KENYA Food Security Outlook

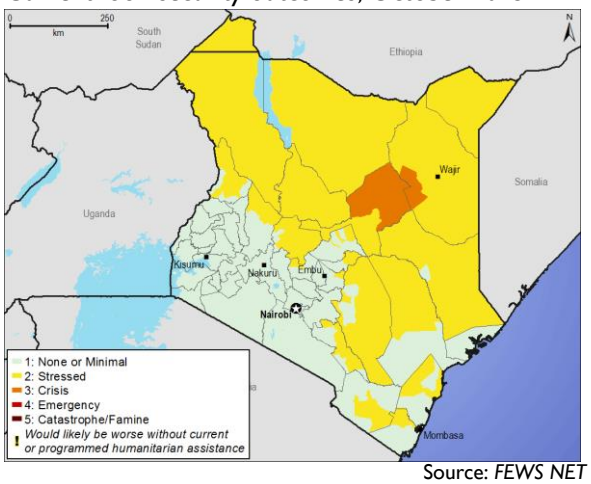
October 2015 to March 2016

Above-average October to December short rains expected to increase food security

KEY MESSAGES

- Most areas of western and central Kenya are in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) as the long rains harvest and imports continue to keep markets well supplied. Food security is likely to improve further following the start of the short rains in October and the start of the long rains harvest in the northern Rift Valley. However, above-average October to December short rains may result in damage to crops and post- harvest losses.
- In pastoral areas, above-average short rains are likely to increase the availability of rangeland resources and eventually increase livestock productivity, increasing both milk production and income from livestock sales. Improvements in household food consumption are expected starting in November. Most pastoral households will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2), while some will move to None (IPC Phase 1) by December. Areas in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in October, which received hardly any rain in 2015, are expected to move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) as herds slowly recover and households gain better access to labor markets.
- In marginal agricultural areas, the likely above-average October to December short rains will lead to an increase in area planted and encourage more investment of time and resources into agriculture. Higher demand for agricultural labor will increase household incomes, increasing food access from markets almost immediately. After short-cycle crops like legumes are harvested by December, households will have food from their own production. Most households are expected to move to None (IPC Phase 1) by December and remain in None (IPC Phase 1) through at least March.
- During the forecast above-average October to December short rains, flash floods in lowland areas, river flooding, and lake shore flooding are likely. Flooding will displace households, increase the incidence of water- and vector-borne diseases, and limit physical and economic access to markets. Some flooded areas may move into Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Current food security outcomes, October 2015



Source: *FEWS NET*

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click here.

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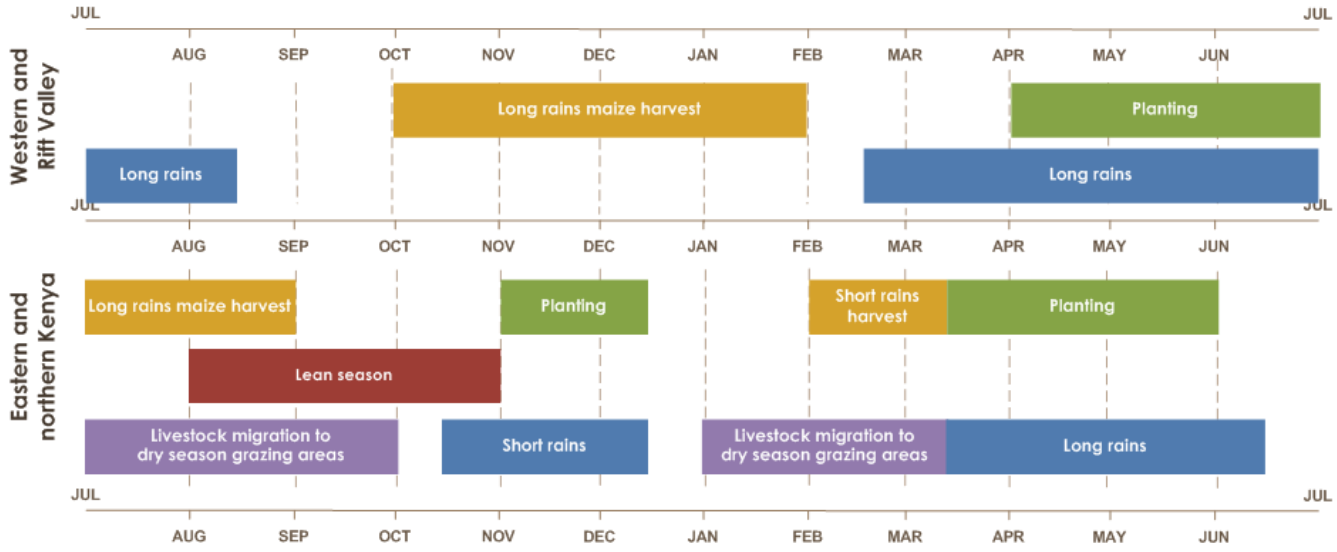
SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR



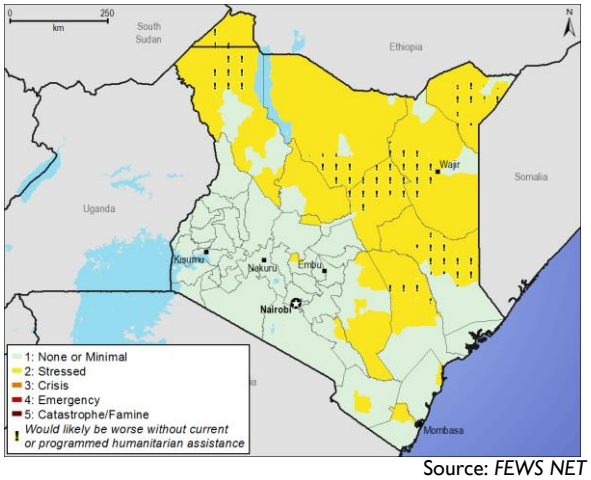
Source: *FEWS NET*

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

The harvest of long rains crops from high-, medium-, and low-potential agricultural areas in August entered the markets and increased traders' stocks. Market supply from cross-border imports also increased between June and September. In September, cross-border imports of maize, rice, sorghum, and beans were 150, 15, 60, and 50 percent higher than June, respectively. Maize imports from Uganda were up to 67 percent above the two-year average. The State Department of Agriculture's August food security report estimated national maize stocks at 1.3 million metric tons (MMT) as of the beginning of September 2015, similar to levels in 2013 and 2014 for this time of year. The stocks were held by farmers, traders, millers, and the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). As a result of typical supply during the harvest, maize prices are stable or falling across Kenya. Wholesale maize prices in urban markets continued to decline marginally from August to September, as is the seasonal trend. September prices were six to 12 percent above 2014 prices in Nairobi and Mombasa, but they were up to 10 percent below 2014 in Kisumu and Eldoret.

Projected food security outcomes, October to December 2015



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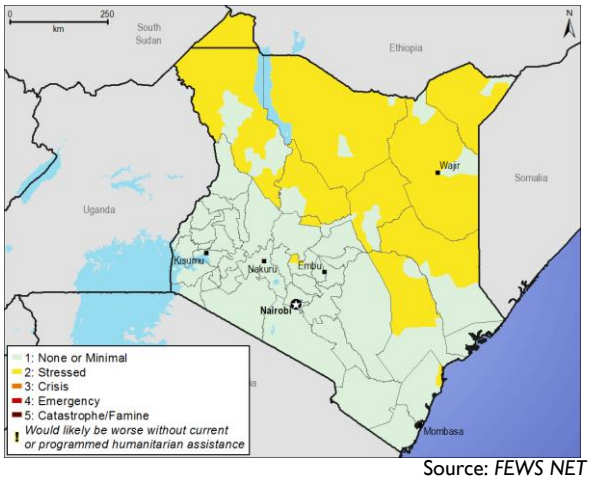
The food component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose gradually from July to September. September 2015 prices were 9.81 percent above prices in September 2014. Overall, consumer price inflation rose marginally to 5.97 percent in September at an annualized rate from 5.84 percent in August. Prices of many foods, including maize, wheat flour, rice, beans, and milk remain above their averages. In the formal, urban economy, many wages are stagnant while food prices are rising, likely leading to reduced purchasing power for poor, urban households closely linked into the formal economy.

In marginal agricultural, agropastoral, and pastoral areas, food security seasonally deteriorated with the early start of the lean season in July and August. The Kenya Food Security Steering Group's (KFSSG) long rains assessment in August estimated

that about 1.1 million people were acutely food insecure and required humanitarian assistance. This was 32 percent higher than the February estimate made during the short rains assessment.

In **pastoral areas**, the availability of rangeland resources seasonally declined and their quality deteriorated. As a result, livestock productivity declined, and many more livestock have poor body conditions than earlier in the year. This has led to a further decrease in livestock prices from August to September. Low livestock prices, low or no milk production, and poor livestock body conditions mean that households have even less income than in a typical lean season. With low incomes and well above-average staple food prices, households have limited purchasing power. The majority of households in pastoral areas remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, there was considerably less rainfall in eastern Isiolo and western Wajir and livestock in these areas are thus less productive. In these areas, some households remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) as they are unable to access adequate quantities of food.

Projected food security outcomes, January to March 2016



Source: *FEWS NET*

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In the **marginal agricultural areas**, with the start of the lean season in August, households no longer earned income from agricultural labor, during a time when they relied on market purchases. As a result, households used petty trading, construction labor, and other types of labor to earn income to buy food. Demand for agricultural labor started early this year in September/early October as land preparation and planting began early. The majority of households are thus able to afford food, but they lack enough income to pay for other essential items and invest in their livelihoods, so they remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made at the national level:

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and a wide variety of other forecasts, the El Niño is likely to continue through December, meaning that cumulative October to December rainfall is likely to be above average with a timely start in most parts of the country. These short rains are also expected to have typical spatial and temporal distribution, with rains extending to January in some parts of the country. However, in most areas, the rains are expected to end near a typical time in December.
- Despite typical supply, staple food prices are likely to increase gradually through January. This increase will be driven by expected disruptions to trade during the rains, both that are typical of the rainy season and those caused by floods. Another driver of the increase will be the expected gradual increase in fuel prices. However, staple food prices are likely to fall or remain stable, as the likely above-average short rains harvest starts to enter markets in February.
- Long rains crop production in high- and medium-potential agricultural areas is expected to be average to above average due to the above-average March to May long rains as well as government input subsidies. According to the KFSSG's long rains assessment, long rains maize production is projected to be approximately 2.8 million metric tons (MMT), roughly 12 percent above the five-year average. Notably though, the short rains may occur while the harvest is ongoing or just completed in the northern Rift Valley, specifically in Trans Nzoia and Uasin Gishu Counties. If this occurs, post-harvest losses may be much higher than in recent years.
- Due to the expected above-average October to December rains, short rains planted area is likely to be higher than usual.
- As a result of higher planted area and above-average rainfall, the short rains harvest is likely to be above average.
- The above-average October to December rains are expected to improve and increase food security in many parts of Kenya, especially in pastoral areas, the central highlands, and southeastern and coastal lowlands. However, they are also

likely to cause flooding of rivers and lakes and cause flash floods in some lowland areas, especially in the Northeast and near the coast.

- Floods may lead to outbreaks of human and livestock diseases, including Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in cattle and diseases such as malaria, acute watery diarrhea (AWD), cholera, typhoid, and dysentery in humans. Floods are likely to cause displacement of households and loss of livestock. They limit access to markets by making roads impassable. Flood-prone areas include Western Lakeshore Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone in Nyando, Migori, Rachuonyo, Kisumu, Busia and Siaya Counties, Coastal Marginal Agricultural Mixed Farming livelihood zone in Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Kwale Counties, Southern Pastoral livelihood zone in Kajiado and Narok Counties, Northeastern Pastoral livelihood zone in Wajir, Mandera, and Isiolo Counties, Southeastern Pastoral livelihood zone in Tana River and Garissa Counties, Northwestern Pastoral livelihood zone in Turkana County, and Northern Pastoral livelihood zone in Marsabit County.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

In **most central and western areas**, food security is expected to improve through December as the harvest in the northern Rift Valley, the primary grain basket, starts in October. However, heavy rainfall from October to December is more likely this year and coincides with the harvest. Episodes of heavy, later than usual rains could cause extensive damage to both crops in the field and harvested crops. High moisture content, mold growth, and other problems could arise making maize less suitable for milling or storage. Maize stocks stood at 1.3 million metric tons at the beginning of September, according to the State Department of Agriculture. However, with continued harvest and imports, stocks are likely to still stand around 1.16 MMT by December.

In **pastoral areas**, after the start of the short rains in October, availability of rangeland resources will increase, and their quality will improve. As a result, livestock productivity will increase. Households will have more milk to consume, and their income will increase from milk and livestock sales. Increased household food consumption is expected, starting in November. Although the majority of households will still be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), some households will improve to None (IPC Phase 1) by December and remain there through at least the start of the next rainy season in March. In the areas that were very dry in 2015 and are currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), most are expected to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2), as households gain more income and access to milk. Households are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through at least the start of the next rainy season in March. However, lower livestock holdings in these areas will prevent most households from moving into None (IPC Phase 1).

In **marginal agricultural areas,** the start the short rains is expected to lead to higher-than-normal demand for agricultural labor as a result of increased planting and investment in agriculture. Higher labor demand and wage rates will increase incomes, supporting increased market purchases. By December, households will start to consume and sell short-cycle crops, further increasing consumption. As households consume more food and a more diverse diet, most households are expected to move from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to None (IPC Phase 1) and to remain there through at least the end of the harvest in March.

However, during the above-average October to December short rains, flash floods, river flooding, and lakeside **flooding** are likely across many areas. Flooding is likely to displace households, increase the incidence of water- and vector-borne diseases, limit access to markets due to submerged or damaged roads, and lead to the loss of life. Some of the flooded areas may move into Crisis (IPC Phase 3). With the rains expected to subside in January, previously flooded areas will quickly return to normal. Households will resume income-earning activities and supply routes will again be open. These areas will move from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2), likely by March.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Flood-prone areas in the Coastal Marginal Agricultural Mixed Farming livelihood zone

Current Situation

In the **Coastal Marginal Agricultural Mixed Farming livelihood zone,** the lean season started at a normal time in August. The majority of poor households purchase food at that time of year. In Taita Taveta County, the long rains harvest in July was below average, so this county is currently less food secure than normal. County-average retail maize prices remained stable from August to September at around KES 35 and KES 40 per kilogram (kg) in Kilifi and Taita Taveta Counties, respectively, but fell nine percent in Kwale County. Stability or decline in prices is attributed to adequate food stocks in the market, from both imports and recently harvested long rains crops, including maize, cassava, cowpeas, and green grams. September county-average maize prices were 13 percent below their five-year averages in Kwale and Kilifi and near average in Taita Taveta. Stability in retail food prices allowed many household to purchase food, despite their seasonally low incomes.

In most of these areas, households have started land preparation for short rains crops. Most casual labor opportunities are currently in agriculture, and casual labor is a major source of income in this area, providing between 50 and 60 percent of annual household income. Households are also currently earning income from petty trade, charcoal sales, remittances, long rains crop sales, and some livestock and milk sales. A day of agricultural labor currently tends to earn from KES 150 to 250. With a wage of KES 150 per day, a household can currently afford three kilograms of maize, a very low amount compared to other areas of the country.

Water availability is very low, even for the end of the dry season across the livelihood zone. Approximately 70 percent of open water sources have dried up, increasing trekking distances for livestock and time spent collecting water for domestic use and consumption. The condition of pasture and browse is fair but deteriorating, due to the large number of livestock grazing. Many livestock have been in-migrated a great distance from pastoral areas. Current livestock body conditions are good to fair, and livestock prices are mostly stable or rising. County-average goat prices remained stable from September to August in Taita Taveta, but they increased eight to 13 percent in Kilifi and Kwale. September county-average goat prices were 22 to 45 percent above their five-year averages.

The majority of households are currently at None (IPC Phase 1). However, in the areas where the long rains harvest was below average, including Taita Taveta County and parts of Kilifi, some households are Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions described above, the following assumptions have been made about the flood-prone areas of the Coastal Marginal Agricultural Mixed Farming livelihood zone:

- Flooding is likely between October and December in low-elevation areas inland, in the river valleys, and in the flood plains of Kilifi, Kwale, and Taita Taveta. Flooding could directly or indirectly affect 15 to 20 percent of the population in these areas.
- In the flooded areas, food prices are expected to drastically increase after the floods as commodity supply in the markets is constrained by the inaccessibility of markets.
- During the floods, there will not be demand for casual labor.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

The October to December short rains are forecast to be above average, leading to normal access to food and income. As green consumption starts in December, most household are expected to move to or remain in None (IPC Phase 1).

However, there is a high risk of flooding, especially in November and December when the rains are heaviest. Floods could displace households, destroy infrastructure, and cause human and livestock deaths. The loss of property will likely include productive assets. With most income-earning options not available, many households will only have remittances, assistance from host communities, and humanitarian assistance with which to meet their food needs and other needs. Damaged roads

will prevent trade and relief supplies from reaching some flooded areas. Furthermore, a drastic increase in food prices is likely, due to disrupted trade and above-average fuel prices.

Livestock prices are expected to fall due to poor livestock body conditions and physical inaccessibility of markets for both traders and livestock sellers. There is likely to be an upsurge in livestock diseases such as Rift Valley Fever, foot rot, and caprine pleuro-pneumonia (CPP) due to standing water, further reducing the number of saleable animals. Destroyed crops will mean there will be little demand for agricultural labor. Since agricultural casual labor is a primary source of income for the poor in these areas, households will have little income with which to purchase food at a time of year when labor demand is typically very high. Furthermore, vector-borne disease outbreak, including malaria and bilharzia, and water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, and dysentery will likely be more common as sanitary conditions deteriorate. Malnutrition will likely increase between November and December due to the reduced food and milk availability. Household food access will be very low due to the lack of income from labor or livestock and temporarily high staple food prices. In some places, there will be an inability to physically access markets. Affected households are likely to move into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and require emergency assistance in November and December.

As floods are likely to destroy early-planted crops, many people will likely replant in January after the flood waters subside. Even when crops do survive the floods, high moisture content will reduce pod- and root-formation of beans and other legumes and increase the prevalence of crop diseases. Flooded areas and areas near the floods will have little December green harvest or short rains crop to harvest by February. From January through March, after the rains subside, as late planting occurs, households will again be able to find casual agricultural labor opportunities. Labor demand will peak in February and March, providing households with an important source of income with which to buy food, and markets will again be functional as trade resumes. Food prices are expected to fall as markets re-open and the likely above-average short rains harvest in the Southeast and coastal areas that did not flood enters markets. Food consumption will increase and nutrition will improve between January and March. As conditions return to normal, households in these areas will move from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) into Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Northeastern and other Pastoral livelihood zones

Current Situation

Although the March to May long rains were largely above average, some areas received below-average cumulative rainfall and are particularly dry right now. Even in areas where the rains were average to above average, rangeland resources have been depleted. Pasture and browse conditions are currently poor, and most water points have dried up. Most livestock were migrated to dry-season grazing areas in June or July instead of July or August. Few households currently have access to milk, with the lean season having started early in July instead of August. Livestock, specifically the grazers, cattle and sheep, have poor body conditions due to longer than normal trekking distances. Return trekking distances between grazing and water points increased 28 to 50 percent between July and September. Distances ranged between 15 and 20 kilometers (km). These were 16 to 20 percent above their five-year averages in Wajir and Mandera, and 80 percent above average in Isiolo, the driest county. Watering intervals have increased. Camels are going seven to 10 days between watering, while cattle are going two to three days. For small ruminants, sheep and goats, many are going four to five days between watering.

Milk production is low, and livestock prices are declining. Milk production declined 35 to 57 percent between July and September, and September production was 28, 64, and 70 percent below the five-year average in Wajir, Mandera, and Isiolo, respectively. Most households have access to less than one liter of milk per day, compared to a seasonally typical one to two liters per household per day. Livestock are still in dry-season grazing areas away from homesteads, and households have very limited income to purchase food. Low livestock ownership has also impeded poor households' participation in livestock markets. Poor households owned an average in August of two to three cattle and approximately five to 10 goats or sheepwith no camels. The majority of households are only consuming one to two food groups. Most households are consuming maize meal (*ugali*) enriched with tiny amounts of vegetable oil and/or some milk. In a more normal year, even in the lean season, households would also eat some pulses and other cereals including rice. In May, the World Food Program collected food consumption scores (FCS), and estimated that nine percent of households had "poor" food consumption, 55 had "borderline," and 36 had "acceptable." Compared to last year, households had lower food consumption scores (FCS), indicating a less diverse and likely less caloric diet. Last year, only four percent of households had "poor," 32 percent had "borderline," and 64 percent had "acceptable" food consumption.

The county-average goat prices in Wajir, Mandera, and Marsabit declined nearly 16 percent from July to September, due to poor livestock body conditions and reduced market volumes, as most herders withheld their livestock from markets due to low prices and in anticipation of improved quality and increased quantity of rangeland resources after the start of the short rains in October. County-average goat prices were 18 percent below the five-year average in Mandera but near average in Isiolo and Wajir. Goat-to-maize terms of trade declined 16 to 23 percent between July and September, further decreasing household purchasing power. However, the decline in terms of trade has been limited to some extent by the seasonally atypical stability of maize prices, which typically rise during the August to October lean season. A kilogram of maize costs between KES 50 and KES 55 in Wajir and Isiolo, and KES 65 to 68 in Mandera. Stable maize prices have been attributed to high availability of other cereals and legumes in markets as substitutes. Although currently stable, these maize prices are still above last year and their five-year averages.

There is an ongoing outbreak of cholera in Wajir, with 188 laboratory-confirmed cases and 11 deaths reported as of October 6, according to the Ministry of Health's cholera outbreak situation report. Disease outbreaks can increase food insecurity as households spend more time and resources to provide healthcare and less on income-earning activities. Most areas are Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, localized parts of western Wajir and eastern Isiolo have much lower livestock productivity due to very little rain over the past year. In these areas, some households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Outside of Northeastern Pastoral livelihood zone, other pastoral areas, including in Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Garissa, and Tana River Counties, food security has been deteriorating since the start of the dry season in July. The seasonal decline in both the quality and quantity of rangeland resources has resulted in low livestock productivity, low milk production and consumption, and poor livestock body conditions. Livestock prices have been declining since July, so household incomes have fallen. Goat-to-maize terms of trade fell between July and September as the maize price was stable, but goat prices fell. The driest conditions are reported from Marsabit and Samburu Counties. The majority of households in these pastoral areas remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions above, the following assumptions have been made about Northeastern Pastoral livelihood zone:

- With the October to December short rains expected to be above average in amount, rangeland resources are expected to improve significantly, with pasture and browse availability being higher than normal and conditions being better than usual between November and March. Water sources are expected to be completely refilled and readily available for livestock and pastoralists through March.
- Increased availability and improved condition of rangeland resources would likely result in increased livestock productivity and milk production and consumption through March.
- In November and December, improvements in livestock body conditions and health are expected to cause increased livestock prices.
- Livestock will be migrated back to wet-season grazing areas in October and November. Being closer to homesteads, this will allow households to have more access to livestock products like milk.
- Maize prices are likely to increase gradually through January, ranging between KES 50 and 60 per kilogram as supplies in markets are drawn down. This will be followed by a gradual decrease in prices from January through March, as both substitutes for maize and the short rains maize harvest become available.
- As the short rains resume and rangeland resources become abundant after November, incidents of resource-based conflict will decrease, most likely in Yamicha and Urura areas of Merti Sub-county in northern Isiolo and Eldas in western Wajir.
- During the October to December rains, the risk of flooding is particularly high. Floods would likely displace households, damage infrastructure, and result in human and livestock deaths. Without road access, trade would temporarily cease. Also, while most livestock will have increased productivity, in and around flooded areas, livestock diseases outbreaks are likely, including of Rift Valley Fever (RVF). These outbreaks would reduce livestock productivity, and associated quarantines would likely limit livestock migration and trade.

- During floods or in areas cut off from roads by floods, staple food prices are expected to dramatically increase as cereals and other commodities cannot be resupplied to the market. Likewise, livestock prices are expected to plummet, as neither traders nor livestock sellers can reach markets.
- Flooded areas are likely to receive humanitarian assistance. In other areas, as more households become food secure during the rains, some humanitarian programs will slowly decrease in their scope.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

The October to December short rains are expected to increase the availability of rangeland resources and improve their quality. Most livestock would then be migrated back to wet-season grazing areas, providing more income earning opportunities for poor households doing livestock-related labor. Livestock productivity will increase. Milk production is expected to increase after kidding, lambing, and calving begin around November. Livestock body conditions and health are expected to improve, and as a result of better conditions, there will be the typical, seasonal increase in livestock prices starting in November. Increased demand for livestock in December will further increase household incomes from livestock sales and from livestock-related labor. The rains will also increase the availability of wild vegetables, fruits, and pulses.

While staple food prices are expected to gradually rise, a faster increase in livestock prices will likely lead to stable or slightly rising livestock-to-cereal terms of trade. As households gain more income from livestock sales, labor, and other sources, they will consume more food and a more varied diet. Nutrition will improve, and as both food consumption and milk availability increase through December, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is expected to seasonally decline. Households currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will have slower than normal improvements in food security, primarily due to smaller herds and fewer labor opportunities in those areas. They are expected to move into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) by December. Other pastoral areas are also expected to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), with few households moving to None (IPC Phase 1) by December.

Despite the expected widespread improvements in food security, localized flooding is expected during the above-average October to December short rains. Flash floods in lowland areas are likely in some parts of the Northeast. Floods would displace households, increasing the incidence of water- and vector-borne diseases, limiting access to markets due to submerged or damaged roads, and resulting in the loss of livestock and human lives. Flooded areas are likely to move into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the flood, as households have little income and staple food prices spike.

In most areas, the improved food security should last through the dry season. Rangeland resources are expected to remain more available than usual through the dry season, allowing normal or slightly better livestock productivity. Milk production typically declines seasonally from January to March during the short dry season and as such, limited kidding, lambing, and calving occur at that time. Above average improvements in rangeland resources is expected to continue supporting livestock productivity through the January – March dry season, supporting households' continued access to milk for consumption during the dry season. Livestock prices are expected to typically and gradually decline or remain stable from February through March, as households sell livestock to pay school fees, increasing market supply. Goat prices are projected to range between KES 3,000 and 3,500 from January to March, and remain above average. With more rain, more wild foods will be available and consumed during the dry season. Other income sources, including various forms of labor, will likely continue to be available and producing above-average income during the dry season. With the expected stability or slight decline in cereal and other staple food prices between February and March, most households will still have sufficient purchasing power. Most households will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2), while some will improve to None (IPC Phase 1) through March 2016.

Southeastern Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones

Current Situation

Food security seasonally declined for most households, especially in Tharaka Nithi, Meru North, Mbeere Sub-county in Embu, Nyeri, and Makueni Counties. Water, pasture, and browse conditions deteriorated, and their availability declined. As household food stocks were already depleted, households purchased food on markets, despite income from causal agricultural labor being low at this time of the year. Households are currently getting income from non-agricultural casual labor opportunities, petty trade, livestock sales, and remittances.

Staple food prices have been stable or declining since July. County-average retail maize prices have been between KES 30 and 35, except in Nyeri where maize prices were KES 40 to 45. September county-average maize prices were six to 15 percent below last year and up to seven percent below their five-year averages. Steady supply from cross-border imports has helped maintain the steady prices. Bean prices have also remained stable since July.

Most households are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), although some remain in None (IPC Phase 1).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions above, the following assumptions have been made about the Southeastern Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone:

- During the short rains crop growing season from October through February, high labor demand is likely due to higher planted area and more investment in agriculture. This is likely to result in higher agricultural labor wages. Daily wage rates are expected to increase up to 50 percent above September wages to approximately KES 300 between November and February.
- As household incomes increase, fewer households will ask for remittances from relatives in urban areas.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

During the short rains growing season, up to 70 percent of annual agricultural production occurs. The above-average rainfall will allow more planting and more crop growth, both resulting in increased demand for agricultural labor. Starting in November onward, food prices are expected to decline as the long rains crops from western Kenya enter markets. Locally, short-cycle crops will start to be harvested by December, further increasing availability and allowing households to sell some crops for income. By December, households will have fully moved out of the lean season. Most households are expected to move from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to None (IPC Phase 1). Food security is expected to further improve from January to March when the short rains crops are harvested, increasing household food stocks and agricultural labor demand. With high demand, households should have enough food and income to meet their food needs and to protect their livelihoods. The majority of households will remain in None (IPC Phase 1) through at least March.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1: Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Coastal and southeastern marginal agricultural livelihood zones	Below-average October to December short rains	A below–average harvest would result in low agricultural labor demand, leading to low wages and incomes, increased food insecurity, and a lower national supply of maize.
Coastal and southeastern marginal agricultural livelihood zones	Trade restrictions between Kenya and Tanzania or Uganda	This would restrict maize and beans imports, which would reduce the supply and result in increases in prices. This would limit the ability of poor households to buy maize and beans.
Pastoral areas	Significantly below-average October to December short rains	With less regeneration of rangeland resources, livestock productivity would not increase much from current levels. Food consumption would decrease, and nutritional status would likely deteriorate. Additionally, conflict may arise over access to pasture and browse, as rangeland resources become increasingly scarce during the January to March short dry season. Conflict could displace people and limit their ability to earn income, making them more food insecure.

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming six months. Learn more here.