions begins after the outcome of the short rains food security assessments, toward the end of February.
- Resources may not be adequate to carryout significant livestock off-take on a timely basis.
- Limited migration options for a majority of pastoralists are likely to result in lengthy migrations that predispose livestock to disease and conflict.
- Maize prices are likely to increase due to enhanced demand, especially in areas that have reported crop failure.
- Significant deterioration of terms of trade for pastoralists and marginal agricultural farm households.
- Stress sales of livestock are likely to occur across pastoral areas.
- Increased incidences of conflicts over grazing resources in areas where livestock have clustered.
- Increased water shortages are likely to result in the outbreak of water-borne diseases.
- Market functions may be disrupted as livestock migrate and households resort to purchasing food on credit.
- Unstable political situations in Somalia and Southern Sudan are likely to limit migration options.

Pastoral areas

Pastoral livelihoods are likely to be affected by several shocks following the poor performance of the short rains, including: diminishing grazing resources, possible outbreaks of contagious livestock diseases due to increased clustering of weakened livestock, conflicts over grazing resources, significant deterioration in pastoralist terms of trade, and outbreaks of water and vector-borne diseases. The pastoralists in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, and Garissa are likely to be most affected through early April with the onset of the long rains.

Figure 2. Most likely food security outcomes, January-March, 2011

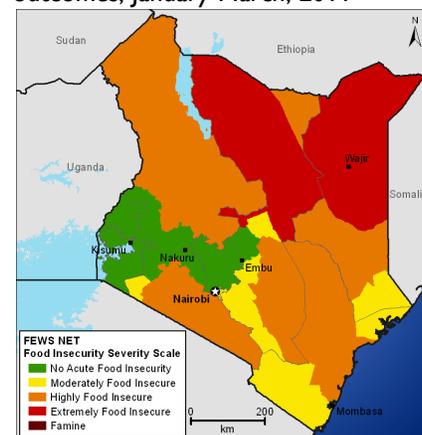
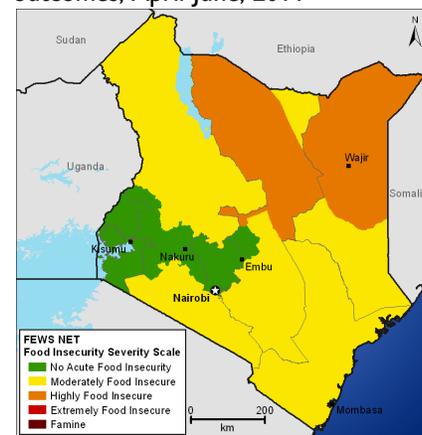


Figure 3. Most likely food security outcomes, April-June, 2011



For more information on FEWS NET’s Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

Unusually long trekking distances in search of pasture and browse and water is expected to cause severe deterioration in livestock productivity from January through early April with the onset of the long rains. Livestock body conditions are likely to decline significantly, leading to lowered livestock value and prices, and increased stress sales of livestock from January through March. Although national maize production is higher than average and the harvest is being concluded, only limited transmission of lowered prices is likely to occur in the pastoral areas. A poor trade infrastructure, coupled with high transaction costs, tends to limit trader participation in maize marketing. As a result, the terms of trade for pastoralists are likely to deteriorate significantly from January through to May when the livestock will begin to recover. Growing water scarcity is set to continue through April and is likely to trigger increases in water prices, constraining purchasing capacities even further. As a result, households may resort to using poor quality or contaminated water, leading to an increase in water-borne diseases, then resulting in poor food utilization and heightened malnutrition through March, particularly in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, and West Pokot.

Ongoing livestock migrations are likely to become haphazard, particularly in Marsabit, Moyale, Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa due to poor rains which have caused rapid depletion of pasture along traditional migration routes into Ethiopia and Somalia. While pastoralists in the northwest, particularly Turkana and West Pokot, may have options for migrations toward the border with Uganda, they are likely to experience heightened conflict and insecurity, leading to the loss of livestock assets, lives, and even destitution. Increased livestock movements are likely to occur even into the southeast and coastal areas, from adjacent pastoral zones of Tana River, Ijara, and Kajiado, despite these areas being prone to tick-borne diseases. Livestock already weakened by long trekking distances may become increasingly susceptible to contagious livestock diseases through late March. The necessary interventions such as livestock off-take and feed supplementation are unlikely to occur due to inadequate central government funding. Already a growing proportion of the livestock has weakened and can no longer be vaccinated. Due to their weakened state, substantial livestock deaths may occur between February and late March, in addition to further livestock mortalities at the onset of the long rains.

From January onwards, very poor and poor households are likely to increase employment of undesirable coping strategies such as asset stripping, stress livestock sales, increased indebtedness, slaughtering calves to preserve the milking herd, and consumption of wild foods, particularly in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, and Isiolo. The affected households are likely to be highly or extremely food insecure between January and April if necessary interventions are not instituted. In addition, affected households may require expanded external support to meet their food needs throughout the scenario period. Middle income households which are overwhelmingly livestock-dependent may begin to employ undesirable coping strategies to meet their food needs from February to April and will begin to move into the highly food insecure category, however, household food security is likely to improve from May onward if the long rains are favorable.

Southeastern marginal agricultural areas and coastal lowlands

The main shocks that are likely to impact livelihoods in the southeast and coast marginal agricultural lowlands due to poor short rains include a below-normal harvest and acute water shortages. The short rains maize harvest that should occur in February is likely to be significantly lower than average in many parts of the zone, and will likely fail in parts of Kwale, Kilifi, Malindi, Makueni, Mwingi, Kitui, Tharaka, Mbeere, Mwea, and Machakos. As a result, household food stocks will not be replenished, resulting in unusual reliance on markets throughout the scenario period and during most of 2011. However, opportunities for casual labor may begin to increase in March, as households may opt to increase production of the minor long rains crops so as to compensate for major losses during the short-rains season. Households are likely to spend more time sourcing water through March due to the depletion of water sources. Subsequently, household expenditures on water are likely to rise, as will expenditures on medical care due to the proliferation water-borne diseases, particularly cholera.

The expected April to June long rains do not constitute the principal season in this zone, thus household food security is likely to continue declining throughout the scenario period. Very poor and poor households are already experiencing significant food deficits and may become highly food insecure from February onward. Middle income households are likely to diversify their livelihood activities in search of income needed to purchase food and also prepare for long rains land preparation and planting. Nevertheless, middle income and better-off households are likely to continue to experience no acute food insecurity throughout the scenario period.

Other populations that will require monitoring

The food security situation for approximately 30,000 people who were displaced after the post-election crisis in early 2008, and who are still residing in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, is likely to remain precarious throughout the scenario period. Government efforts to resettle the IDPs have been hindered by the inability to locate land for resettlement. A majority of the IDPs have not been able to engage in meaningful agricultural production throughout the scenario period, although they are currently located in Kenya's highly productive 'grains basket'. The affected households will continue to rely on external food assistance through June and are likely to remain extremely food insecure.

The urban poor may continue to experience accentuated food insecurity due to possible above-average food prices resulting from the reduced market supply of fresh produce between January and April. In addition, due to high fuel prices, the increased cost of production will invariably increase prices of food and non-food commodities, putting pressure on household purchasing capacities and reducing household expenditures on food between February and April. The possible disruption of hydro-electric power generation due to the poor recharging of water reservoirs may slow down productive activities leading to a loss of labor opportunities, which are important to the livelihoods of the urban poor. Children are likely to drop out of school and join the labor force. In addition, other non-food expenditures will also be compromised including access to water and healthcare, leading to a likely outbreak of water-borne diseases such as cholera. Many households are unlikely to access more than one, largely carbohydrate, meal a day. Very poor and poor households are unlikely to meet their food needs throughout the scenario period, and are likely to remain highly food insecure as a result.

Table 1. Less likely events over the next six months that could change the above scenarios

Area	Event	Impacts on food security outcomes.
Pastoral areas in the northeast and northwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive implementation of appropriate cross-sectoral interventions in a timely manner.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imminent loss of livestock would be prevented thereby preserving livelihood assets, to some extent. Pastoral livelihoods arrest the rapid decline in food security.
Pastoral areas in the northeast and northwest, marginal agricultural areas in the southeast, and coastal lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-season rains in January.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water sources would recharge while pasture and browse regeneration would improve thereby mitigating a rapid deterioration in livestock productivities. Outbreak of water-borne diseases would be averted.
Pastoral areas in the north, northeast, and northwest; marginal agricultural areas in the southeast and coastal lowlands; and urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April to June long rains perform very poorly.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food insecurity would reach catastrophic levels and livestock mortalities would be widespread. Widespread water shortage would occur, leading to outbreak of water-borne diseases, such as cholera.
Urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tensions and even violence break out when prosecution of post-election violence suspects commences.** Fuel shortages.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activities, including, transportation, market access and job opportunities would be disrupted, leading to interruption of food distribution, food shortages and even loss of incomes. Increased production costs would translate to higher prices for food and non-food commodities, affecting adversely household purchasing capacities.
Main maize producing areas in Nyanza, Western, and the Rift Valley.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further increases in fuel prices.** Poor long rains.** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in area and output of the long rains crops. Severe cereal deficit, leading to significantly above-average prices, prohibitive to a majority of food-deficit households.

*Unlikely

**Very unlikely