

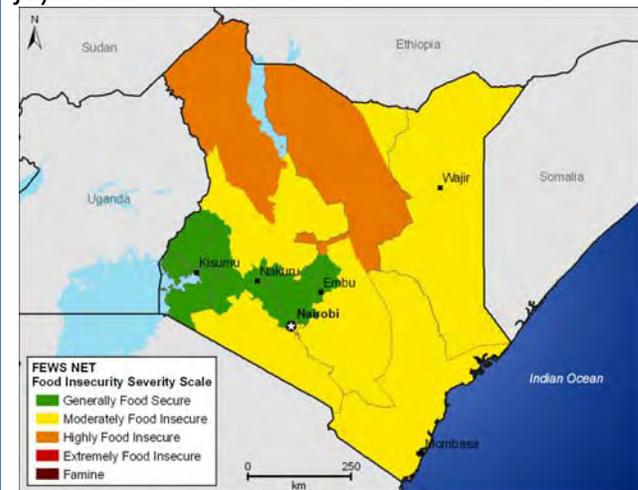
## KENYA Food Security Outlook

July to December 2010

- Food security continues to consolidate in most of the pastoral, agropastoral, and marginal agricultural areas after the second successive good rainy season. However, pastoralists in parts of Turkana, Marsabit, and Isiolo remain highly food insecure after poor long rains in these areas. In addition, most of the southeastern and coastal lowlands are moderately food insecure, even after a highly favorable short rains harvest, because a significant proportion of the output was contaminated with aflatoxin while some areas also received poor long rains.

- Seasonal deterioration in food security in the pastoral and southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas is likely between July and September, as the lean season typically peaks between August and October. Pastoralists in parts of Turkana, Marsabit, and Isiolo who experienced poor long rains are likely to remain highly food insecure. Food insecurity is expected to worsen for coastal and southeastern marginal agricultural farmers who have lost their crop to aflatoxin poisoning and are faced with low producer prices for the good crop. However, most households will remain moderately food insecure because availability of cereal on the markets, high livestock prices, and increased labor opportunities will cushion income losses.

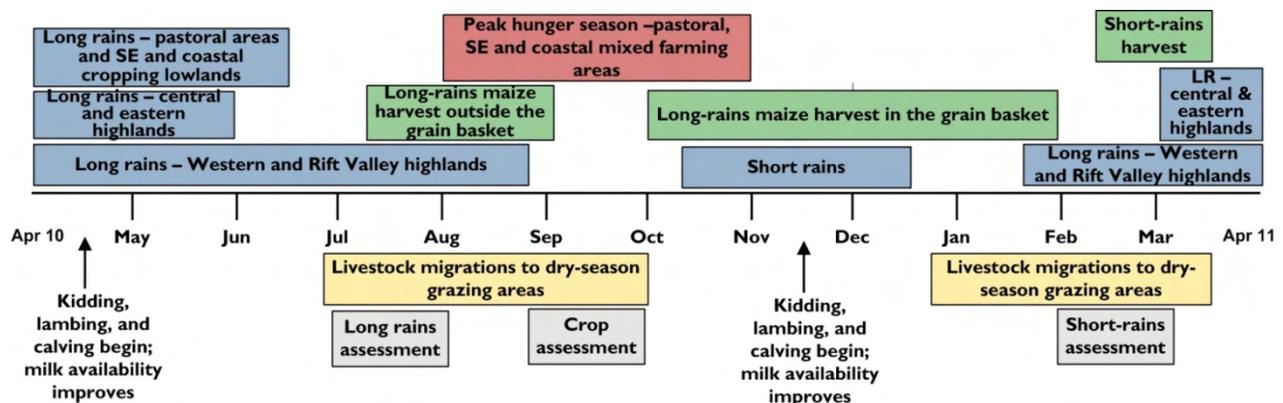
**Figure 1.** Current estimated food security outcomes, July 2010



Source: FEWS NET

- Significant improvements in food security are expected between October and December for both pastoral and marginal agricultural farm households. Normal short rains are expected to help consolidate pastoral food security, at a much more rapid pace than normal, because of limited migrations at the end of the long rains. Harvests in the grain basket are likely to keep cereal prices down, while livestock productivities should rise. In parts of Turkana, Marsabit, and Isiolo, food security will improve to moderate levels. Food security is also expected to improve significantly in the marginal lowlands, during the more important short-rains season, beginning with harvests of short-cycle crops, even as some households retain portions of the previous seasons' harvests. However, given household indebtedness because of previous poor seasons and the impact of aflatoxin poisoning, households will remain moderately food insecure.

### Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

## Most likely food security scenario, July to December 2010

### National overview of current and projected food security

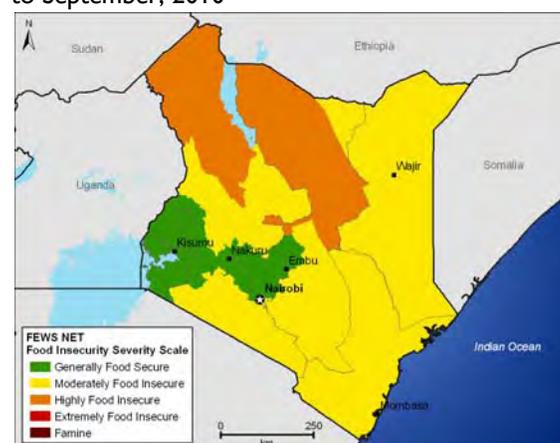
Improvements to the food security situation in most of the pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas have occurred following above-average long rains in most areas. Significant improvements in livestock productivity and crop harvests have enhanced household access to food. However, heightened food insecurity persists in parts of the pastoral districts of Turkana, Isiolo and Marsabit, attributed principally to poor long rains which have arrested the recovery process, notably for the very poor and poor households. In addition, poorer households in the marginal agricultural lowlands of the southeast and coast are faced with accentuated food insecurity and are bearing the brunt of a combination of poor long rains and loss of an estimated 30 percent of the harvested output to aflatoxin poisoning, after a highly favorable short-rains season. An estimated 1.6 million persons are classified as food insecure in pastoral (1.18 million people) and marginal agricultural rural areas (420,000 people).

The main drivers of food insecurity include poor long rains in some areas of the pastoral and marginal agricultural lowlands; above-average cereal prices in pastoral areas; persisting impacts of debilitating conflict in the northwestern pastoral area that has led to loss of lives and livelihood assets; the volatile security situation along the northeastern pastoral border with Somalia, which is impeding trade and delivery of both food and non food interventions; low cereal prices in the marginal agricultural areas, which is precipitating heightened sales of crops and subsequently, rapid depletion of household stocks; impacts of flood-related loss of livelihood assets; the impacts of vector and water borne diseases; and sub-optimal dietary diversity, especially in the pastoral areas.

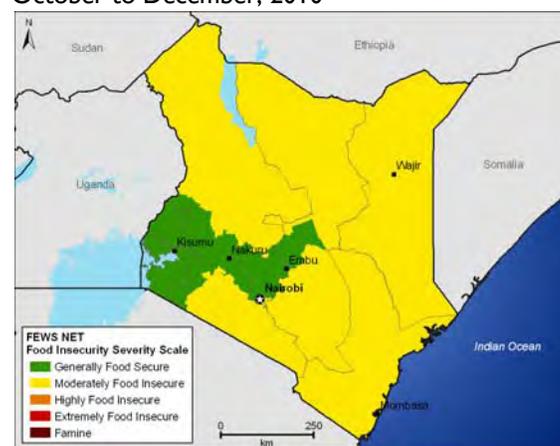
The most likely scenario from July to December 2010 is premised on the following assumptions:

- Producer prices will remain low for short rains-dependent farmers in the southeastern marginal agricultural lowlands.
- Mop-up of aflatoxin contaminated maize in the southeastern and coastal lowlands will occur at a slow pace.
- Migration of pastoralists during the 2010 lean season will be limited due to greater migration options, in pastoral areas that received normal rains.
- Integrated nutrition interventions and the Supplementary and Blanket feeding programs are expected to be successful.
- The food pipeline will remain sufficient for the 1.6 million identified beneficiaries.
- Major escalation of tensions or conflict on the Kenya – Somalia border is not expected.
- There will be a favorable long rains harvest in the key growing western and Rift Valley highlands.
- There will be an initial typical upsurge in livestock and human diseases at the onset of the 2010 short-rains season.
- Stabilization of the power and water supply in key urban areas is expected after consecutive good rainy seasons.
- Little re-settlement of remaining persons who were displaced after the post-election chaos of early 2008 is expected.
- Limited upheaval arising from the constitutional referendum scheduled for August 4 is expected.

**Figure 2.** Most likely food security scenario, July to September, 2010



**Figure 3.** Most likely food security scenario, October to December, 2010



Source: FEWS NET

**Pastoral areas**

The main shock affecting pastoral households in Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo has been generally poor 2010 long rains. Although the 2009 short rains were favorable in most of these areas, a succession of previous poor seasons prior to that has caused rapid deterioration in key grazing resources. Water availability, pasture, and browse are expected to degenerate at an accelerated rate through October, up to the onset of the short rains. Already livestock body conditions and productivities are beginning to decline as evidenced by a 50 percent reduction in milk output as compared to normal periods. Other direct effects are already occurring, with livestock migrating early, away from what should be wet-season grazing areas to dry season grazing areas as well as to other communal grazing areas that experienced good rains. Trekking distances are up to 15 kilometers, fairly abnormal at this stage of the season.

The indirect effects of poor rains include clustering of livestock in areas of favorable resources, predisposing animals to further upsurge in diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease as well as Caprine and Bovine Pleuro, which are already problematic in these districts. In addition, clustering of livestock could precipitate conflict as competition for resources increases and also as livestock raiders take advantage of high concentration of animals to carry out raids. Livestock prices are also expected to decline significantly through October, as body conditions continue to decline and as their supply to the market increases, especially in areas where livestock are clustered. However, pastoral terms of trade will not decline as significantly as in the previous two years because cereal prices are an estimated 30 percent higher than average compared to over one hundred percent higher than average over the past four seasons. Rates of child malnutrition are also likely to rise through October, after beginning to decline in late 2009.

The poorer members of pastoral households will be most affected because of their inability to mitigate the impacts of poor long rains because of their fairly limited resource-base. Many of the poorer households have few Tropical Livestock Units and were only beginning to rebuild their herd sizes after the favorable short rains which were unfortunately not complemented by good long rains. A substantial deterioration in their food security has been mitigated by favorable grazing resources in neighboring areas, many of which reported well above normal long rains in 2010.

Other events that may negatively affect pastoral food security in localized areas include an upsurge in water and vector borne diseases at the onset of the short rains season in October. However, the rains are expected to be of normal intensity, suggesting that the upsurge in diseases such as the CBPP and CCPP among livestock and malaria and cholera among the human population will be of lower intensity as well as more short-lived than normal. Nevertheless, livestock already impacted by drought in Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo districts could report heightened mortalities because of their weakened conditions, particularly for the poorer households that have limited outlays required to mitigate disease outbreaks. In addition, rates of child malnutrition remain intractable in localized areas among the very poor households in Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo and Wajir, pointing to the need for close monitoring of trends.

Pastoral households in parts of Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo are expected to remain highly food insecure, at least through the onset of the 2010 short-rains season. However, the food security of the pastoral households is likely to improve to the moderately food insecure category during the October to December 2010 quarter, because of improved livestock productivities, assuming that the expectation of normal short rains holds. The generally lower trekking distances resulting from wider migration options and strong intra-communal relations, coupled with only a measured decline in terms of trade, will facilitate faster improvement in pastoral food security as opposed to the previous poor seasons where severe drought conditions were widespread across the entire pastoral livelihood. The food pipeline has also been fairly well resourced since March 2010 and food interventions are moderating declines in food security. The expectation that the long rains harvest is likely to be well above normal levels could also sustain the downward pressure on grain prices, further strengthening pastoral terms of trade.

**Southeastern marginal agricultural areas and coastal lowlands**

The main shock affecting the other important livelihood, the marginal agricultural households of the southeast and coast, is the substantial reduction in the purchase price of the harvested output. Drought-prone farmers harvested an estimated 300,000 MT of maize during the more critical season, the short rains, after a succession of nearly five poor harvests where less than 70,000 MT of maize was harvested in each season. At least 40 percent of household income is derived from crop production, with maize being the overwhelming crop in terms of cultivated area and total harvested output. The GoK has fixed the price of maize at Ksh. 1,500 per 90-kg bag, down from Ksh. 2,300, just two months ago. However, maize suspected of being infected by aflatoxin is being purchased at Ksh. 1,000, ostensibly to mop up the infected maize from the

market. Although limited testing has been carried out, 30 percent of the crop is estimated to be infected and is unsuitable for human consumption. The areas of most concern are Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Mwingi, Mbeere, Meru South, Meru Central, Embu, Tharaka and localized coastal areas of Tana River, Kwale, Kilifi, Malindi, and Taita Taveta districts. The proposed purchase price is close to 30 percent below average and 80 percent lower than at a comparable period last year.

The direct effects of relatively low producer prices is a marked reduction in household income, particularly for the poorer household members whose income base is far less diversified, with an overwhelming dependence on crop income, because of relatively low livestock holdings. The reduction in income is compounded by an erosion of previous household income, because households were purchasing virtually all of their food from the market, at record high prices, prior to the harvest in February and March. Subsequently farmers in the southeastern and coastal lowlands came into the harvesting period with suppressed purchasing capacities and heavy indebtedness. The higher-than-average short rains output will therefore have a moderated impact in mitigating previous income gaps.

Expected indirect effects of the income loss are that in an attempt to mitigate the income losses, farmers are likely to continue to consume maize whose quality is neither assured nor ascertained, which could lead to serious health implications both in the near and long term. Some farmers are selling their crop fairly rapidly, at prices that are even lower than the GoK rates because official purchases have not yet started, and are likely to register food shortages much earlier than anticipated. In addition, the poorer farmers are unlikely to have sufficient disposable income to purchase required storage chemicals and associated inputs that are required to preserve the upcoming long rains harvest from July to September, leading to further post-harvest output losses. Other effects include the likelihood that farmers may be unable to purchase optimal levels of seed, fertilizer and other productive inputs that are required for the upcoming and more important short-rains season that is expected to begin in October. In such instances, poorer farmers tend to sow seeds that are inappropriate such as relief maize seed whose germination vigor is poor, leading to poor harvests and crop failure.

It is expected that farmers in the southeastern and coastal lowlands will begin to adopt a number of coping strategies so as to bridge the income gap. Livestock sales are likely to increase significantly over the coming months to finance short rains land preparation and planting, as well as to meet school fees for the final school term. Although livestock prices are strong and over 30 percent of normal levels attributed to a succession of favorable seasons, livestock holdings among the poorer households are low. Affected households are also likely to increase migration to neighboring farms in high potential areas, as well as to nearby urban centers. Fortunately on-farm employment opportunities, including harvesting and land preparation, are generally available because of the good rains in high potential areas, mitigating somewhat reported income losses for the poorer households. Although charcoal production has not significantly increased, it is likely that it could rise once again, when an increasing number of farmers erode their household food supplies and off-farm employment opportunities seasonally decline.

Affected households in the marginal agricultural lowlands of the southeast are likely to remain moderately food insecure during the outlook period. Although lowered food prices have compromised expected household income, food will likely be available in markets at reduced prices through the outlook period. Poorer households that will have eroded their supplies will be able to access grain from the short rains harvest in local markets and the upcoming grain from long rains harvest both from the marginal and high potential areas. The ongoing Food-for-Assets program, running through the outlook period, is also likely to mitigate a precipitous decline in household food security among poorer households.

#### **Other populations that will require continual monitoring**

While the pastoral and marginal agricultural livelihoods represent the largest cumulative totals of the moderately and the highly good insecure, other rural populations have suffered localized shocks and remain in need of close attention. An estimated 20,000 persons along the Lake Victoria, Nzoia, Tana and Turkwell Basins were displaced by floods during the long rains in April and May. Although most of them have now returned home, a significant proportion lost their productive assets, crops, and homes, and are moderately food insecure. They are likely to remain moderately food insecure during the outlook period unless comprehensive livelihood restoring interventions are instituted. Nearly 50,000 persons displaced after the post-election crisis of early 2008 remain in IDP camps with limited livelihood options. While some of them are engaging in petty trade and limited crop production, most of them have lost their capacities to meet household food and non-food needs in a stable fashion and also require close attention and a completion of the GoK's initiative to resettle the IDPs, including implementation of proposed interventions that are intended to restore pre-election productivities. Food

insecurity for IDPs situated in camps is expected to remain moderately food insecure through the outlook period, further entrenching IDPs into chronic food insecurity.

A significant proportion of the urban poor remain under severe food stress. An estimated 3.5-4.1 million (or up to 20 percent) out of 13.5 million urban dwellers are estimated to suffer various degrees of food insecurity, to be clarified in August. Limited improvements in their food security are anticipated during the outlook period, even as cereal prices decline, because causal factors are largely chronic in nature. An upcoming urban assessment will clarify the extent and characteristics of urban food insecurity across the country.

An emerging problem is the growing tension across the Kenya-Somalia border resulting from sporadic incursions by militia into the country. The security level along border areas is elevated, restraining monitoring and delivery of interventions and could precipitate heightened food insecurity in affected areas.

#### **Crop output prospects for the 2010 growing season**

While the favorable short rains harvest was hit by significant losses that adversely affected household food security in critical drought-prone areas, the long-rains season is the most important season, from a national perspective. The ongoing long-rains season is anticipated to contribute up to 85 percent to overall annual national maize output. The Ministry of Agriculture indicated that about 1.5 million hectares or 20 percent above normal acreage have been planted to maize, and 2.62 million MT should be harvested, a little over the 5-year average. Subsequently, the country is well supplied through September 2010, coinciding with the early part of the long rains harvest which is expected to run through January 2011. The long-rains season is normally lengthy and a decisive change in agroclimatic conditions cannot be ruled out, necessitating conscientious monitoring of the season. The current lowered purchase price of the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) has sustained the downward pressure on maize prices that started in March and is likely to persist through most of the year in key growing markets, outside the coastal and southeastern lowlands. However, the upward pressure on maize prices may occur in the non-long rains dependent but aflatoxin-affected southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, once the harvest is either mopped up by the GoK or purchased by traders. The rise in maize prices may be moderated by a better long rains crop in the lowlands as well as an expected higher than average long rains harvest in the highlands of Nyanza, Western, Central, Eastern and the Rift Valley. Nevertheless, an upward revision of NCPB prices as harvesting begins in the 'grain basket' could expose deficit farmers in the southeastern and coastal lowlands as well as pastoral households to well above normal cereal prices as witnessed in 2008 through March 2010, constraining purchasing capacities.

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

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Marginal agricultural lowlands in the southeast and coast	Significant post harvest loss of long rains cereals harvests, due to aflatoxin infection.  Maize prices increase to January levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substantial loss of household food stocks and income, leading to earlier than usual food shortages.</li> <li>Increased diseases incidence and ill health; loss of capacity to engage in productive work, leading to high opportunity cost.</li> <li>Poorer household members face accentuated food insecurity due to inability to purchase grain from the market.</li> </ul>
Pastoral areas in the northeast	Conflict and insecurity escalate along the border of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Ijara with Somalia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased inflow of refugees and other persons into the northeast, increasing pressure on already strained physical and social amenities.</li> <li>Disruption of economic activities, including, market operations, food distribution, and delivery of food and non-food interventions.</li> </ul>

Pastoral areas in the north, northwest and northeast	<p>Poor performance of the short rains.</p> <p>Significant outbreak of notifiable livestock diseases in many parts.</p> <p>Torrential rains at the onset of the short rains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant gains to households' food security would reverse rapidly as households would not be able to access grazing resources.</li> <li>• Imposition of quarantines and closure of markets would impede access to grazing resources and deny households incomes.</li> <li>• Heightened livestock mortalities that would hold back recovery of pastoralists.</li> </ul>
Urban, all pastoral, marginal agricultural lowlands in the southeast and coast, high potential areas and the lake region.	Political upheaval occasioned by the outcome of the referendum on the proposed new constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased insecurity and lawlessness, which hinder productive activities and income generation for the poor and middle income families.</li> <li>• Disruption of market operations and commodity distribution channels and restricted access to essential goods and services due to heightened prices.</li> <li>• Displacement of households from settlements, into IDP camps.</li> </ul>
Urban, all pastoral, marginal agricultural lowlands in the southeast and coast.	Distribution of aflatoxin infected maize into the market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumption of contaminated food and aflatoxin poisoning leading to high incidence of morbidity, ill health and even loss of life.</li> </ul>