

KENYA Enhanced Food Security Monitoring

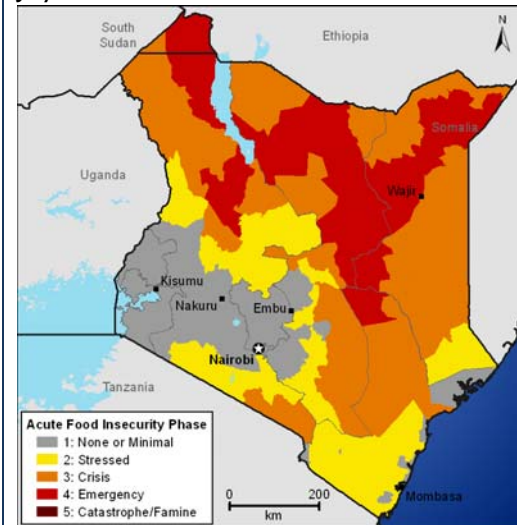
July 22, 2011

Given the severity of current and projected food insecurity in the eastern Horn of Africa, FEWS NET will release food security reports for Kenya every ten days, starting July 22, 2011. The objective of this enhanced monitoring and reporting is to ensure that new information is incorporated into analysis and shared as rapidly as possible in order to inform decision-making related to humanitarian assistance.

Current food security outcomes and classification

- FEWS NET and partner analysis suggests that a food security emergency is occurring in the northern and northeastern pastoral areas and a few parts of the southeastern lowlands. The next season (the short rains) is expected to begin at the end of October and food insecurity will likely deepen in the absence of urgent and substantial cross-sectoral interventions.
- The total food insecure population in Kenya is 3.5 million people. An estimated 1.2 million people are at Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4) and are unable to meet basic needs because their livelihoods can no longer support household food security. An additional 2.0 million pastoralists and marginal agricultural farmers are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 300,000 people are Stressed (IPC Phase 2).
- Rapidly declining pastoral food insecurity is motivated by a combination of accelerated depletion in grazing resources; increasing livestock mortalities; declining terms of trade exacerbated by exceptionally high food prices; and limited food and non-food interventions.
- Parts of the southeastern lowlands classified as Emergency include the northern parts of Mwingi and Kitui districts that have experienced a succession of three poor seasons which caused crop failure and poor household food stocks amidst record food prices. An influx of livestock from neighboring pastoral districts has undermined household food security by causing displacement of households and loss of livelihood productivities.

Figure 1. Current food security outcomes, July 2011



Source: FEWS NET

For more information on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table, see www.fews.net/foodinsecurityscale.

Pastoral conditions

- Pastoralists in emergency areas are losing livestock, particularly the more vulnerable sheep and cattle, because trekking distances are no longer viable for weakened livestock. The worst-affected areas are situated in Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Moyale, eastern Samburu, and northern Isiolo, where mortalities of over 15 percent have been reported. Food insecurity has also worsened in Northeastern Turkana, primarily due to the impacts of debilitating conflict and the absence of response agencies in the district.
- The Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) has indicated that during May and June an estimated 70 percent of livestock migrated from the northern and northeastern pastoral districts into Ethiopia, Somalia, the southeastern marginal districts of Isiolo, Kitui, and Mwingi, and the coastal lowlands. Pasture depletion and water scarcity have reached worrisome levels in areas where livestock have clustered, and serious conflicts have been reported in Isiolo, Kitui, and Mwingi. An upsurge in livestock disease has been reported in eastern Wajir.

Crop conditions and harvest prospects

- A near-total crop failure has occurred in the cropping areas of the southeastern and parts of the coastal lowlands. While the long-rains season is a relatively minor season in the lowlands, a succession of two poor previous seasons has widened household food deficits, amidst record cereal prices.
- About 1.2 million hectares are under maize production and 2.3 million MT are anticipated to be harvested,

representing a national output that is close to 15 percent below normal output. Domestic supply is severely constrained and could remain fairly tight for a couple of months because carryover stocks represent just over one month of national consumption. While harvesting has started in the highlands of south Rift, Western and Nyanza and Central provinces and millers expect to import 360,000 MT of maize before December, the debate over suitability of genetically modified foods (GMOs) may impact amounts of maize imported into the country.

- However, it is anticipated that barring sudden unfavorable weather conditions, a substantial increase in domestic supply will occur between November through March as both the long and short rains harvest enter the market, over a short period of time. Heightened cereal prices are likely to emerge after May 2012 because traditional cross-border imports are limited by an export ban in Tanzania. Ugandan maize also has alternative markets in South Sudan and DRC.

Food availability, market functioning and trade

- Erosion of purchasing capacities is the more immediate problem as opposed to absence of food in markets. Nevertheless, cereal supply is also tightening and most pastoral and farm households are unable to purchase food at prevailing prices which range between 70-130 percent higher than normal levels.
- Livestock markets are generally well-supplied though livestock prices are steadily declining as distress sales increase. However, the on-going livestock off-take program in Tana River and Garissa districts is preventing a sharp decline in livestock prices in areas where the program is on-going. Unless expanded, the program will not have the desired impact, especially in the Emergency areas because overly weakened animals may no longer be suitable for purchase.
- Poor livestock prices have compounded Emergency levels of food insecurity in Mwingi and Kitui after an influx of livestock from neighboring pastoral areas of Tana River and Garissa districts, which are fetching better prices.

Food prices and Terms of Trade

- Food prices, in particular those of cereals and pulses, are at record levels across most livelihoods outside the harvesting epicenters. Maize prices are up to 130 percent above normal in pastoral markets and up to 105 percent above normal in the southeastern and coastal cropping lowlands.
- Pastoral terms of trade are declining substantially because of a combination of declining livestock prices and increasing and well above average cereal prices. For example, in June 2008, 60 kg of maize were purchased from the sale of one goat in Wajir compared to 38 kg in 2010 and 25 kg in June 2011, underlining erosion in pastoral purchasing capacities.
- However, prices of horticultural crops have declined markedly in the cropping highlands across the country, providing some respite to the cereal prices in the main cropping livelihoods. For example, the price of potatoes in Eldoret market is Ksh. 1,540 per 110-kg bag compared to an average of Ksh. 3,600 between March – June, 2011.

Health and Nutrition

- Rates of Global Acute Malnutrition for children under five have exceeded (and in some instances doubled) emergency thresholds in Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir and Mandera districts. Detailed nutrition assessments conducted by UNICEF in collaboration with the Save the Children-UK, Merlin, OXFAM, World Vision and the Ministry of Health also indicate heightened levels of Severe Acute Malnutrition.
- While scarcity of food remains the key factor accentuating malnutrition, impacts of conflict, poor hygiene practices and disease are also contributing to some of the record malnutrition levels. Conflict in localized areas of the northeast of Turkana has resulted in the displacement of several thousand people and loss of livelihoods, while precluding access to intervening organizations, precipitating the highest levels of malnutrition on record.

Food insecurity among refugees

- The influx of up to 1,400 Somali refugees on a daily basis, into Wajir, Garissa and Mandera, most of them severely malnourished, have exerted severe pressure on local medical facilities and they now account for more than half the admissions in poorly-resourced local hospitals.
- While UNICEF is in the process of conducting nutrition assessments in and around refugee camps for incoming refugees, the food security of an estimated 70,000 refugees is at severe risk because most arrived close to the camps in a precarious state and still have no access to food, water and shelter. If cross-sectoral interventions are not urgently instituted, human mortalities could rise to unprecedented levels.

Security

- Insecurity is a growing concern in both the conflict-prone areas of the northwest as well as in new areas where livestock have clustered. Conflict incidents have heightened in Turkana, Samburu and Isiolo districts, causing

displacement of populations, the loss of livestock and lives. Further losses are likely to occur as drought conditions intensify and competition for resources escalates.

- In an atypical event, several hundred households in the marginal agricultural districts of Mwingi and Kitui have been displaced as armed pastoralists from Garissa and Tana River have taken over their farms. Intervention efforts by local administrative structures have been largely unsuccessful as pastoralists move further inward, suggesting that retaliatory measures could widen the conflict even further.
- The influx of refugees from Somalia is causing disquiet and tension among local communities because of a perception of diminishing attention to local needs, coupled with extensive degradation of the local environment as trees and shrubs are cut for use as cooking fuel. Due to inadequate space in existing camps, an estimated 70,000 refugees have spilled over into the outskirts of the camps, with limited access to food, water, shelter and sanitation.

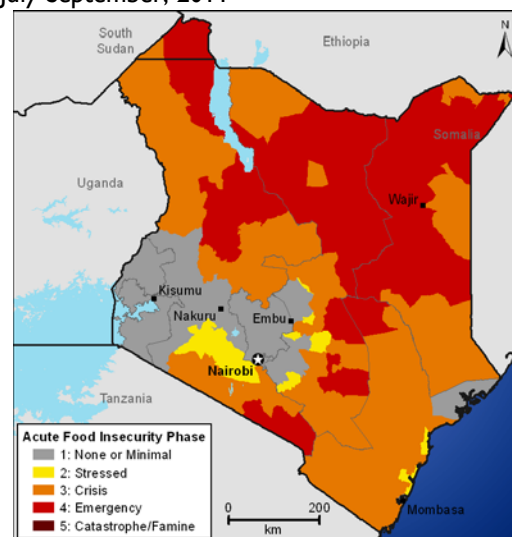
Response

- Responses to the crisis include on-going food distributions by WFP to an estimated 1.2 million people. Supplementary feeding in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo and Samburu districts is on-going but is likely to be constrained by an imminent pipeline shortfall after August. The GoK is also distributing food to 800,000 people but impacts are limited due to absence of a recognizable targeting mechanism.
- The GoK has now provided \$110 million for interventions in the water and sanitation, livestock and agriculture, and health and nutrition sectors to avert further deterioration in food insecurity.
- WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR are developing a joint appeal that is intended to forestall rapid deterioration in the food security status of households in the pastoral and marginal agricultural livelihoods.

Most-likely scenario

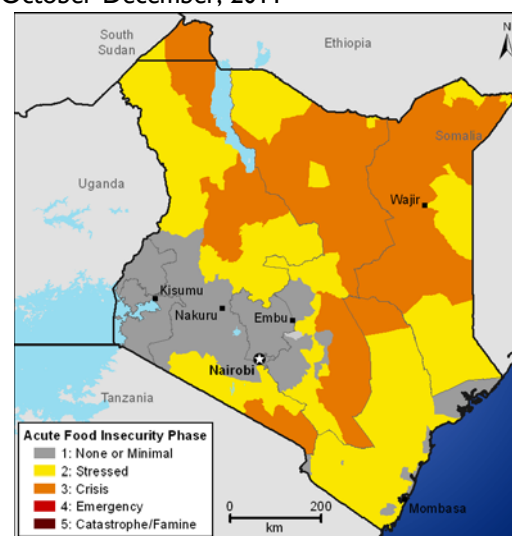
- The most likely scenario suggests that emergency conditions will worsen through October 2011 (Figure 2), unless cross-sectoral interventions are instituted urgently. The dry season started earlier than usual because of a poor long-rains season and environmental conditions are likely to decline even further through October.
- Even a likely reduction in cereal prices in coming months will do little to support pastoral terms of trade because livestock conditions are rapidly declining. In addition, purchasing capacities of crisis-hit households are far too low to benefit from a measured reduction in cereal prices.
- Continued influx of refugees is likely to precipitate a humanitarian crisis in parts of Garissa and Mandera because available facilities and resources are not able to cope with the growing numbers.
- However, if the October-December short rains are normal, food security conditions will improve (Figure 3). Nearly 70 percent of livestock herds are anticipated to return at the onset of the season. Subsequently, milk availability and livestock productivity should improve though heightened mortalities among remaining livestock will weaken recovery.
- Substantial cross-sectoral interventions are now being instituted and growing food insecurity is expected to be stemmed. However, coverage and targeting will determine their impacts in improving household food security.
- Food insecurity is also anticipated to ease toward November because of improved cereal availability from local harvests and additional maize from cross-border and off-shore imports.
- Destructive or negative coping strategies such as culling young calves is anticipated to end at the onset of the short rains, with improved availability of water, pasture and browse.

Figure 2. Projected food security outcomes, July-September, 2011



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 3. Projected food security outcomes, October-December, 2011



Source: FEWS NET