



Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM) Consolidated report- MAY 2014

Highlight

- The new WFP corporate guidelines for analysing food security have been used for the first time in this monitoring report. The main change lays in the inclusion of livelihood coping strategies (see annex). There are also four household food security categories instead of three with Marginally Food Insecure being new.
- The performance of the long rains season (March to May) was mixed across the country. The rainfall season that was characterized by poor temporal and spatial distribution and rangeland did not fully regenerate and is expected to deteriorate faster than usual. This also results in lower milk production and consumption and lower livestock prices.
- The food insecure population (households that are moderately and severely food insecure) during the month of May was 62%. Of these, 13% were severely food insecure and face extreme food shortage or have begun adopting irreversible coping strategies. There are great geographical differences and some 40% of the population in Turkana are currently severely food insecure. Due to resource shortages, WFP was forced to reduce the GFD rations starting from May in the arid areas apart from Mandera and Marsabit.
- Food consumption has deteriorated for both beneficiary and non beneficiary households compared to same time last year as well as to 2012. In May 2012 and 2013 about 10% of households had a poor food consumption score compared to this year where 30% of beneficiaries and 39% of non-beneficiaries have a poor food consumption score. The worst being households in Northern Pastoral livelihood zone. (Marsabit)
- The proportion of expenditure spent on food has also increased this year compared to the same time of the two previous years. The large majority of households spend more than 75% of their income on food making them extra vulnerable to price shocks.
- Over 80% of households reported facing food shortage and thus adopting coping strategies, a slight increase compared to the same time in 2012 and 2013.

Methodology

136 sentinel sites were randomly selected, covering all 9 major livelihood zones, 2 refugees camps and 4 HIV/AIDS project areas.

10 locations per livelihood are visited three times a year (May, September and December).

Households are randomly selected covering both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Replacement sites are used when security prevents visit to original sampled site.

Indicators

Each household has been assigned to a Food Security Index group based on a simple averaging process using the 4-point scale scores it attained for each indicator. Specifically, each household's Food Security Index classification is based on a simple average of their food consumption score (current status) and their coping capacity score. The latter is itself formed from a simple average of the food expenditure share score and the asset depletion score.

Coverage

2631 households were visited of which 51% were beneficiaries and 49% were non-beneficiaries.

- Cash for assets-15%
- Food for assets 20%
- GFD 33%
- HIV/AIDS 5%
- Refugees 14%
- Non-beneficiaries 13%

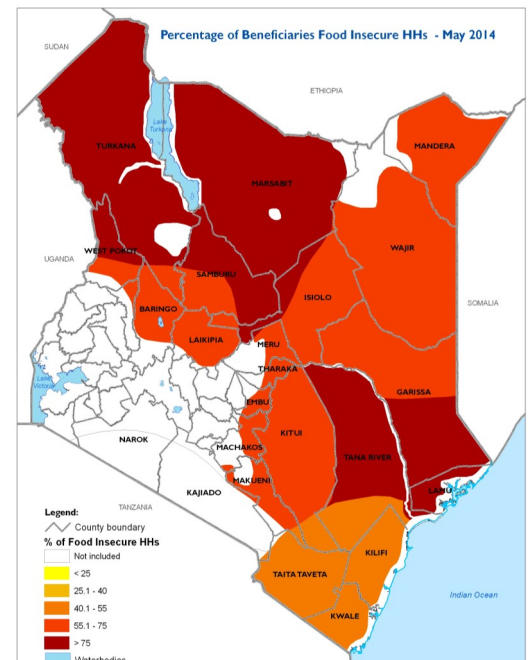
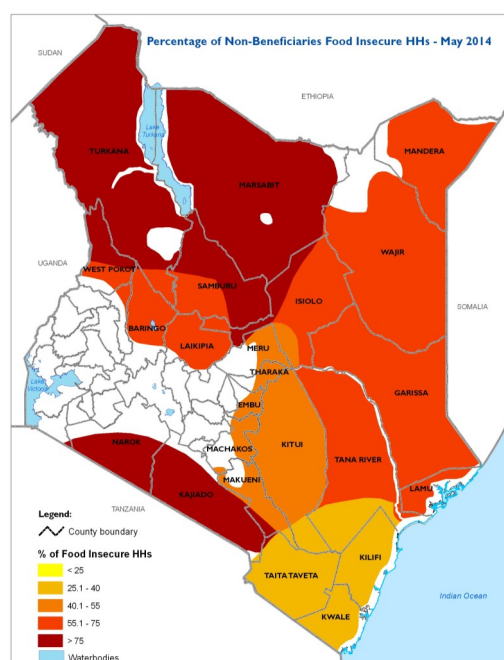
Demographics

45% female headed households.

Household size: 4.5

Food security situation

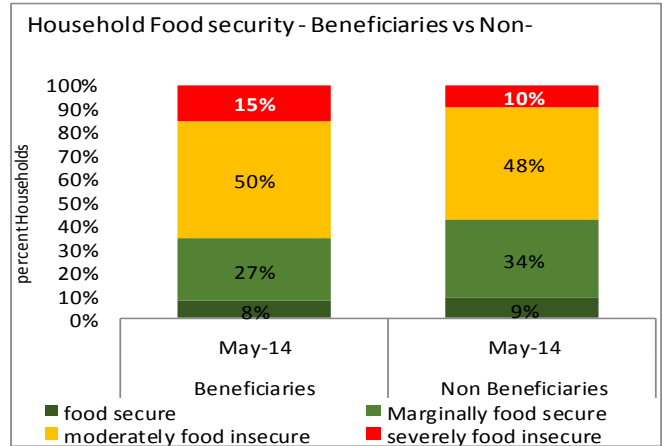
The food security status for the North-western, Northern and Southern pastoral livelihood zones remains the worst off having over 75% of non-beneficiary and beneficiary households classified as food insecure (moderately or severely food insecure). Among beneficiary households, Eastern pastoral had an equally high proportion of food insecure households. The North-western pastoral zone had the highest proportion of severely food insecure households (Turkana).



Household Food security situation

This monitoring report introduces WFP’s new corporate categorisation of households’ food security status where households are either food secure, marginally-, moderately- or severely food insecure.

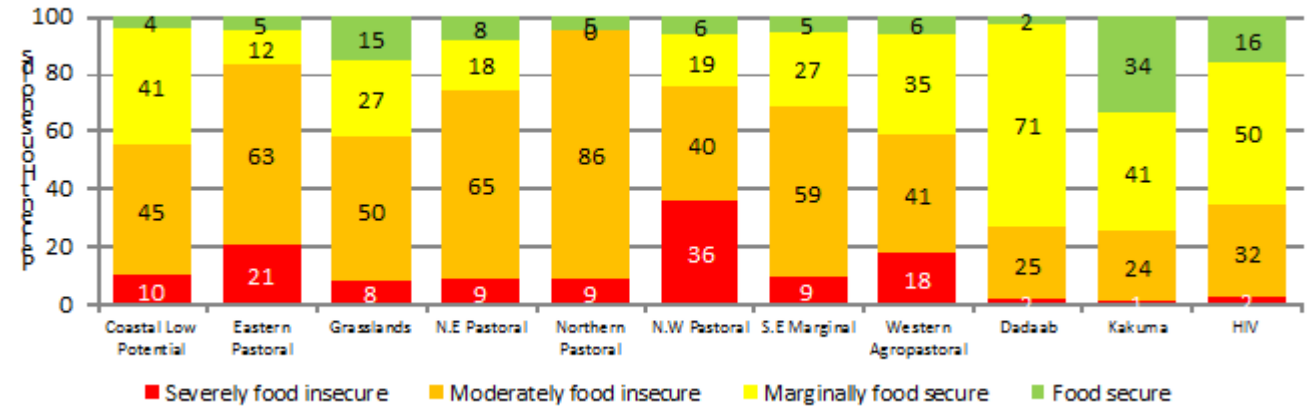
The food insecure population (households that were moderately or severely food insecure) during the month of May ranges between 58-65% of the sampled beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. This proportion of households are considered to be having significant food consumption gaps or begun losing livelihood assets that could lead to food gaps or worse. The new category is the marginally food insecure that were 27-34% of the population. Due to the new analysis approach (see annex) comparison with previous rounds is not possible however the geographical trend of food security is the same.



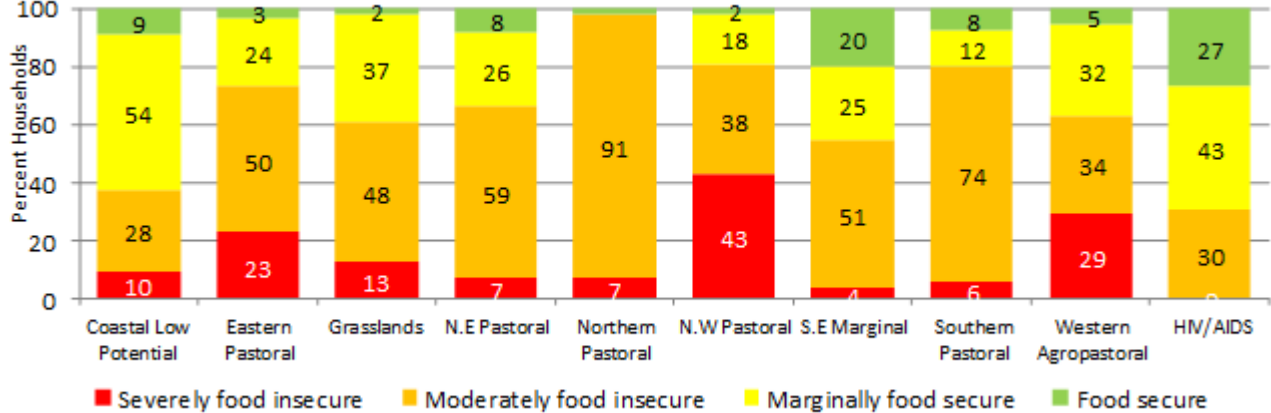
Among both non-beneficiaries and beneficiaries, North-western pastoral zone (Turkana and parts of West Pokot) has the highest proportion of households that were severely food insecure at 43% and 36% respectively, followed by Western agro pastoral and Eastern pastoral zones. The Northern pastoral zone (Marsabit and parts of Samburu) had the highest number of non-beneficiary (91%) and beneficiary (86%) households who were moderately food insecure followed by Southern pastoral (74%). Refugees in both Dadaab and Kakuma and HIV clients had about 2% of severely food insecure households but up to 30% still remain moderately food insecure.

All severely food insecure households had either poor (78%) or borderline (22%) food consumption. Those that were moderately food insecure had 55% poor consumption and 22% borderline consumption. Up to 90% of the severely food insecure and moderately food insecure households directed more than three quarters of their household expenditures to food. About 64% of the severely food insecure used emergency coping strategies while the remainder either used stressed (30%) or crisis strategies (6%).

Household Food Security Index - Beneficiaries



Household Food Security Index- Non-Beneficiaries

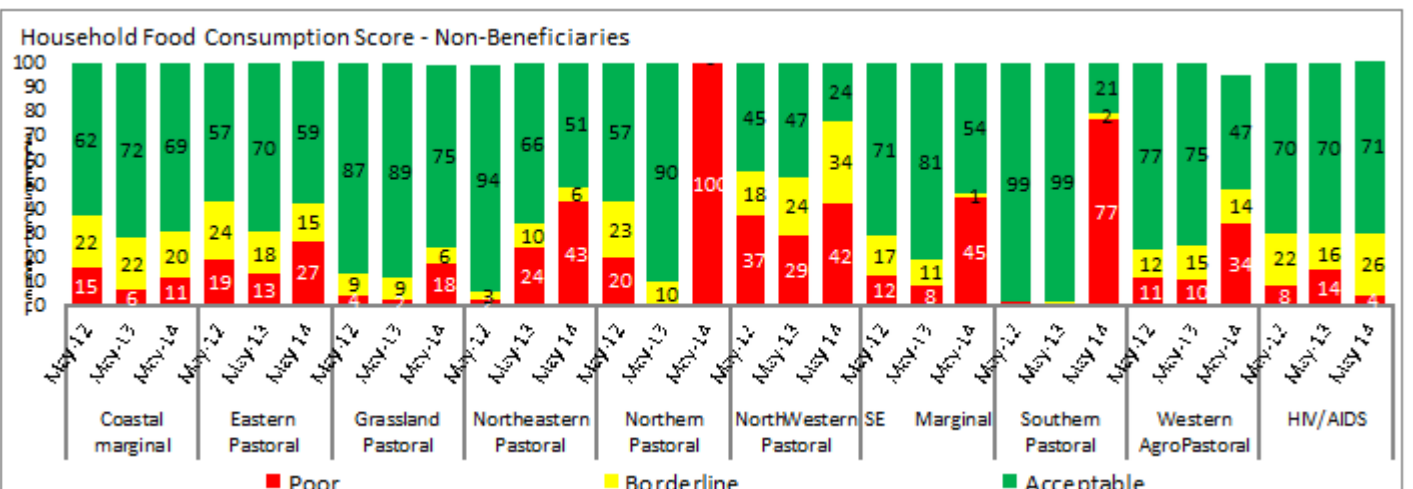
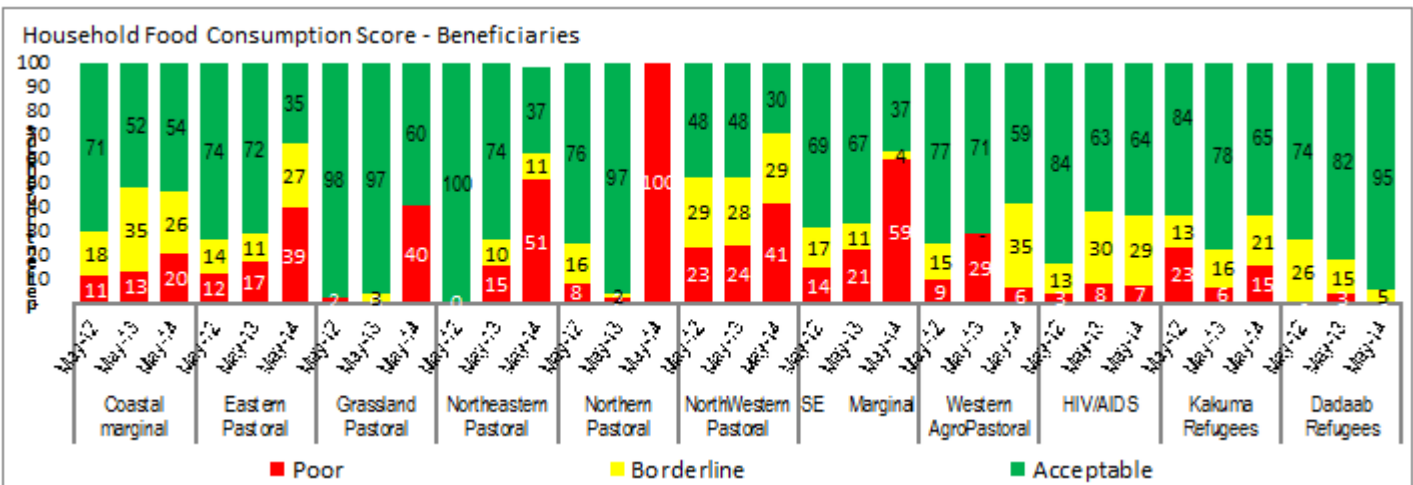
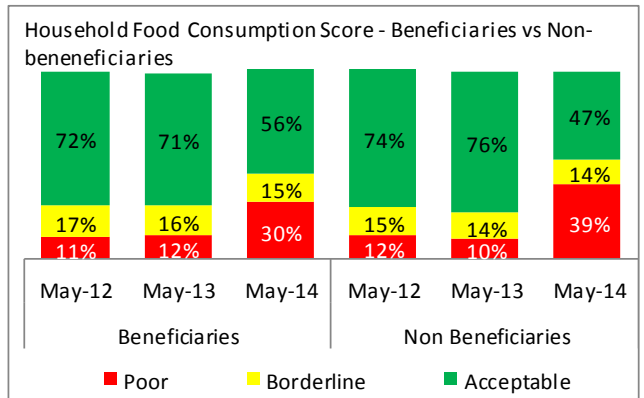


Food consumption has deteriorated for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households based on a year on year comparison. In May 2012 and 2013 about 10-12% of households had a poor food consumption score compared to this year where 30% of beneficiaries and 39% of non-beneficiaries have a poor food consumption score. Overall, the proportion of households with a poor food consumption has increased threefold from 11% in the last two years to 35% currently.

On average, both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households were consuming 3 food groups per day, mainly consisting of cereals, pulses and vegetables. Among the beneficiary households, the Eastern, Northeast and Grassland pastoral livelihoods were consuming an average only 1 to 2 food groups. Similarly, among the non-beneficiary households, the Northern, Southern and North-western pastoral zones were consuming the same number of food groups. Majority of the households sampled had a low dietary diversity signifying that they are consuming less than 4.5 food groups (IFPRI threshold).

All beneficiary households in the Northern pastoral zone were having a poor food consumption score, a dramatic deterioration compared with the two previous years when the majority had an acceptable food consumption. Conflict and insecurity is having an impact on the food situation in Marsabit. Across all livelihood zones and for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households, the proportion of households with a poor food consumption score were much higher than the same period in the last two years with one exception of beneficiaries in the Western agro pastoral zone. In Kakuma, those households with a poor food consumption were lower than in May 2012 but higher as compared to May 2013. In Dadaab, no household had poor food consumption.

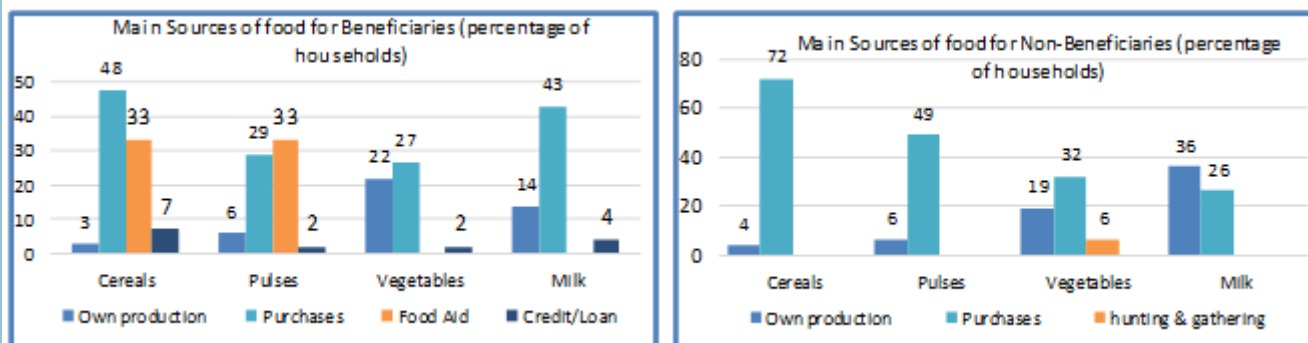
Of the non-beneficiaries, the Northern and Southern pastoral were the worst off where 100% and 77% respectively had a poor food consumption. The situation also deteriorated in the Eastern pastoral and the Western agro-pastoral zones. Improvements were experienced in the other livelihood zones as compared to December though higher than year on year comparisons.



Sources of Food

In May 2013, food assistance was the main source of cereals for beneficiary households. However, in May 2014, the market is the most important source for 48% of households compared to 32% in the same period last year which could be an indication of reduced rations. Food assistance still remains a slightly more important source for pulses.

A significant proportion of households (25% to 40%) reported that they were not consuming either pulses, vegetables or milk. A similar scenario applies to the non-beneficiaries and is also confirmed by quality of diet presented in the nutrition section of this monitoring report. The main source of food for the non-beneficiaries for all commodities was the market and own production when it comes to milk.



Market Prices

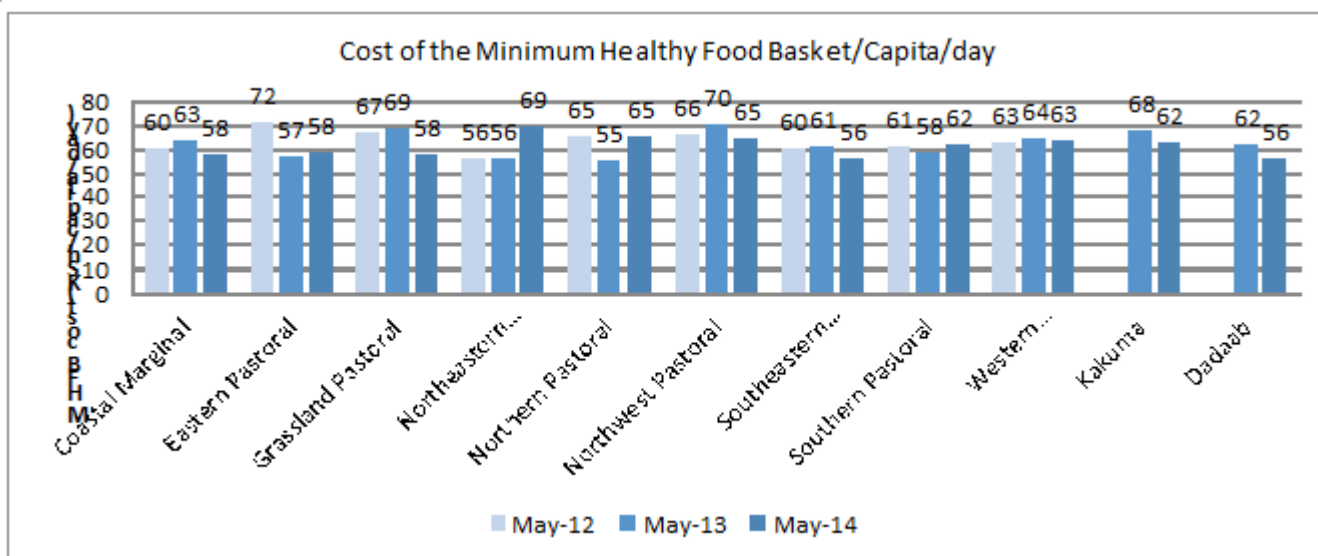
According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) May report, the inter-annual inflation rate stood at 7.30, which is higher than 6.41 in the previous month (April 2014) and 4.05 reported in May 2013. The overall cost of living for Kenyans has thus increased since last year.

The month on month Food and Non-alcoholic drinks' Index increased by 1.25 percent from April to May. There were significant rises in the prices of several food items, for example the national average retail price of one kilogram of potatoes (Irish), sukuma wiki (kales), beef (with bones), onions, wheat flour and sifted maize flour,. These increases outweighed price falls of a few other items, such as a kilogram of sugar and fresh packet milk (500 g). The index increased by 8.89% compared with May last year.

As per the price data collected during the May 2014 FSOM round, maize retail prices went up by between 0.7 to 14.2 percent – compared to December 2013 - in the Northern, North-eastern, Grassland and Eastern pastoral livelihood zones. In the other zones prices fell by between 4.5 to 22.2 percent. Compared to the same time last year, maize prices **increased** in all livelihood zones except in Grasslands pastoral, Western agro-pastoral and the Coastal marginal agricultural.

The cost of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket (MHFB) **increased** compared to the same time last year - May 2013 in the North-eastern, Northern, and Southern pastoral livelihood zones. The prices for the basket reduced compared to same time last year in Coastal, Grasslands, North-western and South-eastern livelihood zones.

The North-eastern pastoral zone had the highest cost for the same basket at Ksh 69 per capita/day otherwise the differences in cost between the livelihood zones were relatively low.

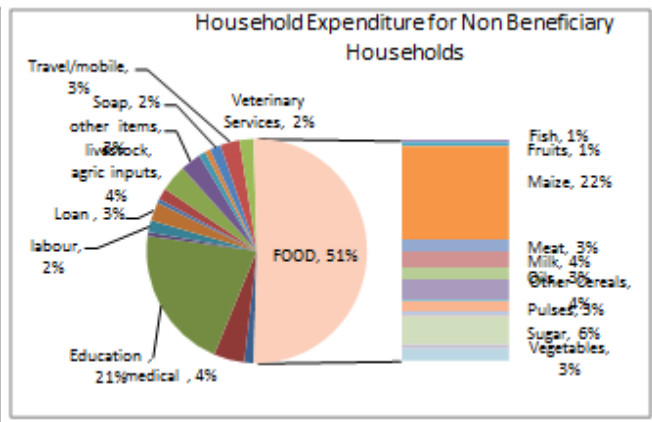
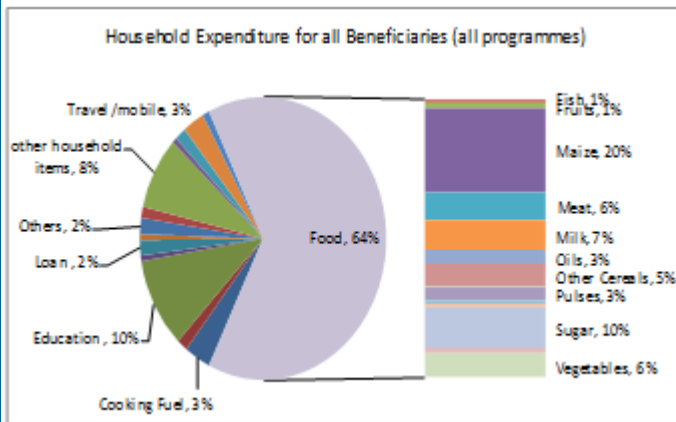
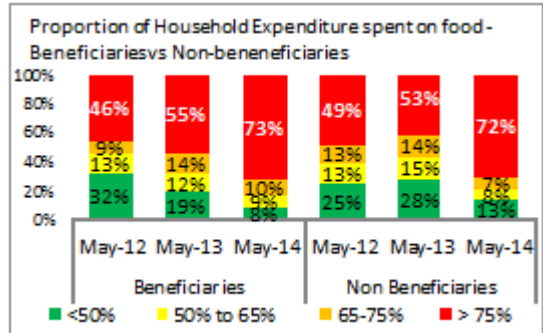


Household Expenditure (income proxy)

The proportion of households that spend over 75% of their income on food has increased to 73%. Compared to May 2012 and 2013 this proportion significantly increased indicating a deeper vulnerability and susceptibility to price increases.

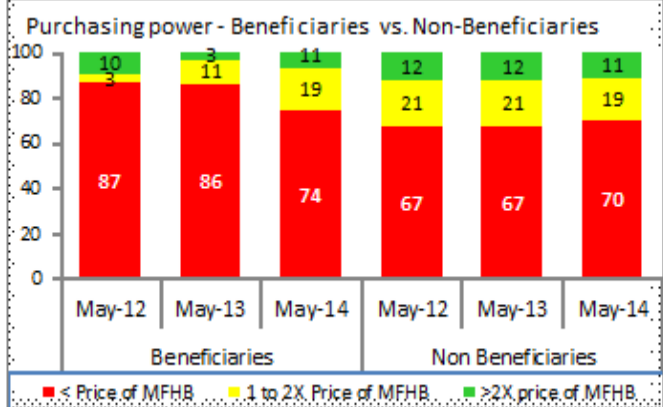
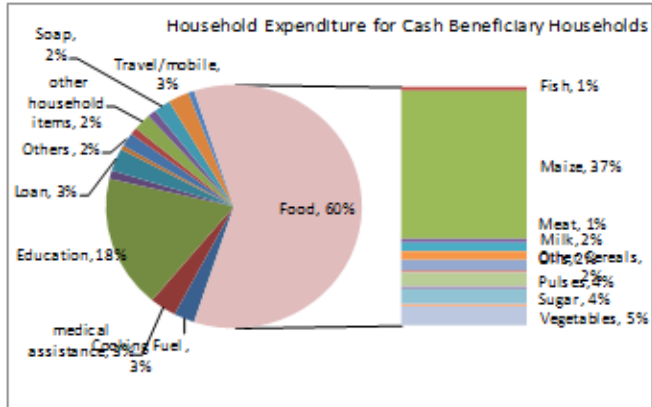
WFP beneficiaries are spending about 64% of their income on food, which is a slight reduction from the last round in December when they were spending 70%. The expenditure on maize for the food beneficiary households has reduced from 27% in December to 14% in May 2014 and the expenditure on meat, milk, sugar and vegetables have slightly increased over the same period. Cash beneficiaries are spending more on maize (37%) and between 4-5% on pulses, sugar and vegetables. Cash beneficiaries are spending a similar proportion (60%) on food compared to May last year. Education is the highest non food expenditure for all households.

The Non-beneficiaries households are on average spending about 50% of their income which is an indication of less vulnerability.



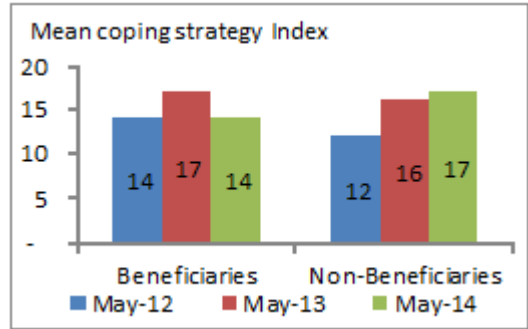
Comparing households' overall expenditure with the cost of the minimum healthy food basket gives an estimate of their purchasing power and thus their ability to support themselves.

The proportion of beneficiary households who cannot afford the cost of the food basket is lower than May last year and May 2012 (74% versus 87%) but has increased for the non beneficiary households (70% versus 67%). The shift is however not that great and still only 11% of households can support themselves without assistance.



Household Coping Strategies (CSI)

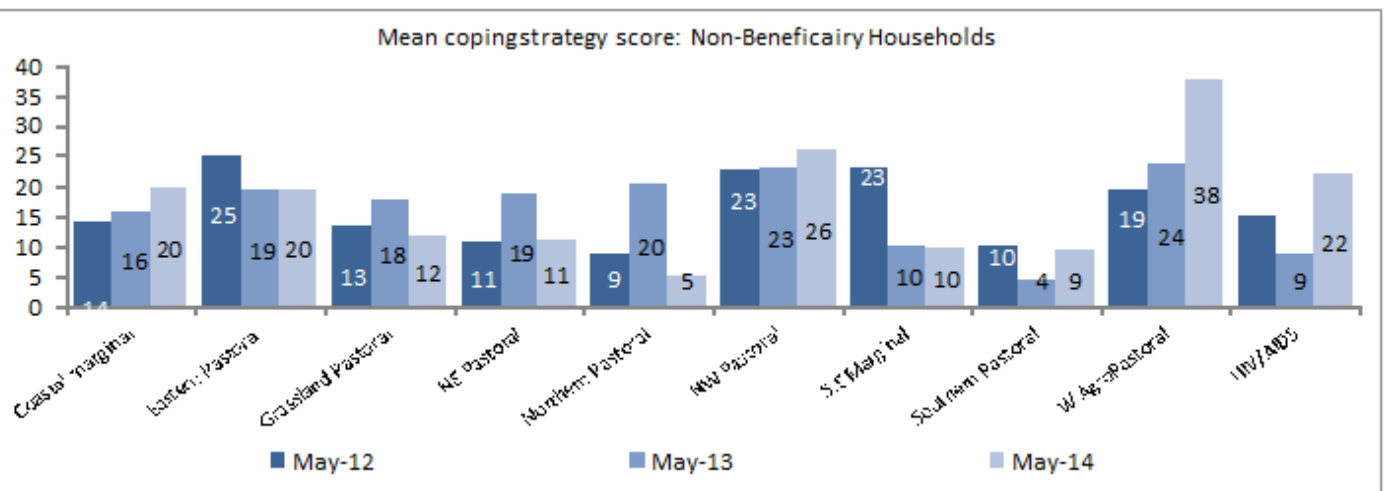
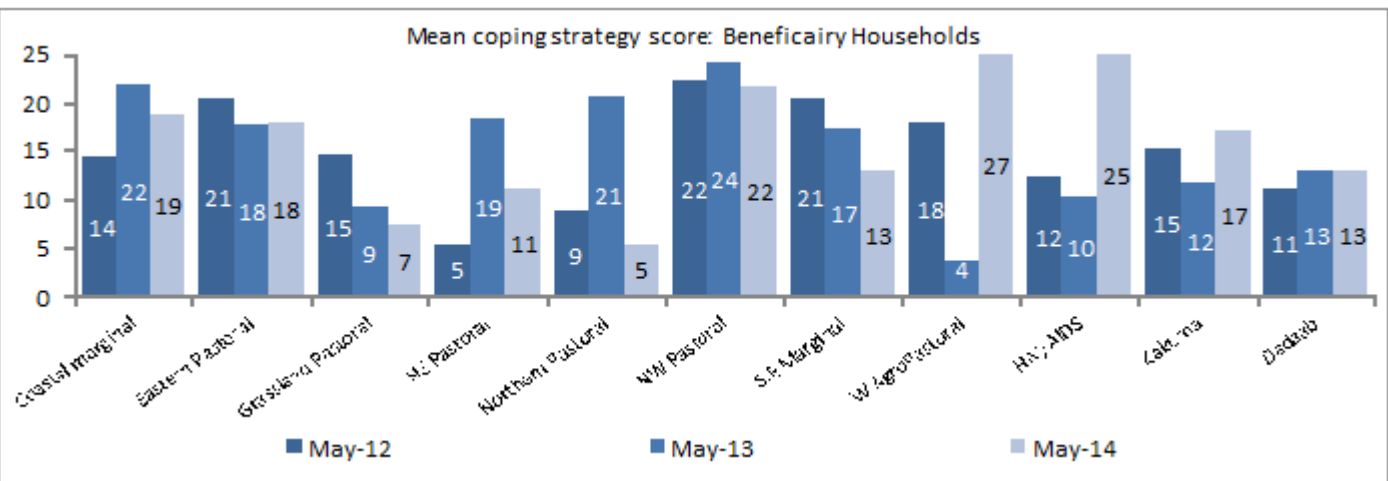
This round of monitoring introduced the new corporate coping strategy approach which divides the strategies into consumption and livelihood strategies. The CSI is thus the index for consumption related strategies that households used in the past 7 days. (Relied on less preferred and/or less expensive food. Borrowed food, or relied on help from a friend or relative. Reduced the number of meals eaten per day, Reduced the portion size of meals. Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adults/ mothers to ensure that children had enough to eat.). The livelihood strategies are presented separately and categorised based on their severity in terms of their negative impact .



The trend since 2012 indicate an increase in households who face shortage of food in May 2014 as compared to the two previous years. Over 80% of households (both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) experienced food shortage in May 2014 and adopted coping strategies.

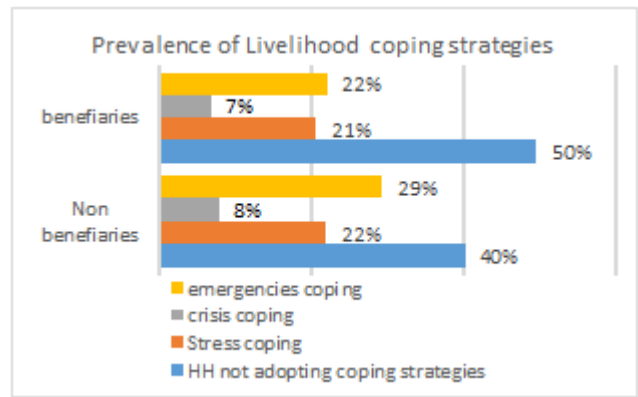
The frequency and severity of Coping strategies related to Consumption for beneficiary households in May 2014 was slightly better than in May 2013 and similar to May 2012. For non-beneficiaries the trend shows an increase in severity year on year since 2012 and 2013.

The Western agro pastoral livelihood zone had the highest index of 27, up from 18 in 2012 and 4 in May 2013 for beneficiary households and as high as 38 among non-beneficiaries. Northwestern pastoral zone's index has remained high at around 22 for the past two years . All other livelihood clusters had an indices less than 20 and the severity was lower than in May in the last two years. The CSI among HIV clients also doubled to 25 compared to December and was higher than a similar period in the last two years. Kakuma was using the coping strategies more frequently than last two years while in Dadaab there was no change compared to May last two years. A similar scenario was reported for the non-beneficiary households where the Western agro pastoral and Northwest pastoral zone had the highest index at 38 and 26 respectively.



Looking at the new livelihood coping strategies, some 50% of beneficiary– and 60% of non-beneficiary households adopted some livelihood strategy to meet food gaps in the month prior to the interviews.

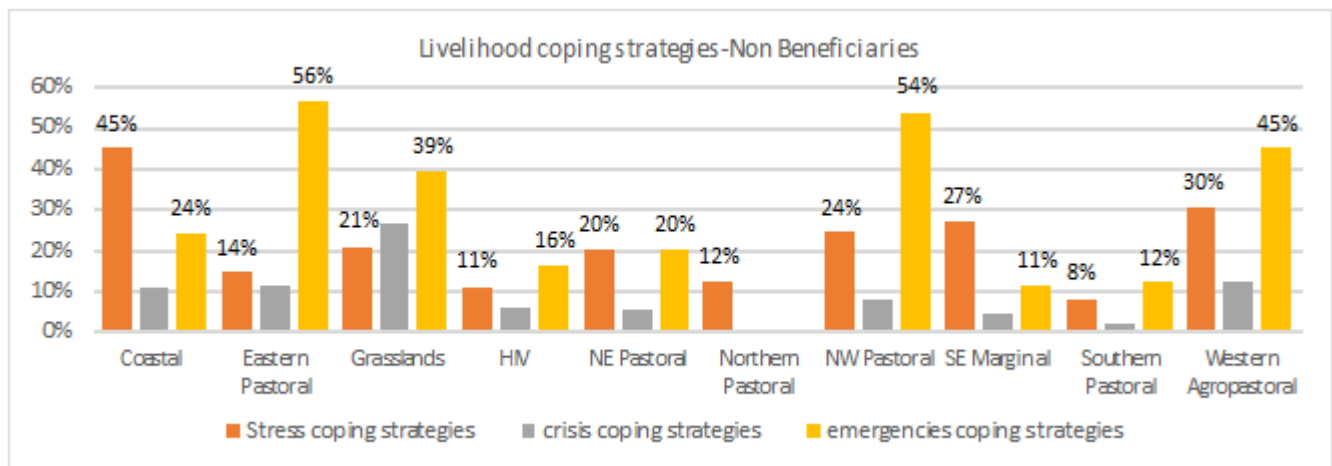
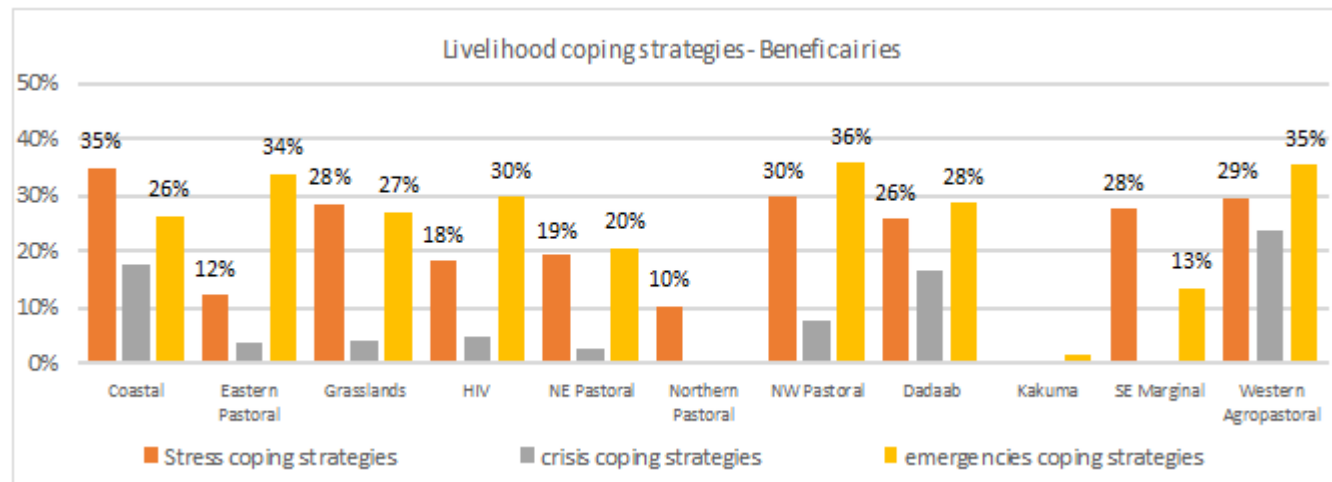
The livelihood strategies include; Sale of household assets/ goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewellery etc..) Sale of more animals than usual. Sending household members to eat elsewhere. Purchasing food on credit or borrowed food. Sale of productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheel barrow etc. Sale of house or land. Withdrawing children from school. Sale of last female animals. Begging.. These are categorised based on their negative impact and irreversibility.



In May 2014, some 20% of households were using stressed coping strategies, around 7-8% were adopting crisis strategies while as many as 22-29% of households were adopting emergency strategies that are irreversible and will have a long term negative effect on households capacity to cope in the future.

Although all livelihood zones had households using emergency coping strategies, the Eastern and North-western pastoral zones had over 50% of households who were adopting them among non-beneficiary households and as many as 40% of beneficiary households were using the emergency strategies. In all the livelihood zones, the stress coping strategies were used more then the crisis strategies as indicated in the two graphs below. The most commonly used livelihood strategies were, purchasing food on credit (43%), selling more animals than usual (23%), begging (22%) and sending household members to eat elsewhere (21%).

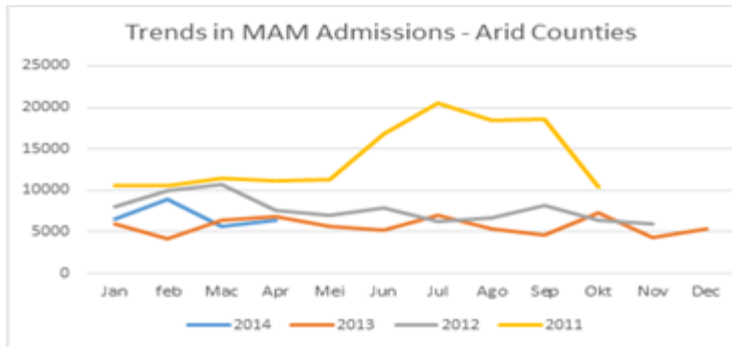
The community with the least livelihood strategies used was Kakuma refugees, followed by Northern Pastoralists.



Nutrition Situation

Nutrition surveys carried out in 2014 (right table) show a deteriorating nutrition situation in most of the arid counties with slight improvements only in Tana River and Wajir North. Worst are Turkana and Mandera with GAM rates that mirror those of 2011 Emergency. It is an outcome of two relatively poor rainy seasons and thus show how extremely vulnerable households and children in particular are to shocks.

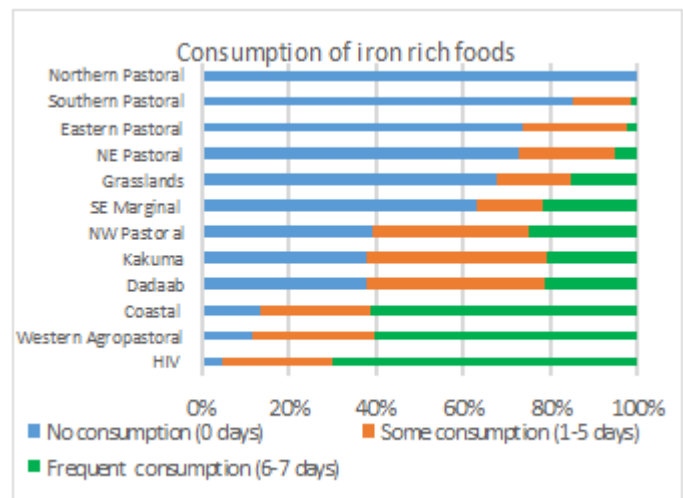
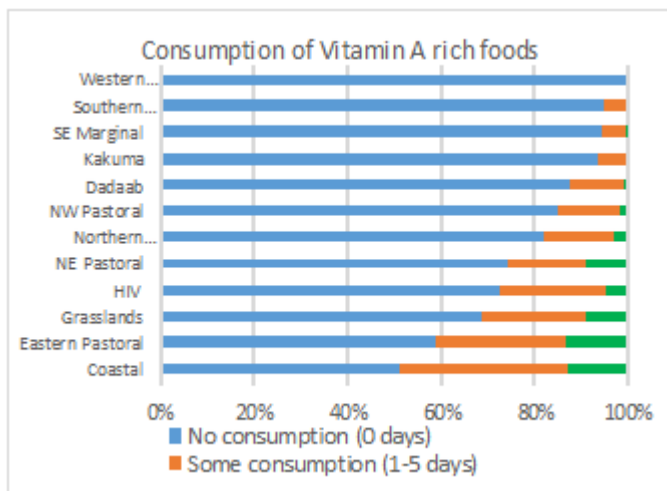
Admission rate to Supplementary feeding programmes of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in the arid counties were however similar compared to previous years.



Nutrition Surveys 2014 and 2013		
County/Sub-county	2014	2013
Garissa	14.60%	12%
Tana River	7.50%	13.80%
Turkana Central	28.70%	17.20%
Turkana South	24.50%	16.50%
Turkana North	27.20%	15.30%
Turkana West	17.40%	9.70%
Baringo (East Pokot)	21.10%	13.40%
Wajir West	20.70%	11.50%
Wajir North	8.80%	14.60%
Samburu	17.30%	12.4% (central) 14.3% (East and North)
Mandera East	23.60%	14.60%
Mandera North	27.30%	16.80%
Mandera Central	22.30%	20.60%

In direct relation to the nutritional situation is the consumption pattern and the quality of the diet. Consumption of iron rich foods, protein rich foods and vitamin A rich foods was very poor for all livelihoods. Only coastal households had a relatively good intake of vitamin A. The figures below show that more than 60% of populations in the pastoral livelihood zones did not consume any iron rich food in the past seven days; apart from the North-western and Western pastoral where the households had a moderate to frequent consumption of iron rich foods.

This does call for more focus on nutrition sensitive programme with nutrition education and behaviour change campaigns.



Annex: Introduction to CARI (Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security)

Background and description

The World Food Programme's VAM unit began a project in 2012 to develop a standardized approach for assessing and reporting on household food insecurity in its country-level reports. The project was initiated in response to the wide diversity of methods that had been used previously.

The approach developed—hereafter referred to as the CARI—culminates in a food security console which supports the reporting and combining of food security indicators in a systematic and transparent way, using information collected in a typical VAM survey. Central to the approach is an explicit classification of households into four descriptive groups: food secure, marginally food secure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. The classification provides an estimate of food insecurity within the target population whether it is calculated at the national or sub-national level, or by other strata (e.g. livelihood activities, sex of household head).

What is the CARI Console?

The food security console is the final output of the CARI. It combines a suite of food security indicators into a summary indicator—called the Food Security Index (FSI)—which represents the population's overall food security status. The console itself serves to provide a clear snapshot of the rates of the different types of a population's food insecurity at quick glance. Table 1 provides an example of a completed CARI reporting console.

Table 1: Example of completed CARI reporting console⁴

Domain		Indicator	Food Secure (1)	Marginally Food Secure (2)	Moderately Insecure (3)	Severely Insecure (4)
Current Status	Food Consumption	Food consumption score	51%		36%	13%
		<i>Food energy shortfall</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	Food expenditure share	8%	9%	11%	72%
		<i>Poverty status</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood coping strategy categories	66%	20%	3%	11%
Food Insecurity Index			6.9%	43.7%	42.7%	6.8%

The bottom row figures in the example console above (i.e. the Food Insecurity Index values) would mean that for the assessed population; 6.9% of the households are assessed as "food secure", 43.7% as "marginally food secure", 42.7% as "moderately food insecure", and 6.8% as "severely food insecure".

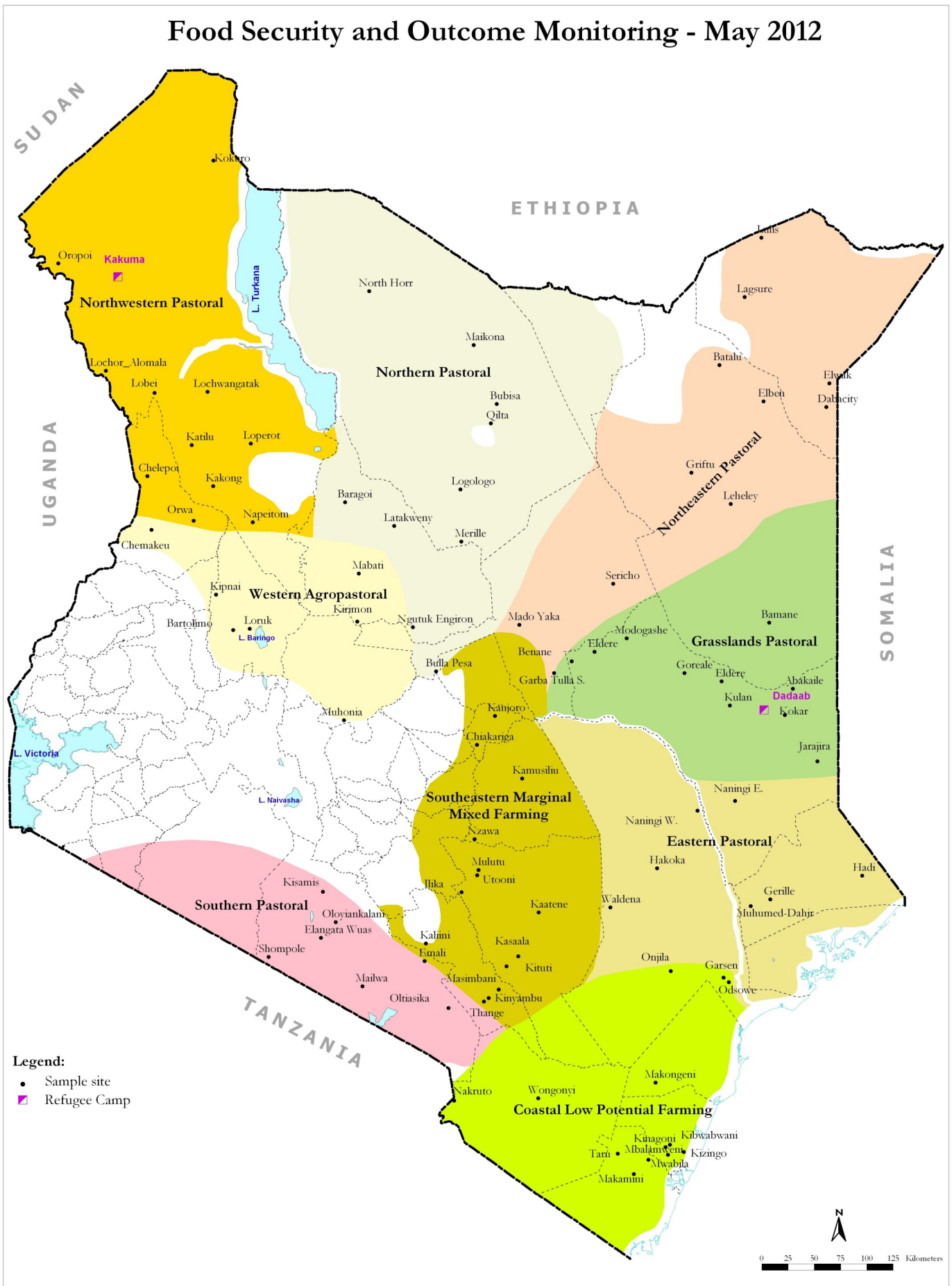
A useful way to think about the console is to consider each reported food security indicator as a building block required to form the population's overall classification. The console (see Table 1) stacks these blocks together: each row represents an indicator and shows how the target population is distributed, for that indicator, across the console's four standard categories: 1) Food Secure, 2) Marginally food secure, 3) Moderately Insecure, and 4) Severely Insecure.

The final row of the console presents the population's overall food security outcome; this is described as the food security index. This is based on an algorithm which combines, at the household level, the results for each of the reported food security indicators.

Console domains and food security indicators

The console's domains represent two key dimensions of food insecurity. The current status domain (Table 1, top rows of console) uses food security indicators which measure the adequacy of households' current food consumption. Specifically, this domain is based on the food consumption score and/or food energy shortfall indicators. The coping capacity domain (Table 1, bottom half of console) employs indicators which measure households' economic vulnerability and asset depletion. Specifically, this domain is based upon a combination of the livelihood coping strategy indicator and either the food expenditure share indicator or the poverty status indicator.

Food Security and Outcome Monitoring - May 2012



Please contact **Allan Kute** or **Yvonne Forsen**, VAM, should you have any questions