



# Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM)

## Consolidated report

### DECEMBER 2014

#### Highlight

- The Short rains season 2014/2015 performed below average rainfall in the eastern half of Kenya, affecting mostly pastoral semi-arid lands resulting in a below average vegetation across northeastern parts of the country. In contrast, the pastoral areas of Turkana enjoyed favourable rainfall alleviating the effects of the drier than average previous season.
- Food security, as per the new corporate methodology improved in 2014 for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households compared to the two previous monitoring rounds. Some 38-43% were food insecure (severe and moderate) in December compared to 60-65% earlier in the year.
- Food consumption has improved among beneficiaries over the past years as well as compared with the previous monitoring round in September. Some 78% of beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score in December 2014 despite ration cuts.
- The cost of the minimum healthy food basket has reduced in the Northwestern pastoral regions (Turkana) over the past three years and dropped 17.6% compared with September 2014 and is largely a result of the good short rains. Regions where the food basket also reduced slightly over the years were Coastal-, South-eastern marginal mixed farming– and Western agro pastoral livelihood zones.
- “Daily average dietary diversity” showed an improvement in the number of food groups consumed compared with September, apart from in Dadaab and Kakuma. None of the livelihood zones however reached the IFPRI threshold for what is regarded as a good dietary diversity.
- Eighty-six (86)% of the interviewed households faced shortages of food or cash to purchase food for. Consumption related coping strategies were used even more frequently in this round than in September and year on year comparison with 2012 and 2013. Some 39-45% of households also used emergency livelihood strategies which is an increase from September. It thus looks like the improvement in the other food security indicators have been achieved at a high cost where households are engaging in both consumption and livelihood coping strategies that are more severe and more frequently used than previously.

#### Methodology

115 sentinel sites were randomly selected, covering all 9 major livelihood zones and the two refugees camps .

10 locations per livelihood are visited three times a year (May, September and December) based on their seasonal characteristics.

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

#### Indicators

WFP’s standard indicator in assessing food security include coping strategies, food consumption score, market prices etc. In addition, food security is analysed through cross tabulating food access indicators with consumption using SPSS. Expenditure was used as income proxy which is compared with the cost of a minimum healthy food basket to evaluate purchasing power and dependency on assistance.

#### Coverage

2430 households were visited of which 51% were beneficiaries and 49% were non-beneficiaries.

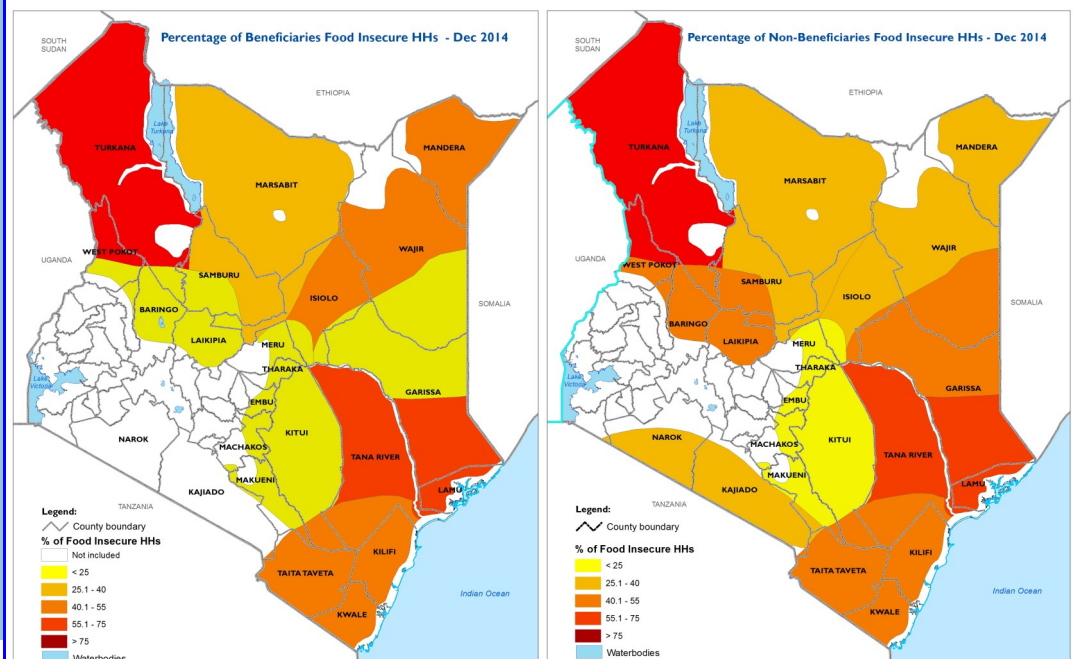
- Cash for assets-17%
- Food for assets 22%
- GFD 31%
- Refugees 15%

#### Demographics

53% female headed households.  
Average household size, 5.5

#### Food security situation

Turkana and parts of West Pokot remain worst off in terms of food security with more than 75% of the population being food insecure. The situation has improved in Western agro-, Grassland pastoral and Southeastern marginal mixed farming where less than 25% of beneficiaries were food insecure (severe and moderate combined).



### Household Food security situation

Food security, as per the new corporate methodology has improved in 2014 for both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. Some 38-43% were food insecure (severe and moderate) in December compared to 60-65% earlier in the year.

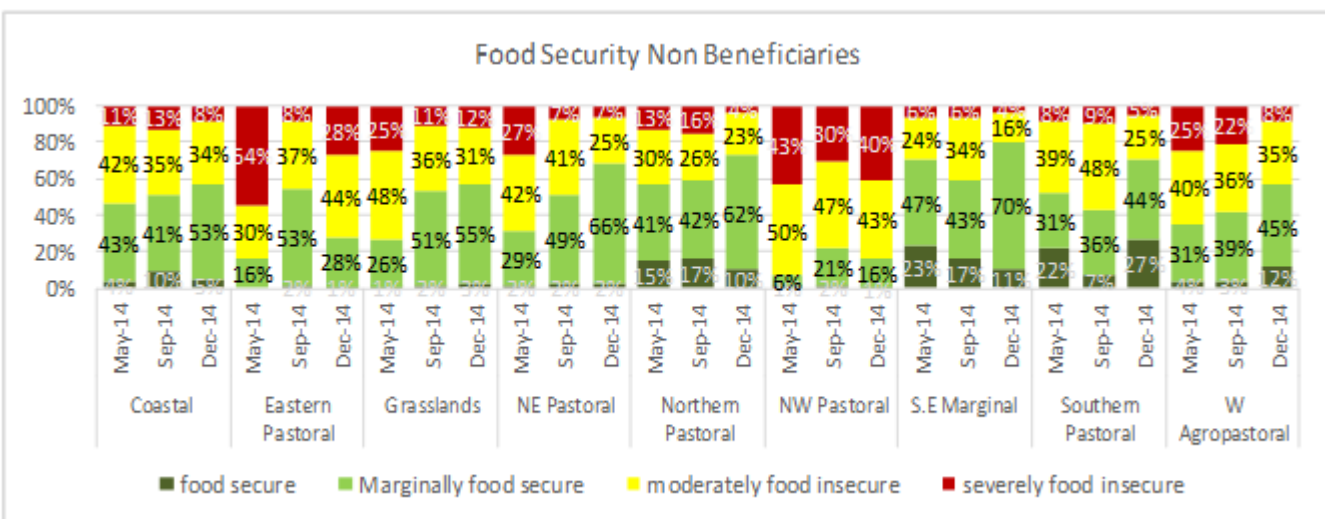
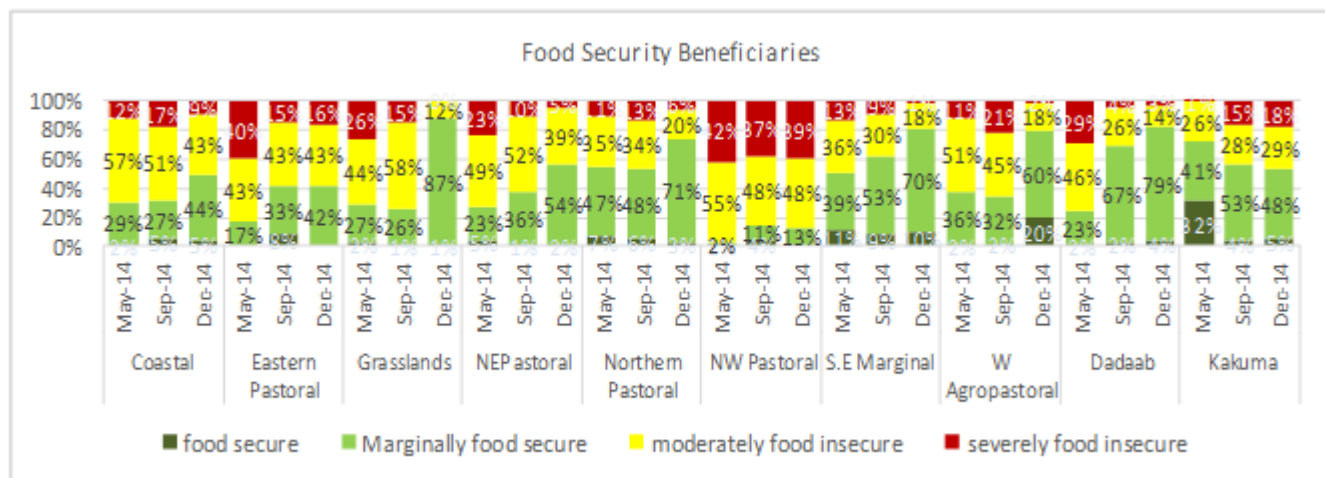
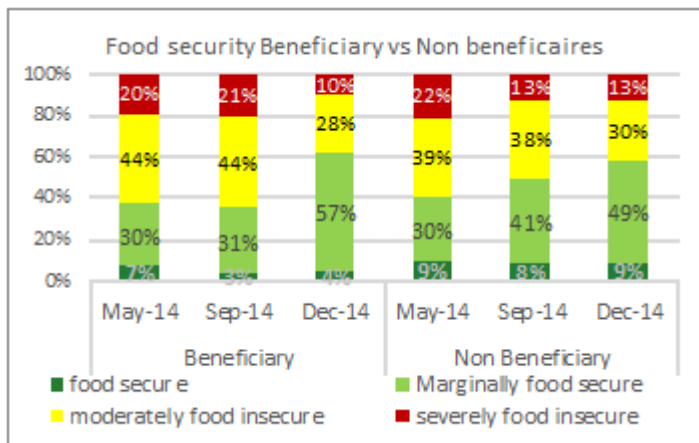
An improvement was seen among beneficiaries in the different livelihood zones apart from Eastern and Northwestern pastoral zones where the situation remained stable compared with the September monitoring round. Only some 13% of beneficiaries in Northwestern (Turkana) were marginally food secure, the rest (87%) were food insecure (severe or moderate).

Kakuma refugee camp has seen a marginal deterioration, most likely due to reduced ration and continued high market prices.

A deterioration was seen among non-beneficiaries in the Eastern and Northwestern livelihood zones compared with September but the situation is still better than in May 2014. All other livelihood zones saw an improvement compared with the two previous monitoring rounds in 2014 i.e. May and September.

The livelihood zones with the highest proportion (over 80%) of food secure/marginally food insecure households were; Grassland-, South-eastern marginal, agriculture and Western agro pastoral zones as well as Dadaab.

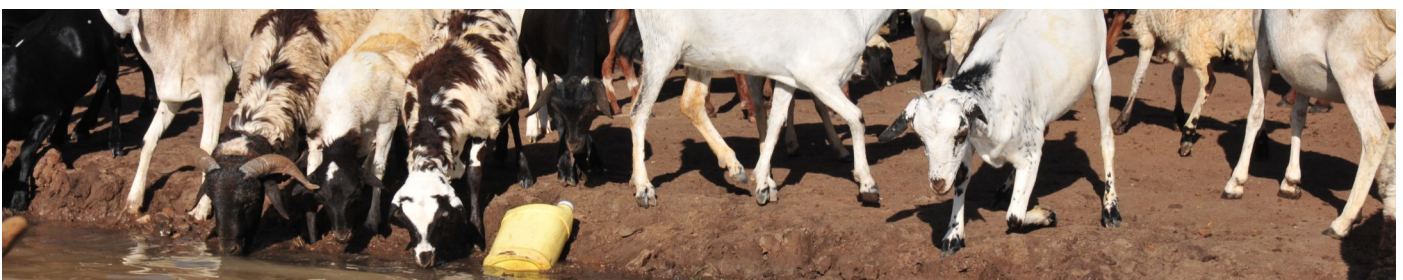
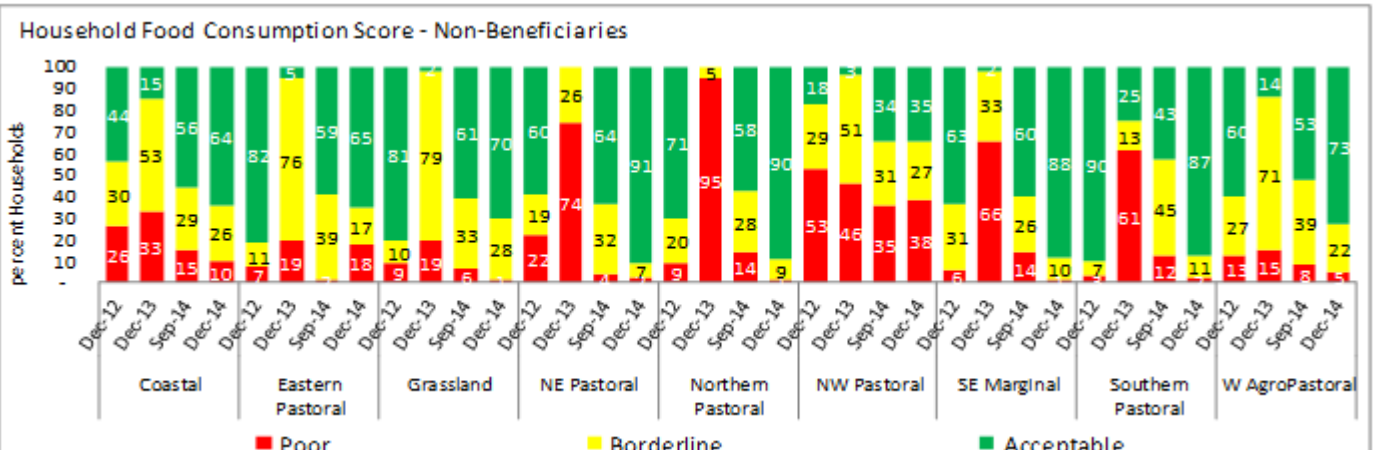
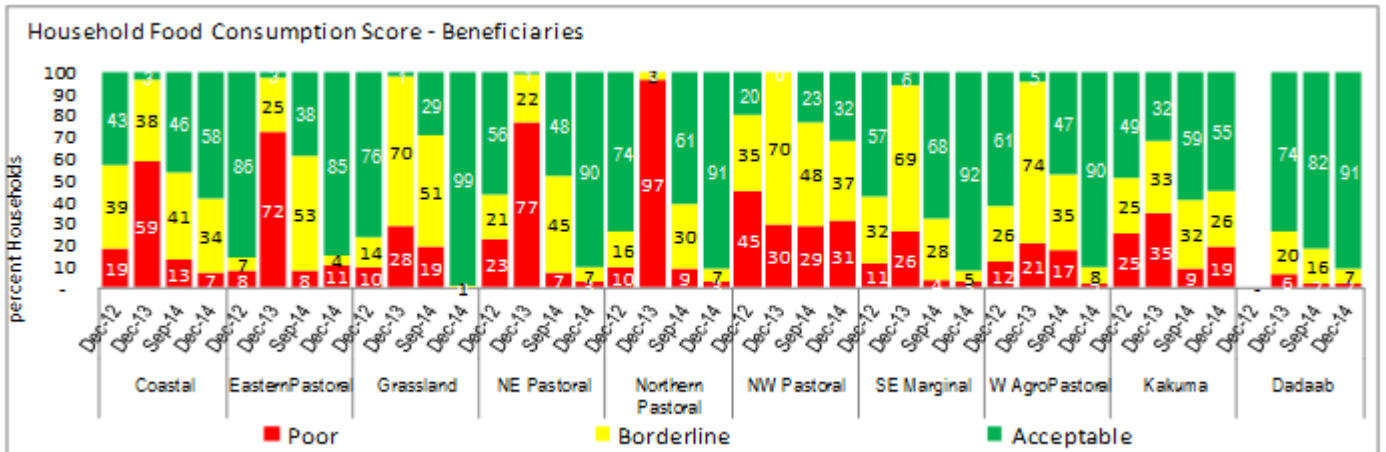
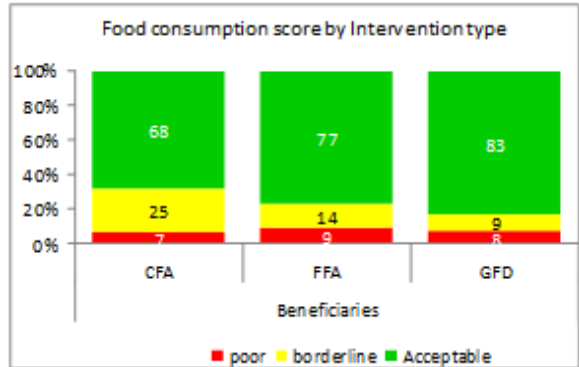
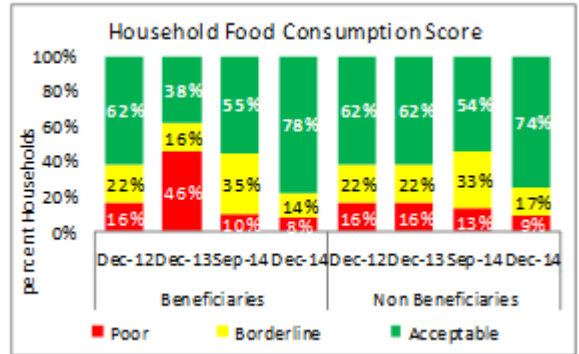
Southern pastoral livelihood zone (Narok and Kaijado) has the highest proportion (70%) of food secure/marginally food insecure households among the non-beneficiaries and WFP has only nutritional interventions there. The Northern pastoral zone has also some 70% food secure/marginally food secure among both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.



Food consumption has improved among beneficiaries over the past years as well as compared with the previous monitoring round in September. Some 78% had an acceptable food consumption score in December 2014 despite ration cuts. Also non-beneficiaries have seen an improvement over the years and also compared with the previous monitoring round. Some 74% of non-beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score in December 2014.

Among the WFP beneficiaries, households receiving a General Food Distribution (GFD) had a better food consumption than households engaged in food for assets. Some 83% of GFD beneficiaries, 77% of food for asset and 68% of cash for asset households had an acceptable food consumption score.

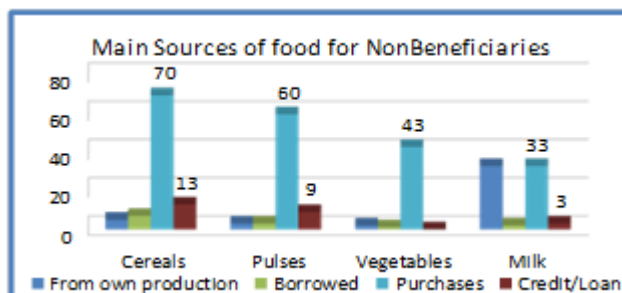
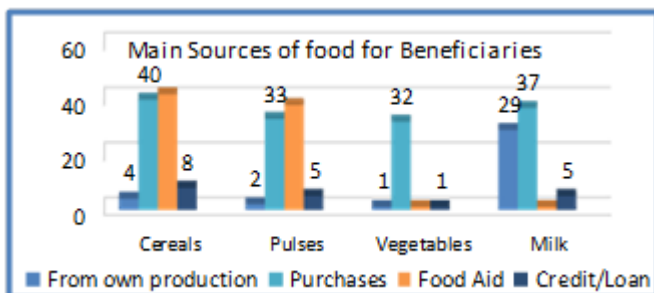
While there has been improvements, this was not the case in all livelihood zones. The North-western pastoral zone remained with some 31% of beneficiaries with poor food consumption, similar to that of December 2013 and the previous monitoring round in September. The proportion of households with an acceptable consumption has however increased and 32% are found in this category. Kakuma has also an unstable food consumption situation that fluctuates from round to round. However, the proportion of households with acceptable consumption has increased as per year on year comparisons.





## Sources of Food

Food aid remained a main source of cereals and pulses for beneficiaries despite ration cuts in December. The market was however equally important for those two commodities. Own production was only important as a source for milk. Some 5-8% of the households reported that buying on credit was the main source of food for them. The market remained by far the most important source of food for non-beneficiaries, with own production being important only for milk.



## Market Prices

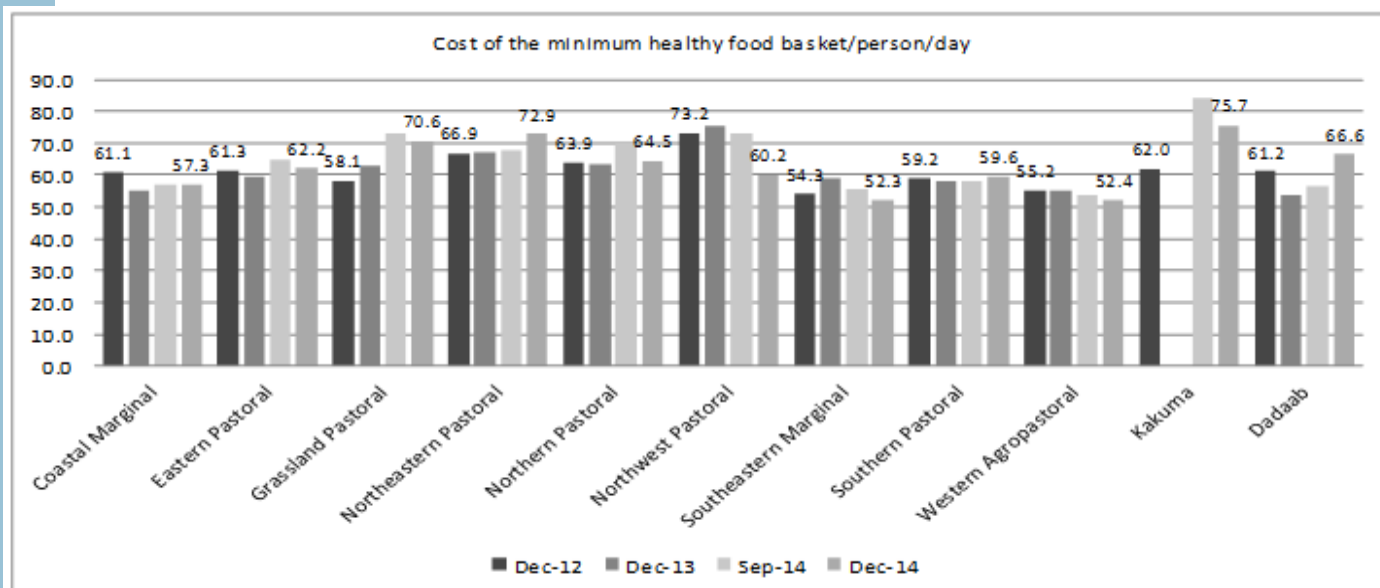
According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) November 2014 report, the inter-annual inflation rate stood at 6.09% which was lower than the 7.36% in the same month last year, thus slightly easing the pressure on the cost of living for Kenyan households. The inter-annual food and non-alcoholic drinks' inflation stood at 7.54%, also lower than the 10.66% in November 2013.

As per the price data collected during the December 2014 FSOM, nominal retail maize prices fell by between 12% (Coastal marginal agricultural livelihood zone) to 39% (North-west pastoral zone), from a year on year comparison. The drop in maize prices in the North-west pastoral is attributed to the increased production in the irrigation schemes as well as the above normal rain fall. This had a significant influence in the fall of the food basket cost. The Kenyan government has set the maize wholesale price at KSh. 2,200; for purchases by the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). Being a major price setter in the market, the NCPB price will influence other market players to lower their prices, thus increasing household food access. Maize price trends in the country are expected to continue on a downward trend – up to around March 2015 - due to the increased cross-border flows from Uganda and Tanzania. Prices went up by between 6% (Eastern pastoral zone) to 35% (Grassland pastoral) and 29% in Kakuma refugee camp; mainly driven by reduced supplies, due to the poor long rains harvests in the producing areas of western, central and eastern Kenya. The increase in maize prices was however outweighed by decrease in price of other commodities in the food basket.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket during the month of December has reduced in the North-western pastoral regions (Turkana) over the past three years and dropped 17.6% compared with September 2014 and is largely a result of the good short rains.

Other regions where the food basket has reduced slightly over the years are the Coastal-, South-eastern marginal mixed farming- and Western agro pastoral livelihood zones. The cost of the basket has remained stable in Southern- and Northern pastoral zones. The reduction in the basket cost will most likely lead to improved food access, assuming that household income remains constant within the season.

There are however livelihood zones where the price of the basket has increased compared with December 2012, 2013



## Household Expenditure (income proxy)

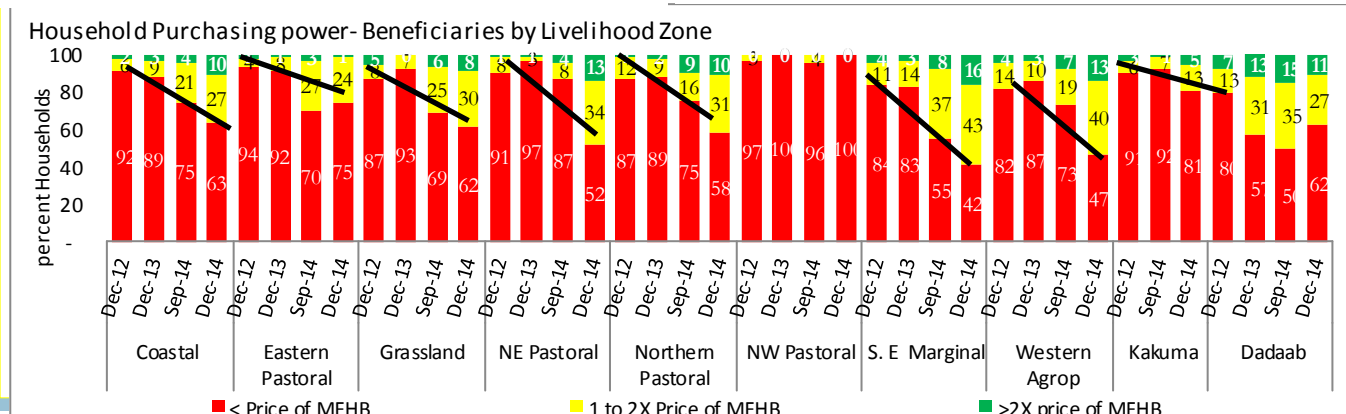
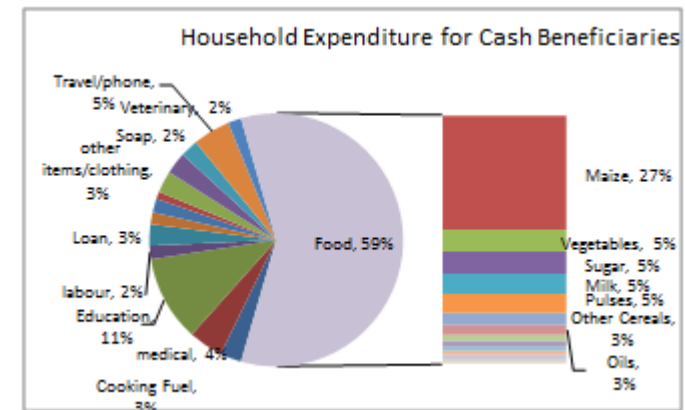
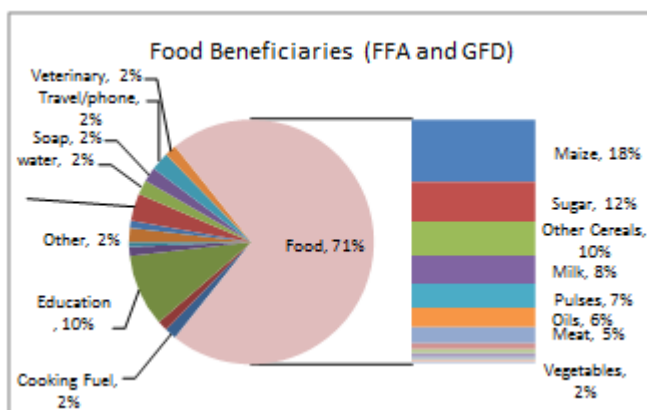
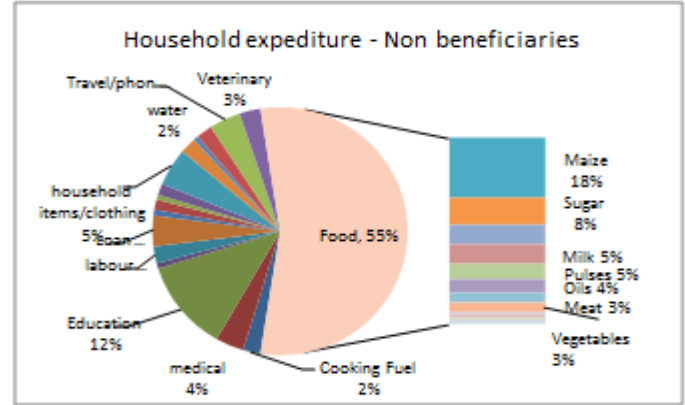
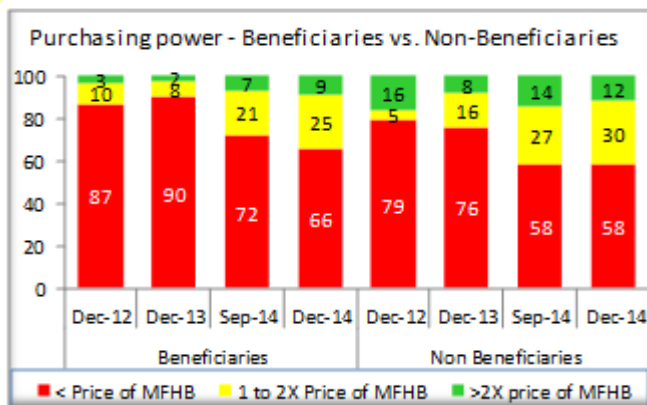
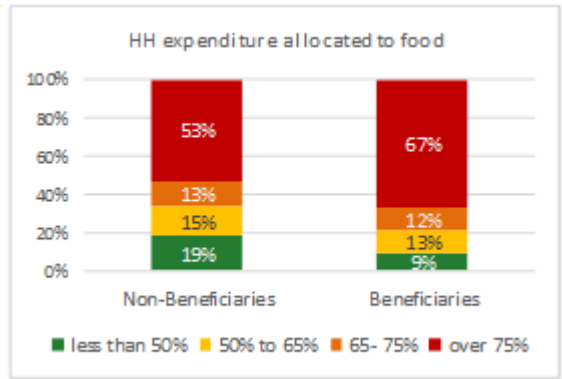
The proportion of households (both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) who spent more than 75% of their income on food increased in December compared with the monitoring round in September 2014.

Households' purchasing power improved compared to the previous two years as food prices and inflation reduced. The situation remained similar to September with only 35-42% of all households being able to afford the minimum healthy food basket.

The beneficiaries who received WFP food (GFD and FFA) spent the highest proportion of their income on food (average 71%) while cash beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries spent 59 and 55% on food. Education is by far the largest non-food expenditure item, covering 10-12% of households' total income.

Maize was the most purchased food item by all households but much higher among cash beneficiaries who spent almost a third of the food expenditure on this item. Sugar remained the second item that household spent food money on. Food beneficiaries continue to spend a larger proportion of their income on high value protein items compared with cash beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries (13% compared to 5 and 8% respectively).

The proportion of households with an improved purchasing power is shown below, indicating that only household in Northwestern pastoral zone did not see an improvement and 100% of households cannot afford the basket. Despite the positive trend in the other livelihood zones, the majority however cannot afford the cost of the minimum healthy basket.



### Household Coping Strategies (CSI)

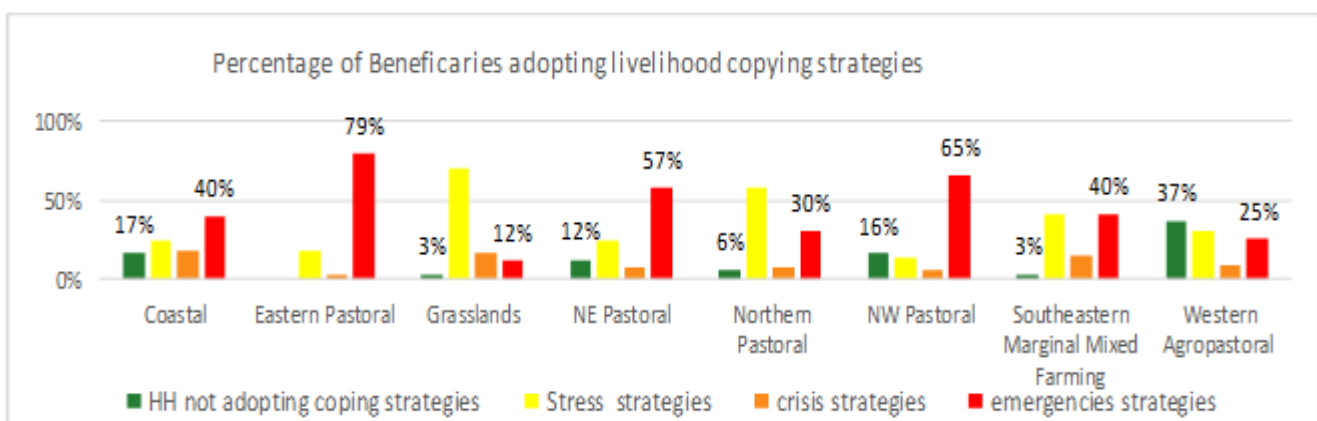
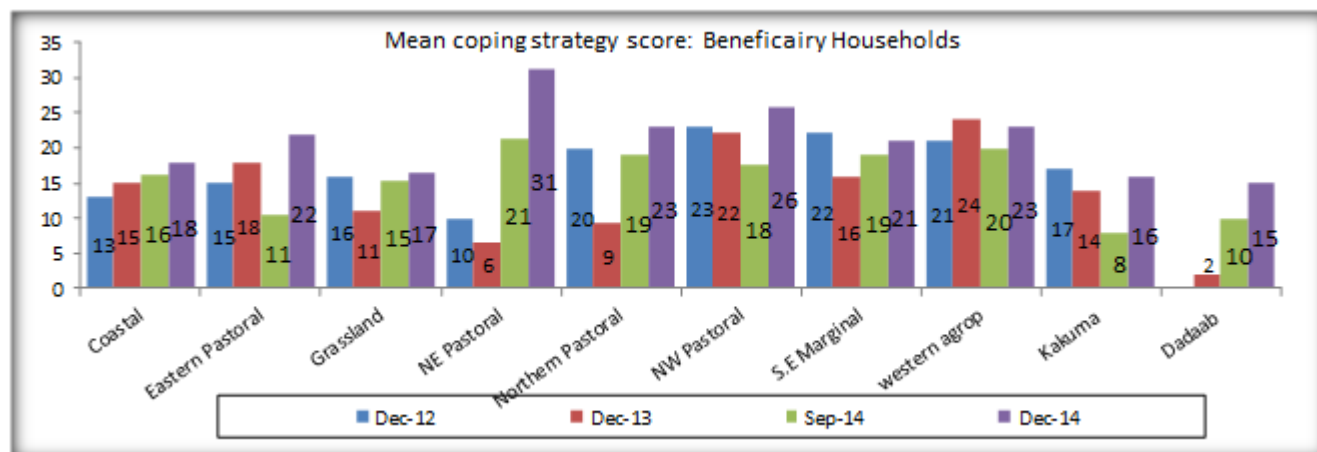
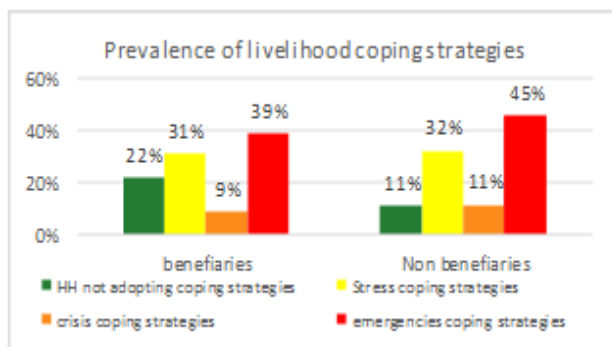
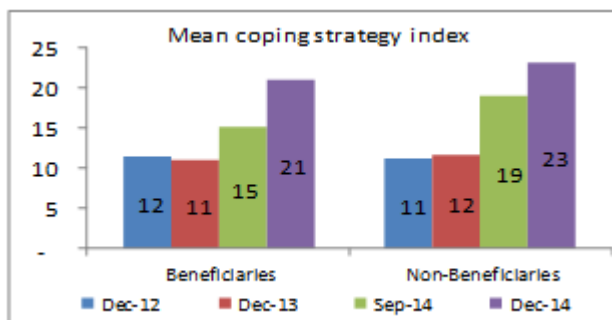
Eighty-six (86) % of the interviewed households faced shortages of food or cash to purchase food for in the month prior to the interview. Consumption related coping strategies were used even more frequently in this round than in September and year or year comparison with 2012 and 2013.

A large proportion of households (39-45%) also used emergency livelihood strategies, such as selling the last female animal, which is most worrisome. The proportion using emergency strategies has increased for non-beneficiaries compared with September (37%) while it remained the same for beneficiaries. Stress strategies were also used by a third of households.

It thus looks like the improvement in the other food security indicators have been achieved at a high cost where households are compensating by engaging in both consumption and livelihood coping strategies that are more severe and more frequently used than previously.

All livelihood zones have seen an increase in the CSI compared with September as well as compared to same time on 2012 and 2013 apart from Southeastern marginal farming that has slightly higher CSI in December 2012 and Western agro pastoral that had a slightly higher CSI in December 2013. The zones with the highest CSI were Northeastern- and Northwestern pastoral zones reaching an index of 31 and 26 respectively. This can be compared with Dadaab that has the lowest at 15 even though this is higher than before.

The same livelihood zones that had the highest CSI also had the highest proportion of households using emergency livelihood strategies i.e. Northeastern-, Northwestern pastoral zones but the worst was Eastern pastoral zone where 79% had used emergency strategies.



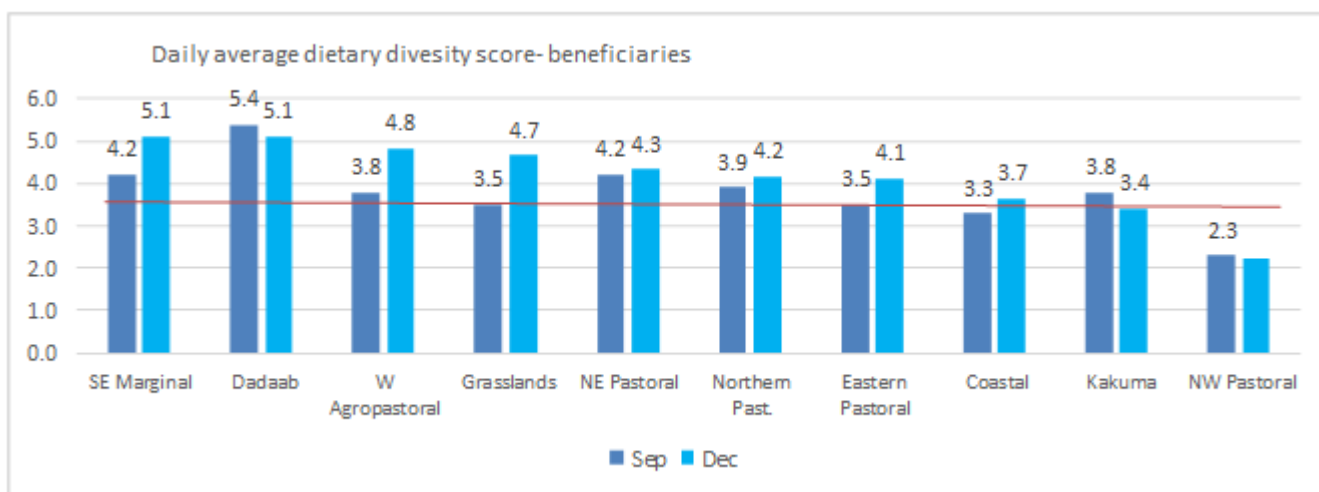
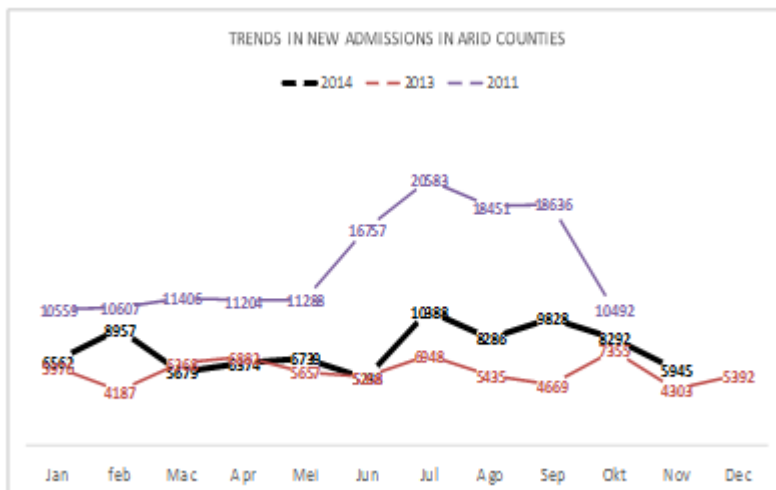
### Nutrition Situation and Dietary Diversity

The yearly nutrition survey in Kakuma was concluded on 3rd of December. The preliminary results showed that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among the children 6-59 months in the camp was 7.4% which was slightly lower than the previous year's GAM of 7.9%, however it is not statistically significant. Despite the influx of children in poor nutritional status from South Sudan the overall prevalence remained stable even though it is still classified as poor (WHO cutoff 5-10% = poor).

The admission trends from the supplementary feeding programme in the arid counties indicated a continued reduction in new admissions since the peak in July 2014. It is however higher than in 2013.

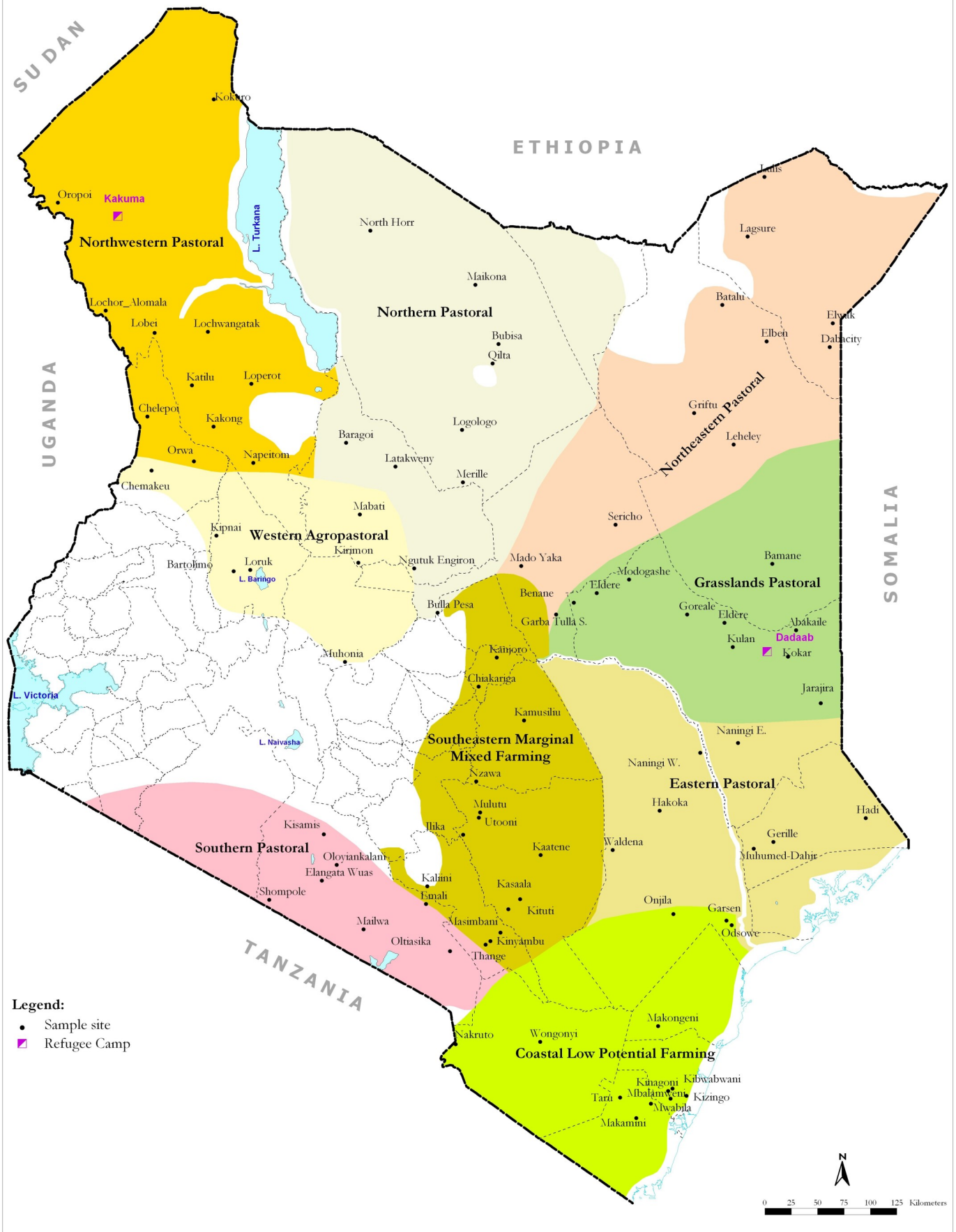
The new corporate indicator "daily average dietary diversity" indicated an improvement in the number of food groups consumed on average in all the livelihood zones apart from among refugee households in Dadaab and Northwestern pastoral where it reduced slightly and Northwestern pastoral where it was stable.

None of the livelihood zones reach the threshold for what is regarded as good dietary diversity (6) but Southeastern marginal agriculture zone and Dadaab were close with 5.1. Northwestern pastoral zone (Turkana) had a score below the threshold for what is regarded as poor diet with just above 2.





# Food Security and Outcome Monitoring - May 2012



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



## 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 console<sup>4</sup>**

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%
<b>Food Insecurity Index</b>			<b>6.9%</b>	<b>43.7%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>

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.