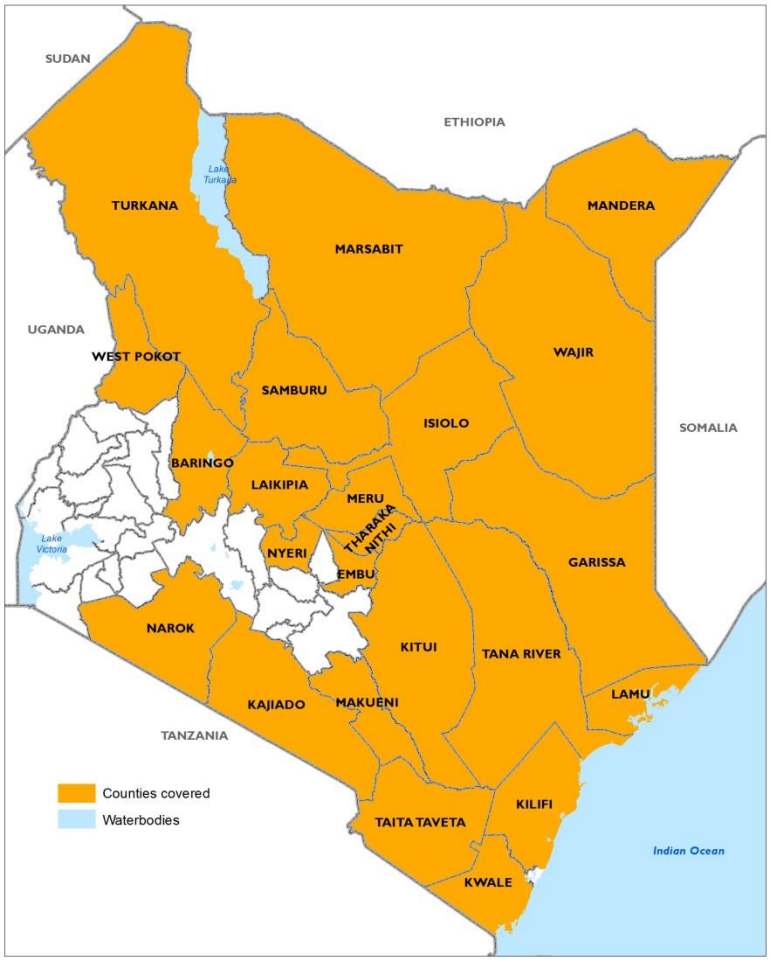
Government of Kenya

THE 2016 LONG RAINS SEASON ASSESSMENT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)



Collaborative report of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG): Ministries of Devolution and Planning, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Water and Irrigation, Health, and Education, Science and Technology, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), WFP, FEWS NET, FAO, UNICEF, World Vision, ACF, and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) County Steering Groups (CSGs): with financial support from the Government of Kenya (NDMA), WFP and partners.

August 2016

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1.0 Scope of the 2016 Long Rains Assessment

The 2016 Long Rains Assessment, conducted from 18th to 30th July 2016 by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group and its partners, covered the 23 counties classified as arid and semi-arid. These counties are also considered the most vulnerable to food insecurity. They are:

- North and north-west: Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana, Baringo, Laikipia and West Pokot.
- South Rift: Kajiado and Narok.
- North-east: Garissa, Tana River, Wajir and Mandera.
- Coast: Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu and Taita Taveta.
- South-east marginal agriculture counties: Kitui, Makueni, Nyeri (semi-arid areas of Kieni), Meru (Meru North), Embu (Mbeere) and Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka).

The unit of analysis was the livelihood zone. The main livelihoods are pastoralism, agro-pastoralism, and mixed farming. There are also areas with irrigated cropping which is becoming more significant as asset-creation interventions increase.

The objective of the bi-annual food and nutrition security assessments conducted after the long and short rains is to determine how each season has affected food security. In particular, they explore the impact of the season on food availability, access and utilization by looking at the contributing factors and outcomes, and at how each sector has been affected. The ultimate goal is to advise on appropriate response mechanisms by the sectors, which include agriculture, livestock, water, health and nutrition, peace and security, and markets and trade. The recommended interventions are categorized into immediate, medium term and long term.

2.0 Rainfall performance

The March to May long rains started at varying times across the country but were generally delayed by 2 – 3 dekads (10-day period in a month). Northern and north-western pastoral areas received 90 – 140 percent of normal rainfall, while most parts of the north-eastern pastoral and coastal and south-eastern marginal agricultural areas received 50 – 90 percent of normal rainfall (Figure 1). Exceptional areas in Tana River and Garissa counties received 25 – 50 percent of normal rainfall. Notably, most areas experienced poor temporal and uneven spatial rainfall distribution, except areas of Baringo, Kajiado, West Pokot, Laikipia and Nyeri which experienced fair to good temporal distribution. Cessation of the rains was earlier than normal in most areas, ending in the first or second dekad of May, except in Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, parts of Mbeere, Nyeri and Meru, where cessation was normal.

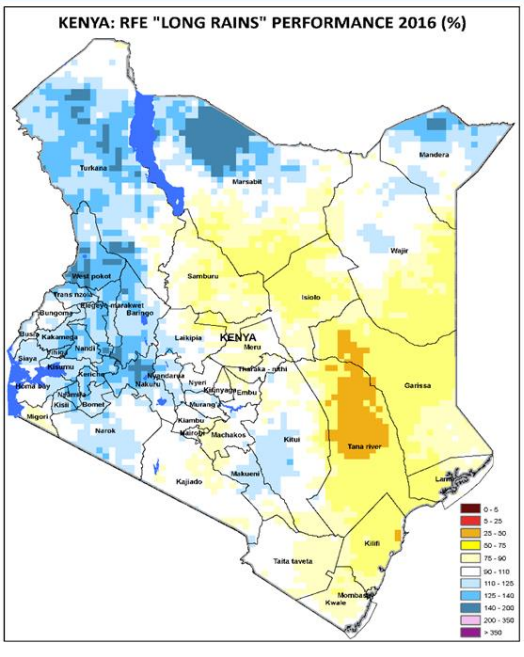

Figure 1: Long Rains Season (March – May 2016) Rainfall Anomalies

3.0 Summary of key findings

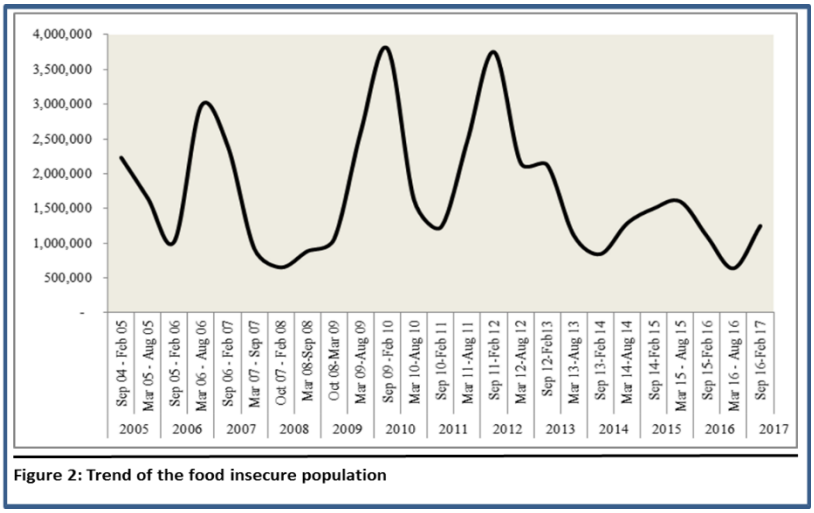

Figure 2: Trend of the food insecure population

An estimated 1.25 million people will be acutely food insecure and require humanitarian assistance over the next six months until February 2017 (Figure 2). The main contributory factors are the below-average performance of the 2016 long rains, characterised by poor temporal and uneven spatial distribution, livestock and crop pests and diseases, resource-based conflicts, terror-related threats, especially in areas bordering Somalia, human-wildlife conflicts, and high food prices in certain areas.

Pastoral areas recorded modest improvements in rangeland conditions following the long rains, which varied across the zones. Most reported good to fair rangeland conditions, except for areas of substantial rainfall deficit which reported poor rangeland conditions, atypical for this time of year. Pasture and browse conditions were reported to be good to fair, especially in northern, north-western and agro-pastoral areas, and in parts of the north-eastern pastoral areas of Mandera and Wajir. However, pasture was largely fair to poor in the north-eastern pastoral areas of Garissa, Tana River and Isiolo, with some areas reporting depleted pasture. Water access for both livestock and domestic use was within normal levels in most pastoral areas, with the exception of the areas of rainfall deficit previously mentioned. Likewise, livestock body condition was good to fair in most areas but seasonally deteriorating as the dry season sets in. Livestock outmigration to dry season grazing areas was noted and is normal for this time of year, although in some areas such as Garissa, Tana River and Isiolo it was taking place earlier than normal. Most markets were operating normally, except in parts of the Kenya-Somalia border area affected by insecurity. In most counties livestock (goat) prices were favourable and above the five-year average but are now seasonally deteriorating. The exception was Isiolo, where goat prices were up to 11 percent below average. Maize prices in most areas were stable or had marginally increased between May and July 2016, attributed to adequate availability and low demand. Consequently, the goat-to-cereal terms of trade, used as a proxy for measuring the purchasing power of households, were favourable (Figure 3), being 18 – 45 percent above the long term average (LTA) in most counties, except in Isiolo where they were 12 percent below the LTA.

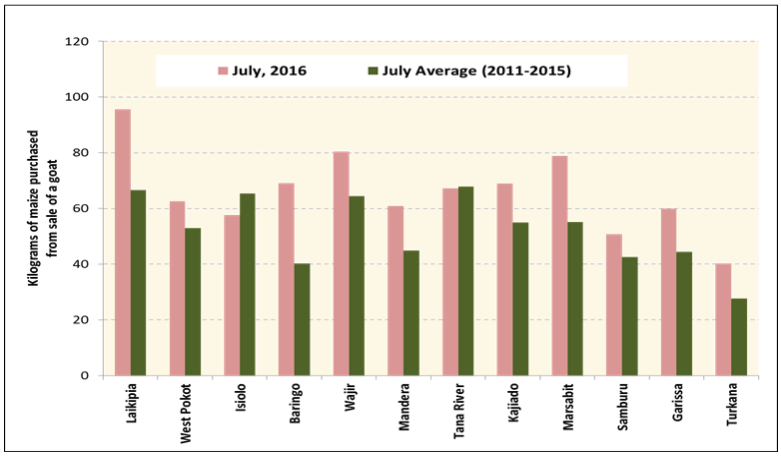

Figure 3: Cereals to livestock terms of trade

In the marginal agricultural areas, including south-eastern and coast, the long rains (which are less relied on for crop production than the short rains) were average to below-average and characterised by poor temporal and uneven spatial distribution. Poor cropping conditions, especially for maize, were evident across these areas, with production likely to be 30 – 40 percent below the LTA. Other leguminous crops were also grown during the current season, with average to below-average production expected.

The nutrition situation in Turkana (Turkana South, Turkana Central and Turkana North), Mandera, Baringo (East Pokot) and Marsabit (Laisamis and North Horr) is concerning (Figure 4). Acute malnutrition rates in these areas are above emergency thresholds, according to surveys conducted between June and July 2016, with global acute malnutrition above 20 percent. A detailed nutrition situation analysis shows that the situation in Turkana South is Extremely Critical, while it is Critical in Turkana Central and North and Serious in Turkana West, a slight deterioration compared with the same time last year. Neighbouring areas of East Pokot and West Pokot have also deteriorated and are classified as Critical and Serious respectively. Deterioration was also noted in Tana River, currently classified as Serious. The nutrition situation in Marsabit (Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties) although showing slight improvements, is still Critical, although Saku and Moyale sub-counties remain in Alert. The key factors likely to be affecting nutrition this season are poor dietary intake and food utilization and a high disease burden, with localised outbreaks of cholera (Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir and Tana River), measles (Moyale and Mandera), and chikungunya (Mandera). These factors combine with chronic challenges such as limited access to quality health services and inappropriate child care and feeding practices to increase vulnerability and aggravate the high malnutrition rates.

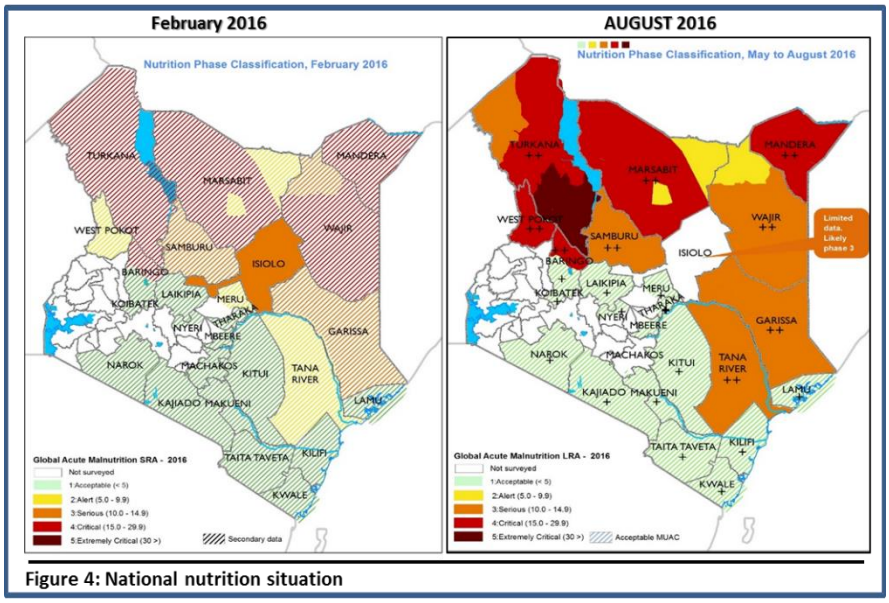

Figure 4: National nutrition situation

The nutrition situation is Serious but stable in Samburu, Garissa and Isiolo, and improving in Wajir, where Wajir East and South are classified as Serious and Wajir North as Alert. These improvements are linked to the positive impacts of the season on food security in the area, including increased access to milk. Levels of acute malnutrition in the south-eastern and coastal counties are low and stable and mainly classified as Acceptable. However, access to quality health services and improved child care and feeding practices are still of concern in these areas and should be improved to achieve optimal nutrition.

In February 2016, 223,000 children (MAM: 177,000 and SAM: 46,000)[1] and 34,400 pregnant and lactating women in ASAL areas required treatment for malnutrition. These figures now stand at 294,330 (MAM: 233,700 and SAM: 60,600) and 29,500 respectively. The increase in

[1] MAM: Moderate Acute Malnutrition. SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition.

the number of children is mainly due to the rise in the GAM and SAM cases in Turkana, West Pokot, East Pokot and Tana River, and the calculation of caseloads using the revised population projections (2016) for those under five. Nutrition interventions targeting acute and chronic malnutrition are on-going in all counties that include mass screening, increase in outreaches and treatment sites, and ensuring an adequate and consistent nutrition commodity pipeline.

4.0 Category of the food insecure population

4.1 Summary of food security phase classification

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of protocols (tools and procedures) to classify the severity of food insecurity and provide actionable knowledge for decision-making. An estimated 1.25 million people will be acutely food insecure and require humanitarian assistance over the next six months until February 2017. They are mainly found in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of the population affected by livelihood zone

Livelihood zones	Population affected after the 2015 short rains	Population affected after the 2016 long rains
Pastoral	520,000	750,900
Marginal agriculture	119,000	503,700
Total	639,600	1,254,600

4.2 Population in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The current food security situation in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas is stable but deteriorating as the lean season progresses. Most areas (Figure 5) are classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)[2]. In the pastoral areas, the long rains improved rangeland conditions although to varying degrees. In the north-west pastoral, agro-pastoral and parts of the north-east pastoral areas (Mandera and Wajir), the average to above-average rains regenerated rangeland resources to normal to above-normal levels. Open water sources recharged to 70 – 90 percent of their capacity. The average return trekking distance to livestock watering sources was 2 – 7 kilometres in agro-pastoral areas and 5 – 10 kilometres in pastoral areas, which are typical distances at this time of year. Pasture and browse conditions ranged from good to fair and were expected to last for the next two to three months. However, localized areas with high livestock concentrations, such as parts of Marsabit and Isiolo, and those which experienced substantial rainfall deficits (parts of Garissa and Tana River), reported poor

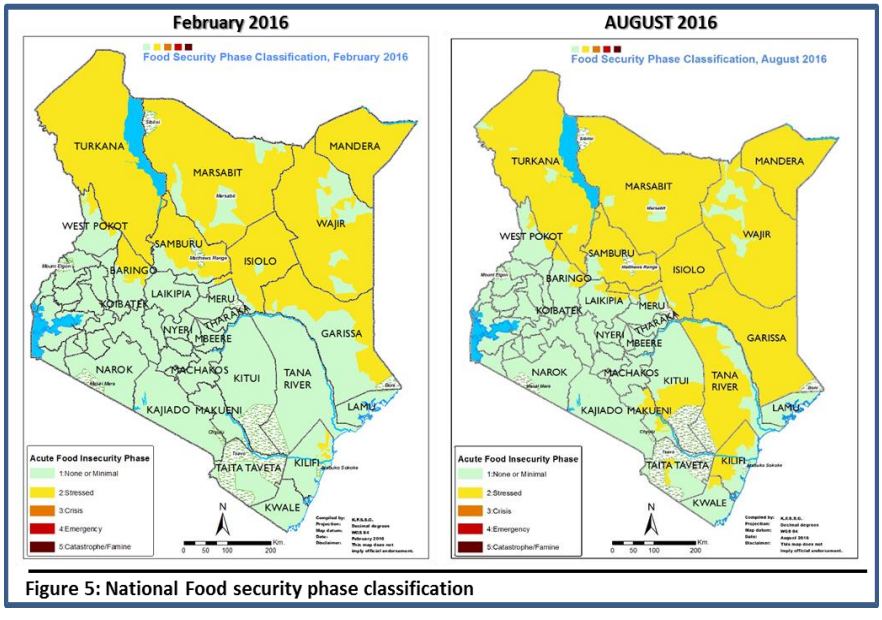

Figure 5: National Food security phase classification

[2] Households in 'Stressed' are able to afford minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford essential non-food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies

rangeland conditions and livestock productivity. Livestock body condition for all species is fair to good, while household milk consumption is within seasonal norms at 1 – 3 litres per household per day; however, some exceptional areas reported much less (<1 litre/household/day) or much more (>3 litres/household/day). The proportion of households with an acceptable food consumption score increased in these areas given the improved availability of food in households. In agro-pastoral areas, most households are consuming 2 – 3 meals a day while those in pastoral areas are consuming 1 – 2 meals a day, typical for this period. The meals comprised 4 – 5 food groups, mainly cereals, pulses, oil, meat and milk. Livestock prices were above average though seasonally declining, while livestock-to-cereal terms of trade were favourable. However, low incomes constrain households who are only able to access minimally adequate food consumption and are unable to afford essential non-food items and contribute to their continued classification as Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

Parts of the south-east (southern Kitui and eastern Makueni) and coastal marginal agricultural livelihood zones that were previously in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) have deteriorated to Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Most parts of these zones received above-normal rainfall in the 2015 short rains, although localized areas received below normal rainfall which was poorly distributed. The long rains were then significantly below average, resulting in two consecutive below-average cropping seasons. Most households have depleted their food stocks. Household income is also below normal, given the loss of wage labour opportunities caused by the reduction in farm-related activity. Household food consumption is currently supported primarily by market purchases, although reduced incomes are constraining access. Most households in these areas can meet their minimum dietary needs but not their other essential non-food needs, and are therefore classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

4.3 Population in Minimal (IPC Phase 1)

Most areas of the south-east and coastal marginal agricultural livelihood zones, and the agro-pastoral areas of Narok, Kajiado, Baringo, West Pokot and Laikipia, and parts of Wajir, are in Minimal[3] (IPC Phase 1). The cumulative effects of three consecutive average-to-above average seasons continue to support favourable livestock production and cropping conditions, resulting in improved household food availability and access. More than 80 percent of households in these areas have an acceptable food consumption score. Food consumption is mainly supported by market purchase of major staples, the prices of which remain stable due to adequate supply and the availability of substitute commodities.

5.0 Crop production and prospects

5.1 National crops supply situation and prospects

According to the State Department of Agriculture's Food Security Report for July 2016, the national food security situation remains stable, with adequate availability of food commodities in most markets. This is supported by carryover effects from previous favourable seasons and by imports, mainly from Tanzania and Uganda. Further, early harvesting of crops from the South Rift, the lower parts of Nyanza, Western, Eastern and Coast regions, albeit at below-average levels of production, further boosts market stability. The East African Cross-Border Trade Bulletin of June 2016 notes that maize exports from Uganda and Tanzania continued between April and June but were atypically low at 85 and 54 percent respectively below their three-year averages, attributed to increased availability and reduced demand in most Kenyan markets. Over the same period, rice exports from Tanzania to Kenya were 38 percent higher

3 Households in 'Minimal' are able to meet their essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical, unsustainable strategies to access food and income, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance

than in the same period in 2015, but comparable to the three-year average. Kenyan consumers generally like Tanzanian rice, resulting in increased demand, even though it sells at a premium to Asian rice. Dry beans imports from Uganda and Tanzania also continued between April and June, but were 33 and 30 percent respectively below their three-year average due to increased availability in Kenya following the El Nino-enhanced harvest.

Although the 2016 long rains were average to above-average in key cropping areas, the poor temporal distribution is likely to affect the current crop. Below-average production is expected, especially of maize. Nevertheless, current stocks in the country, coupled with the expected long rains harvest and future imports, are likely to be adequate for national consumption until November 2016 (Table 2), with a surplus of about 0.3 million metric tons thereafter.

Table 2: Maize balance sheet, July to November 2016

	90kg bags	**Metric Tons (MT)**
Stocks as at 31st July, 2016 in 90kg bags	**7,546,397**	**679,176**
Estimated imports between Aug and Nov 2016		-
i) Private sector/ relief agencies estimated imports	300,000	27,000
ii) Government imports	-	-
Estimated harvests between Aug and Nov 2016		-
i) Estimated short rains harvests	-	-
ii) Estimated long rains harvests	12,000,000	1,080,000
Total available stocks by 31st Nov 2016	**19,846,397**	**1,786,176**
Expected total exports to East African Community (EAC) region	-	-
Expected exports outside the EAC region	-	-
Post-harvest storage losses estimated at 10%	1,984,640	178,618
Amount used for domestic livestock feeds (1%)	198,464	17,862
Amount retained as seed (1%)	396,928	35,724
Amount used for manufacture (2%)	379,000	34,110
Net available stocks by 31st Nov 2016	**16,887,365**	**1,519,863**
Consumption @ 3.17 million bags/month for 45 million people for 4 months	12,680,000	1,141,200
Balance as at 31st Nov 2016 (surplus)	**4,207,365**	**378,663**

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

5.2 Food price trends

Food prices remain below their five-year average in most markets, supported by ample supplies from the previous and current season and by imports. Wholesale maize prices are gradually increasing in Nairobi and Mombasa but stable in Eldoret and Kisumu (Figure 6). July wholesale maize prices are 15 – 25 percent below their five-year average across the four urban markets.

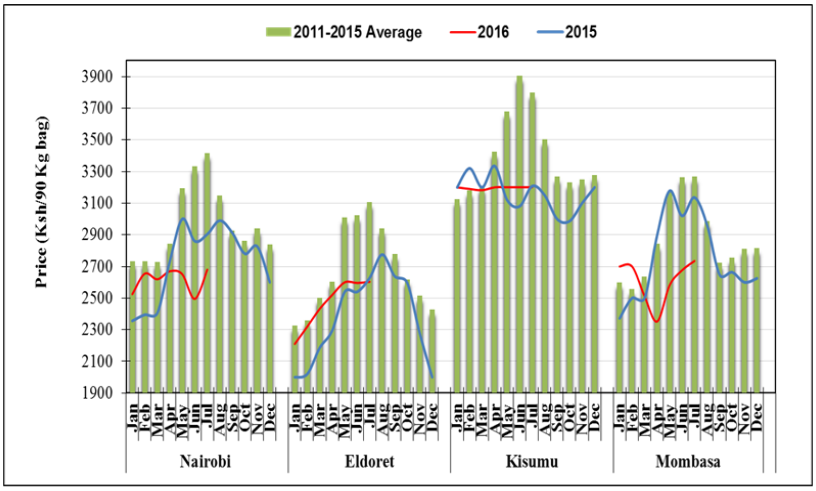

Figure 6: Maize price trends in major urban markets

Similarly, in the south-east marginal agricultural areas, retail maize prices have remained up to 30 percent below their five-year average for most of 2016, attributed to the surplus stocks held by households and traders from the above-normal short rains harvest and inflows from other parts of the country. However, retail maize prices are gradually and typically starting to rise as stocks are drawn down. In the coastal marginal agricultural markets, retail maize prices in 2016 remained stable but near average or slightly above average. The region has had two consecutive below-average maize production seasons which have reduced household stocks. However, supply pipelines from other parts of the country and cross-border imports have ensured that markets are well provisioned, resulting in stable prices. Maize prices in all pastoral areas have also remained fairly stable since the beginning of the year and within normal ranges, further underscoring the fact that markets are functioning well.

6.0 Food Security Prognosis, August 2016 – January 2017

Food security in pastoral areas is expected to deteriorate as the lean season of August-November approaches. Rangeland resources are expected to deteriorate in quality and quantity, with access to water and forage for livestock becoming more difficult. Consequently, most livestock are expected to migrate to dry-season grazing areas, far from homesteads. Livestock body condition is expected to decline from August to October resulting in a reduction in household milk availability and consumption. Livestock prices are also expected to decline, driven by poor body condition, and this will result in reduced household income. At a time when staple food prices are expected to increase, household purchasing power is likely to be eroded. Child malnutrition cases are likely to increase through October as diets become less diverse and portion sizes shrink. The north-eastern areas of Garissa, Tana River and parts of Isiolo, which received significantly below-normal rainfall and where rangeland resources regenerated poorly, are seeing a faster deterioration in food security conditions than other areas. To maintain food consumption, households are likely to engage more frequently in various coping strategies such as borrowing and buying food on credit (consumption-based strategies) and charcoal burning and selling of firewood (livelihood-based strategies). Most households are expected to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until November. However, localized areas in the north-eastern pastoral livelihood zones in Garissa, Tana River and Isiolo are likely to move to Crisis (IPC Phase 3). From November onwards, food security is expected to marginally improve with the onset of the October – December short rains, although these are forecast to be below average. The expected modest improvements in food security are unlikely to cause

any improvement in the food insecurity phase classification before January 2017; on the contrary, more households are likely to move to Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

In the south-east and coastal marginal agricultural livelihood zones, household food security will also decline as the lean season continues. Market dependence will increase, at a time when household incomes are likely to be low due to limited demand for agricultural labour. Low household income will constrain access to food, especially in the marginal mixed farming areas of Kitui South, eastern Makueni, Kilifi and Kwale. Market purchases are likely to be further constrained by the usual increase in food prices through September. To ensure food access, households are likely to increase their use of other sources of income, such as petty trading and construction labour. Most households will continue to support their food and non-food needs and remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) until November. However, the marginal mixed farming areas mentioned earlier are likely to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The onset of the short rains is expected to provide some marginal reprieve, as the rains are likely to be below average. Some households will access on-farm labour opportunities through land preparation and planting, although at much-reduced levels. Short-cycle early-maturing crops will also boost food availability, but again at lower levels than normal. Dependence on markets for food commodities will be highest during this period. Since the short rains are the primary production season in these areas, their poor performance is likely to exacerbate household food insecurity with more households becoming Stressed (IPC Phase 2) by January 2017.

The key factors to monitor over the next six months include:

- Cholera outbreaks and other diseases
- Health-seeking behaviours
- Dietary practices, especially among pastoral communities
- Likely impacts of La Nina conditions
- Livestock diseases, especially camel disease in pastoral areas
- Conflict and insecurity along the Somalia border.
- Impacts of programmes and interventions

Monitoring is especially critical in areas which have experienced successive below-average seasons.

7.0 Options for response

Table 1.3 contains various response options by sector (Table 1.3). Besides the immediate interventions required, the medium to long-term interventions that will build community resilience, as anchored in the Ending Drought Emergencies Common Programme Framework, need to be stepped up.

Table 1.3: Proposed interventions by Sector

Sector	Proposed interventions	Cost in Ksh. (M)	Cost in US. Dollar (M)
Agriculture	Promote drought-tolerant crops; water harvesting through the construction of pans and irrigation systems; promote post-harvest management and marketing; conservation agriculture; farm subsidies; good agricultural practices.	100	1
Livestock	Livestock insurance; marketing and infrastructure; pasture & fodder establishment & conservation; sensitise farmers and traders on better livestock marketing strategies; livestock breed improvement schemes; continuous vaccination and disease surveillance;	400	4
Health and nutrition	Scale up High Impact Nutrition Interventions (HINI); conduct nutrition surveillance; enhance integrated disease surveillance; provide water treatment chemicals; strengthen community health strategy	300	3

Sector	Proposed interventions	Cost in Ksh. (M)	Cost in US. Dollar (M)
Water	Construct dams and water pans; fuel subsidy for community boreholes; provide water tanks and storage facilities; water infrastructure development for emergency supply; repair strategic boreholes in grazing areas; roof water harvesting; repair water pans; purchase generators; fence water points.	9,000	90
Food assistance	Build resilience to future shocks through asset creation and safety net programmes. Food commodities and cash including associated costs for 1.25 million food insecure people in need of assistance for the next six months (September 2016 - February 2017).	6,600	66
Peace and security	Establish and support peace and conflict resolution mechanisms among pastoral and farming communities and form peace committees.	100	1
Total		**16,500**	**165**