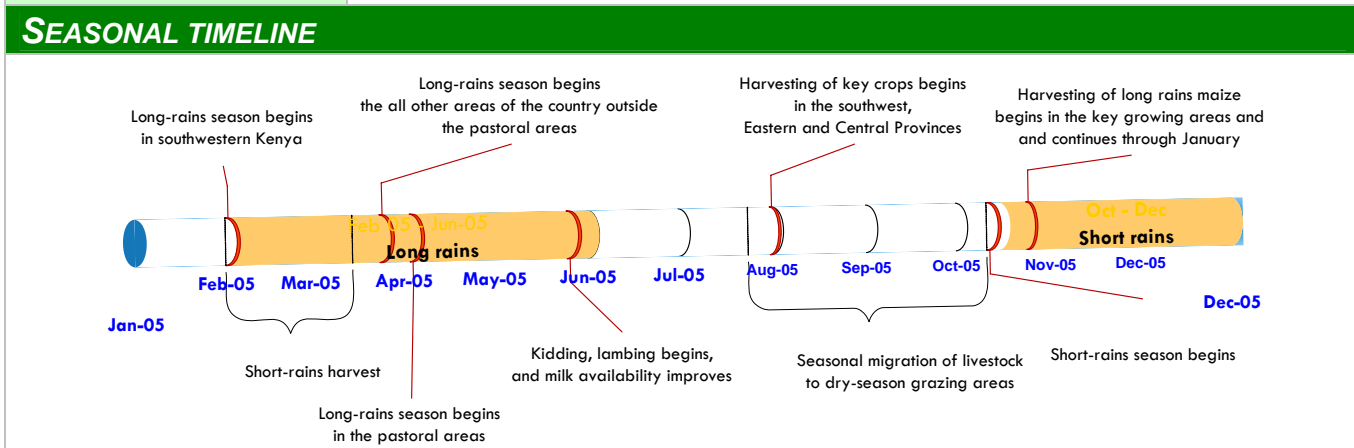




KENYA FOOD SECURITY UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

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- ### CURRENT HAZARD SUMMARY
- Watering distances now range from 10 km in the southeastern lowlands to 30 km in the northeastern pastoral districts.
 - Despite the ongoing long-rains harvest and subsequent decline in prices, cereal prices remain prohibitively high for most drought-affected households.
 - Food and non-food needs far exceed available financial resources.
 - Rising fuel prices undermine purchasing capacities of the most vulnerable.

FOOD SECURITY SUMMARY

The highest levels of food insecurity are found in localized areas of the southeastern lowlands now classified as the ‘Warning’ alert status. Pastoralists in the northeast and marginal agricultural households remain of serious concern, regarding their deteriorating household food security. Farming households in the marginal agricultural districts of Eastern and Coast Provinces have experienced two consecutive total crop failures, and their next harvest is not until February 2006. Alternative income generating activities are scarce, in a rural economy overwhelmingly dependent on the weather. Pastoralists in the eastern districts are grappling with the impacts of a disappointing long-rains season. Livestock body conditions, productivity and value have all declined. Watering distances are increasing substantially, and a good short-rains season, expected to begin in October is critical. Nevertheless, the national long rains crop output is expected to be 20 percent higher than the recent five-year average. Already, maize harvests are contributing to a decline in maize prices.

ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS POINT TO CONTINUED FOOD NEEDS

Recommendations from the 2005 long-rains assessments have now been finalized, and the KFSSG has developed a response plan addressing both the food and non-food needs of food insecure households.

The Emergency Operation (EMOP) began in July 2004, targeting 2.3 million beneficiaries in 26 districts. The number of beneficiaries was reduced to 1.7 million, following the October-December short rains harvest. Based on the 2005 long-rains assessment recommendations, the number of beneficiaries in the third phase of the EMOP has been further reduced to 1.2 million in 17 districts, including 1,026,468 under food interventions and 200,000 in the expanded school feeding program.

The most critical needs are currently concentrated in the eastern half of the country, which experienced an exceptionally poor long-rains season in most areas. (See Figure 1.) The southeastern lowlands in particular are facing a second consecutive season of crop failure. Household food stocks are non-existent, while alternative income sources especially labor opportunities are increasingly limited.

Unusually long watering distances for both livestock and household use, ranging from 10 in the southeast to 30 kilometers in the northeast, underline worsening conditions. Critical time is spent away from other productive activities. The lack of water is contributing to declining livestock health and productivity, which is evidenced by declining animal prices (see Figure 2). The decline in prices is also attributed to increased volume of livestock sales, necessary to meet household food needs.

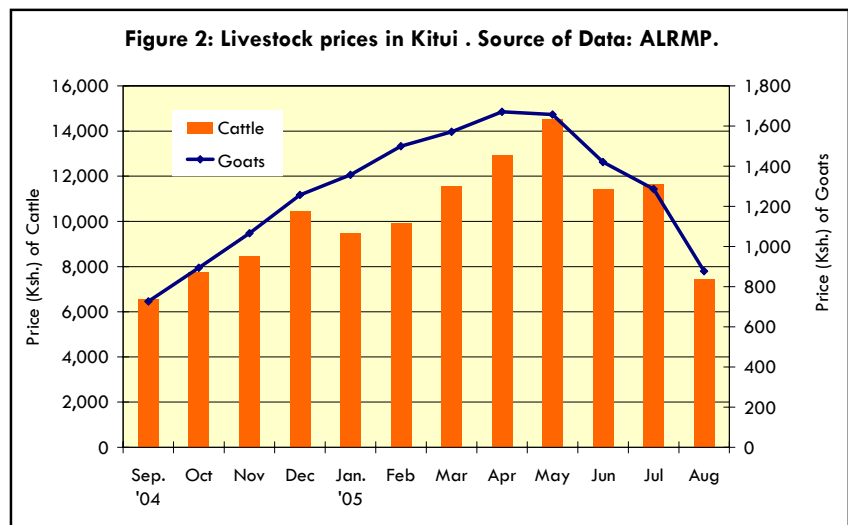
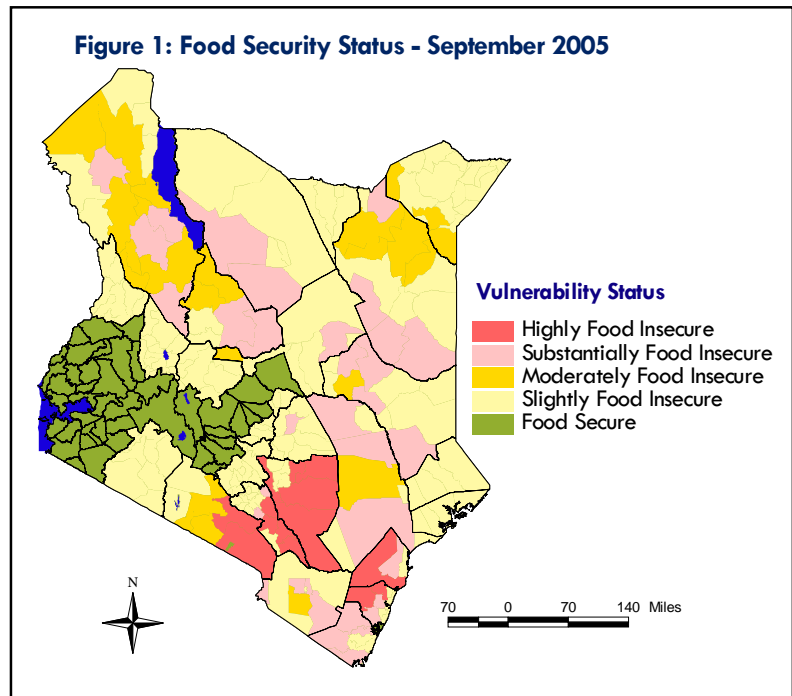
The Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) has indicated that while rates of child malnutrition have remained fairly stable and lower than usual in the western pastoral districts, they are rising in the eastern pastoral and southeastern cropping lowlands. The rates, measured by the Middle Upper Arm Circumference, range from 13-25, still below the emergency threshold of 33 percent but nevertheless approaching it.

Subsequently, the KFSSG plans to continue food and non-food interventions in 20 districts from September 2005 through February 2006.

ADDRESSING FOOD AND NON-FOOD NEEDS

Food interventions under the EMOP will consist of four programs for the September 2004-February 2006 period.

1. **General Food Distribution (GFD)** will continue for an estimated 775,000 persons in 11 districts where recovery was limited. These districts include Garissa, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Makeni, Mandera, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River and Wajir and are found in the south eastern lowlands and the northeastern pastoral districts.



2. **Food For Work (FFW)** activities will target 250,000 persons in nine districts that have recovered significantly since the July 2004 emergency operation began. These districts are Isiolo, Kilifi, Machakos, Malindi, Mandera, Marsabit, Mwingi, Samburu and Turkana. The FFW program is a means of transferring resources to households while at the same time accomplishing useful community projects, most of them in water development.
3. **Supplementary feeding** is recommended for an estimated 152,000 children and lactating mothers in the areas most affected by drought and in areas reporting heightened rates of child malnutrition.
4. **The Expanded School Feeding Program** will continue to target 200,000 children in schools in Coast and Eastern Provinces.

An estimated 78,941 MT of food commodities is required. With carry over food stocks of about 27,153 MT, the effective food requirement is actually 51,788 MT. The carry over stock includes late pledges, some of which have not arrived yet. Due to the substantial long-rains production this season, the WFP is encouraged to source food locally in surplus areas, to avoid a glut in local market supply.

Non-food interventions will take place in the Water, Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and the Child Protection sectors, valued at an estimated \$6 million. Interventions in the **Water** sector are intended to improve availability of clean water to drought-affected households, while ensuring that breakdowns in water sources are rapidly repaired. Interventions in the **Health and Nutrition** sector will consist of supplementary feeding, basic health services including immunization and mobile outreach clinics, and increased surveillance and monitoring of health and nutrition status. Interventions in the **Education** sector aim to reduce both the school drop-out rates and migration to urban centers that often occur during periods of stress. These interventions will provide key inputs and learning materials, promote the involvement of local communities in order to sustain learning and strengthen the capacities of local authorities to respond to crises in the learning institutions. Interventions in the **Agriculture** sector primarily aim to provide appropriate seed to farming households in the southeastern and coastal districts, in time for short rains planting in early October. Interventions in the **Child Protection** sector aim at assisting and rehabilitating younger victims of the drought and tribal clashes, which have left their care-givers destitute or indisposed.

To be fully effective, complementary non-food and food interventions need to be applied simultaneously, which is often not possible because of the large disparities in funding food and non-food needs. Presently, there is a financial short fall of \$31 million (\$25 million for food needs and \$6 million for non-food needs).

The Government of Kenya launched an appeal to donors and NGOs on September 13 in preparation for the start of the third phase of the EMOP. Carry over food stocks should ensure that the EMOP begins in a timely manner in September. WFP has indicated that the full allocation of 10,480 MT of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and Corn Soya Blend should be distributed in the all 17 districts during September.

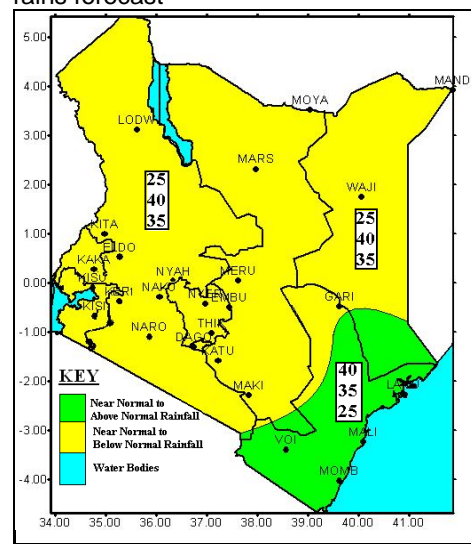
THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE 2005 OCTOBER-DECEMBER SHORT-RAINS SEASON IS MIXED

Pastoral and marginal agricultural households residing in areas that received poor rains during the 2005 long rains season are eagerly anticipating the onset of the October to December short-rains season. Most pastoralists in the northeast and farm households in the southeastern lowlands experienced a particularly poor long-rains season, in addition to several mediocre seasons prior to that.

The Kenya Meteorological Department has released the 2005 short rains forecast. Across most of the country, there is a high probability of normal rains, with a tendency toward below normal. There is a high probability of above normal rain in some of the drought-affected southeastern marginal agricultural districts of the Coast Province, extending into the pastoral districts of Tana River and Ijara (see Figure 3.)

A normal short-rains season in the marginal agricultural and short rains-dependent districts would improve household food security, which has been severely eroded by a succession of poor seasons. A normal season in the western agropastoral districts would also assist the recovery process, which began with the favorable long-rains season.

Figure 3: October-December 2005 short-rains forecast



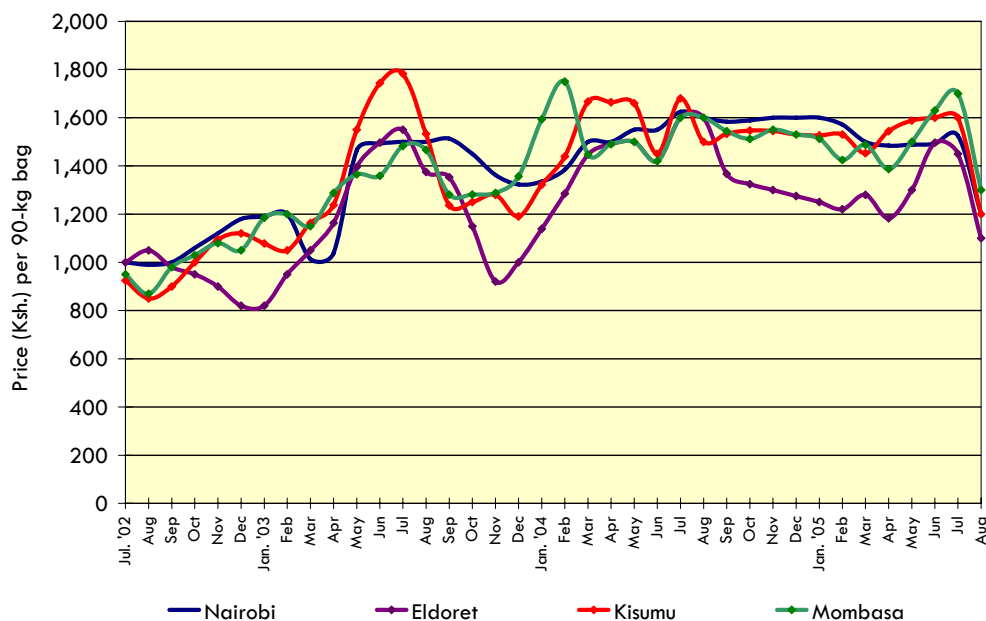
Source: Kenya Meteorological Department

Should normal rains occur during the upcoming season, pastoral recovery will resume in the northeastern districts that experienced a very poor long-rain season. However, if the rains are below normal, food insecurity could rapidly deteriorate, particularly in the northeastern districts that are still grappling with the impacts of a poor long-rains season.

CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC AS PRICES BEGIN TO DECLINE

The long-rains crop harvest has begun in the southwestern Rift Valley, Central, Western, Eastern and Coast provinces, and crop production prospects are above average. Close to 70 percent of the crop will be harvested from November through January, the majority in Rift Valley Province. The Ministry of Agriculture anticipates that 2.5 million MT of maize will be harvested, about 20 percent higher than average and 50 percent more than last year's long-rains harvest. A significant surplus is anticipated through June 2006, due to substantial carry over stocks in addition the long rains production. The bean harvest, expected in March 2005, should be 324,000 MT, over 20 percent higher than the recent 5-year average.

Figure 4: Maize price trends in key markets



Source of Data: MIB

The maize surplus will have a marked beneficial impact on farm households in the deficit areas, where prices have been prohibitively high thus far. However, good national production has obscured an exceptionally poor cropping season in the southeastern and coastal districts, which reported a near-total crop failure in several areas. While these short-rains dependent areas contribute only five percent to national long-rains output, poor production during this season has led to a serious deterioration in household food security, after a similarly poor 2004 short-rains season.

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), is holding about 240,000 MT of maize, which includes 180,000 MT for the strategic grain reserve, 45,000 MT for relief food and 6,700 MT for commercial purposes.

To the relief of the market-dependent households most affected by drought, cereal prices have now begun to decline, and the downward pressure is expected to persist through March 2006, after the long and short-rains season harvests. Figure 4 shows the recent downward trend in maize prices in key reference markets. The fall in prices is expected to be most pronounced between December and January, when the bulk of the crop will be harvested. However, rapidly rising fuel prices will continue to influence food prices and undermine household food access.