



# Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM)

## Consolidated report

### MAY 2015

#### Highlight

- Kenya has undergone a succession of poor rainy seasons, with the last good rainfall seasonal pattern having occurred in 2013. The Long rains season of 2015 performed poorly in the beginning of the season but picked up in most parts of the country by end of April. However, pockets in Northern– and Northeastern pastoral zones (parts of Marsabit, Wajir and Isiolo) have received below normal rains and are of special concern as well as pockets in Kitui.
- The majority of households in Kenya are food insecure. Some 54-58% of beneficiary– and non-beneficiary households were moderately or severely food insecure in May 2015.
- The food consumption shows a similar trend over the past four years among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with a deterioration in 2014/2015 compared with 2012/2013. Some 50% of households had an acceptable food consumption score in May 2015 compared with some 70% in 2012/2013.
- The inter-annual food and non-alcoholic drinks' inflation stood at 13%, higher than the 8% in April 2014. There were significant price increases in respect to several food items such as maize flour, potatoes, tomatoes, milk, cabbages, beans and onions. The cost of the minimum healthy food basket during the month of May atypically increased by 22% in Northeastern pastoral zone (Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo) compared to May last year, mainly driven by the high maize and beans prices.
- Ninety (90) percent of the interviewed households faced shortages of food or cash to purchase food in the month prior to the interview. Consumption related to coping strategies were used more frequently in this round than in May 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- An alarmingly high proportion of households in Eastern- and Northeastern pastoral livelihood zones continued to use emergency livelihood strategies with long term negative impacts on households.

#### 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 indicators 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

2420 households were visited of which 51% were beneficiaries and 49% were non-beneficiaries.

- Cash for assets-15%
- Food for assets 21%
- GFD 33%
- Refugees 16%

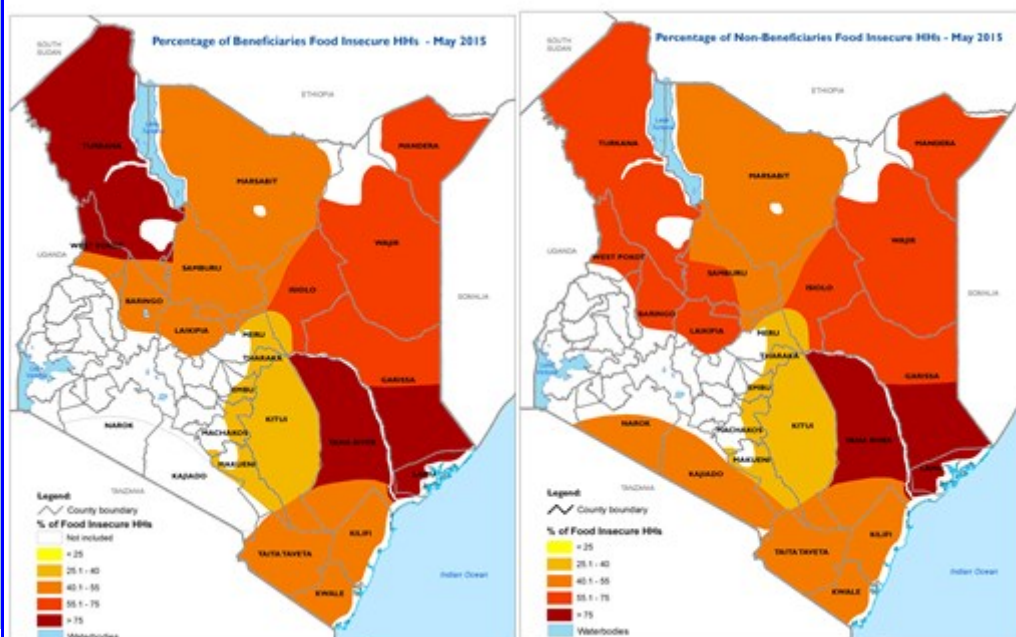
#### Demographics

41% female headed households.

Average household size, 5.7

#### Food security situation

The maps below show that Northwestern- and Eastern pastoral livelihood zones have the highest proportion of food insecure households (beneficiaries) in the country with over 75% of households moderately– or severely food insecure. For Eastern, this is also the same proportion for non-beneficiaries. Compared with December 2014 the situation has deteriorated in Western agro pastoral zones and Grassland pastoral zone where 65-75% are food insecure.



## Household Food security situation

The improvement in food security that were noticed in the FSOM rounds of September and December 2014 have now declined as per seasonal fluctuations and pattern. Some 54-58% of households were food insecure in May 2015 compared with some 40% in the last round in December 2014.

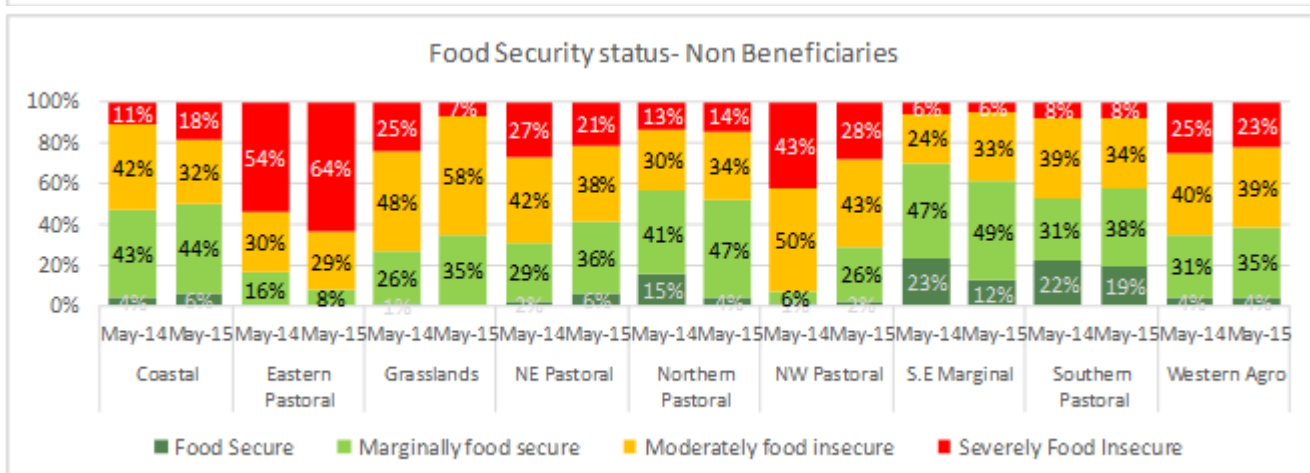
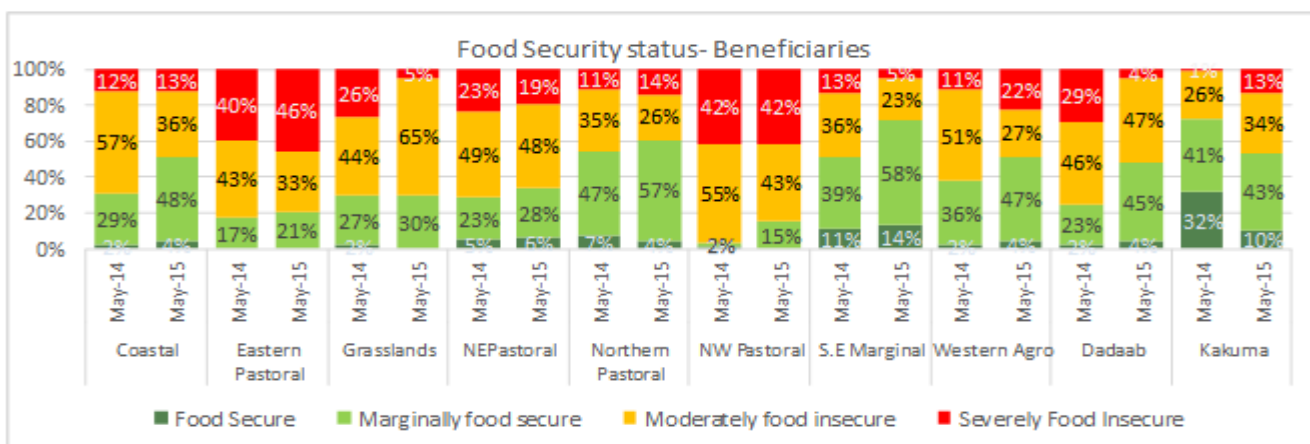
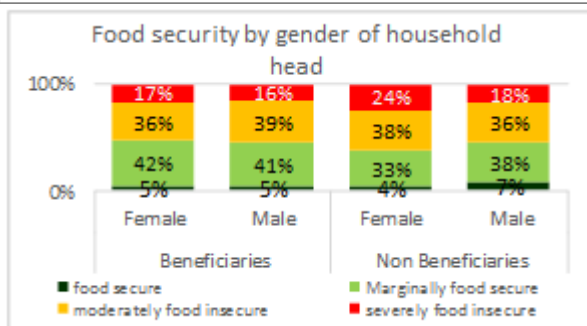
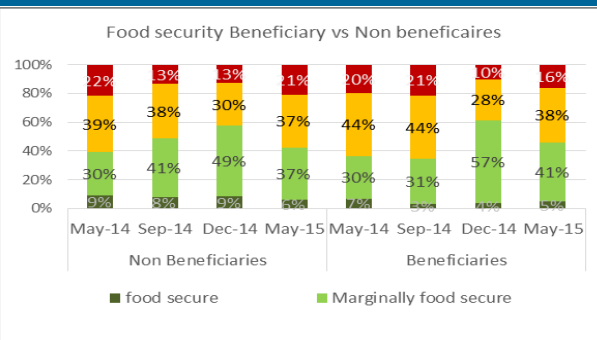
The food security situation did however improve for beneficiary households compared with the same season last year when 64% were food insecure (moderate and severely food insecure) compared with 54% in May 2015. The situation was stable for non-beneficiaries where 58% were food insecure in May 2015 (61% in 2014).

There were only small differences in food security between female- and male headed households. The highest proportion of severely food insecure households (24%) was however found among non-beneficiary female headed households.

An improvement was seen among beneficiaries in all of the livelihood zones apart from Eastern pastoral zones where there was a deterioration in severity and households moved from moderate to severe food insecurity. A deterioration was also seen among non-beneficiaries in the Eastern pastoral livelihood zone compared with May 2014 and some 64% of households were severely food insecure which is the highest of all zones. All other livelihood zones saw an improvement or remained stable compared with year or year comparison.

Kakuma refugee camp did also see a deterioration where 47% were found food insecure compared with 27% in May 2014. Dadaab on the contrary improved compared with last year with 50% food insecure secure and 50% food secure households in May 2015.

The zones that have seen a marked improvement among beneficiaries since May 2014 were Northern Pastoral zone and Southeastern marginal mixed farming where 60% and 72% respectively were food secure, these were the best off zones.



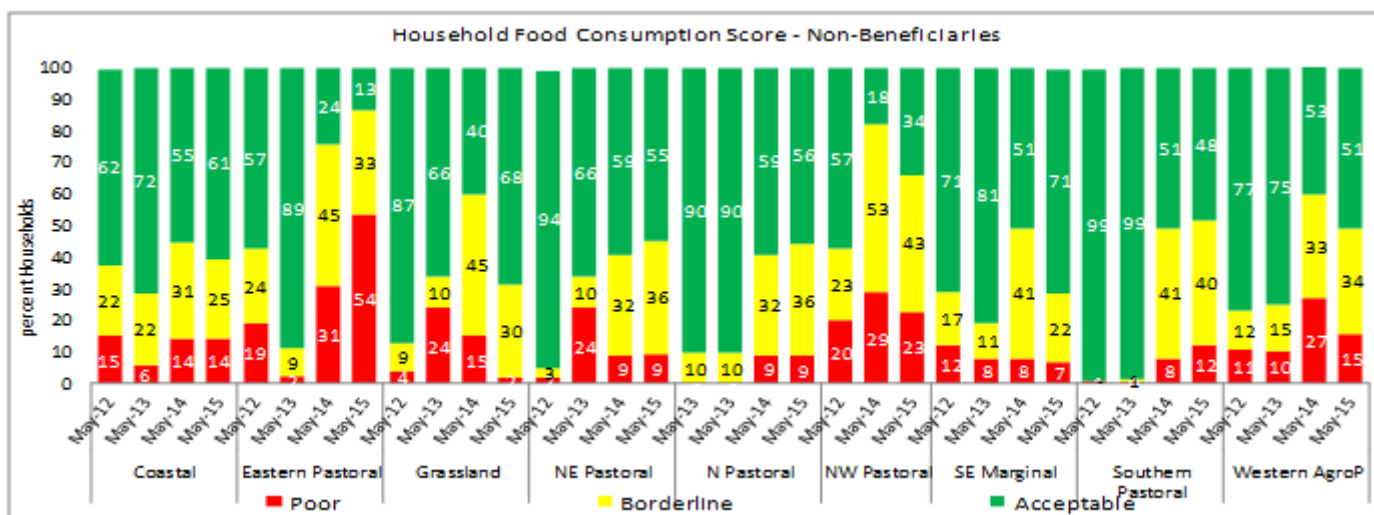
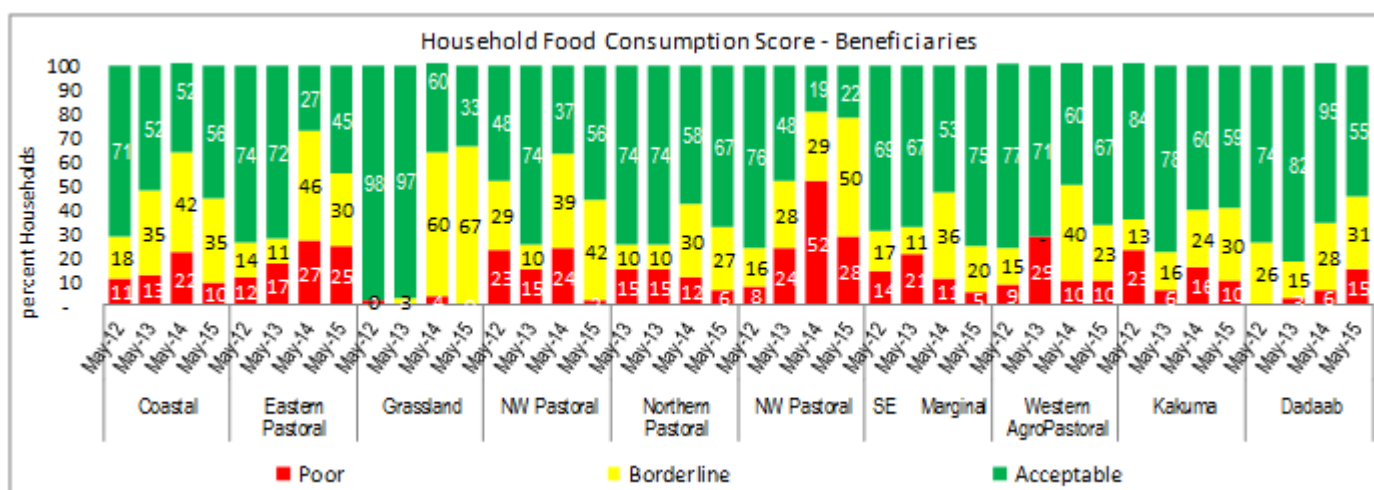
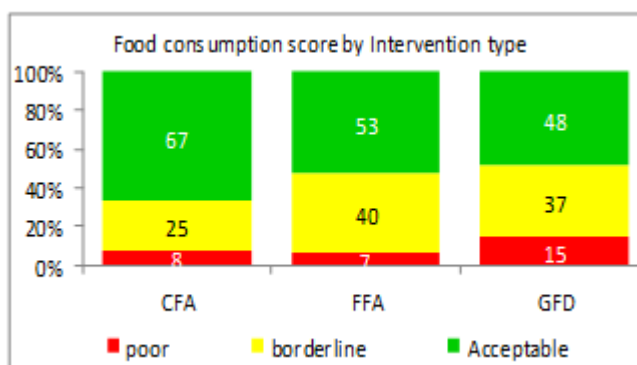
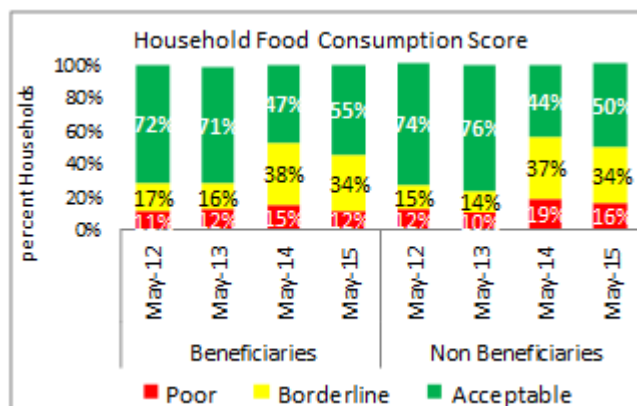
The food consumption show a similar trend among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries over the past four year with a deterioration in 2014/2015 compared with 2012/2013. Some 50% of households had an acceptable food consumption score in May 2015 compared with some 70% in 2012/2013.

Among the WFP beneficiaries, households who received a General Food Distribution (GFD) had a worse food consumption than households engaged in food/cash for assets. Only 48% of GFD beneficiaries, 53% of food for asset and 67% of cash for asset households had an acceptable food consumption score. This is a reflection of the reduced food rations given to GFD beneficiaries as well as the different severity in the overall food security situation in the geographical areas where the three interventions are implemented.

In most livelihood zones the food consumption score in May 2015 was worse than in 2012 but better than last year (May 2014). This was however not the case for Grasslands livelihood zone and Dadaab where the consumption further deteriorated compared with May 2014. Only 33% had an acceptable food consumption in Grasslands and 55% in Dadaab.

Southeastern marginal livelihood zone had the best consumption in May 2015 with 75% of the households having an acceptable diet. This was higher than previous four years.

The worst consumption situation was found in Northwestern and Eastern pastoral zones with some 25% of the households having a poor food consumption score. This was even higher amongst the non-beneficiaries in Eastern with 54% having poor consumption score.







## Market Prices

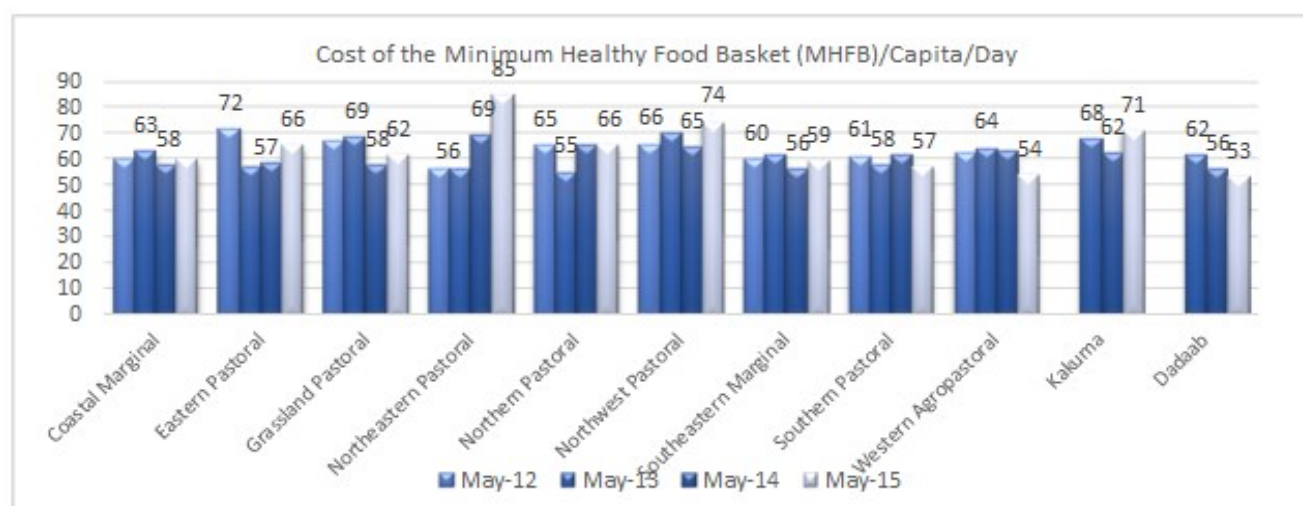
According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) April 2015 report, the inter-annual inflation rate stood at 7.08% which was higher than the 6.41% in the same month last year, thus decreasing Kenyan households' food access and purchasing power of Kenyan households, especially those in lower income groups. The inter-annual food and non-alcoholic drinks' inflation stood at 13.42%, also higher than the 8.09% in April 2014. There were significant price increases in respect to several food items such as maize flour, potatoes, tomatoes, milk, cabbages, beans and onions.

As per the price data collected during the May 2015 FSOM, nominal retail maize prices fell by between 8% in South-eastern marginal agricultural livelihood zone to 32% in Dadaab refugee camp from a year on year comparison.

There were huge differences in how the maize price performed and maize prices went up by 4% in Eastern pastoral, 21% in Kakuma refugee camp and 69% in Northeastern pastoral zones. Food price increases were largely a result of the below-average October to December short rains and, in some areas, the cumulative effects of the third below-average rainy season in a row, which was compounded by the especially dry and hot January to March dry season.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket during the month of May atypically increased by 22% in North-eastern pastoral zone - compared to May last year - mainly driven by the high maize and beans prices. In other livelihood zones the cost increased by between 5.6% (South-eastern marginal) to 15.4% (Northwest pastoral).

Food basket cost has reduced in the Western agro-pastoral regions and Dadaab over the past three years and dropped by 15% and 5.5 % respectively, compared with May 2014. Southern pastoral zone recorded a 7.8 % fall in food basket cost from a year on year comparison. The cost of the basket has remained stable in Northern pastoral and coastal marginal agricultural zone. The reduction in the basket cost will most likely lead to improved food access, assuming that household income remains constant within the season.



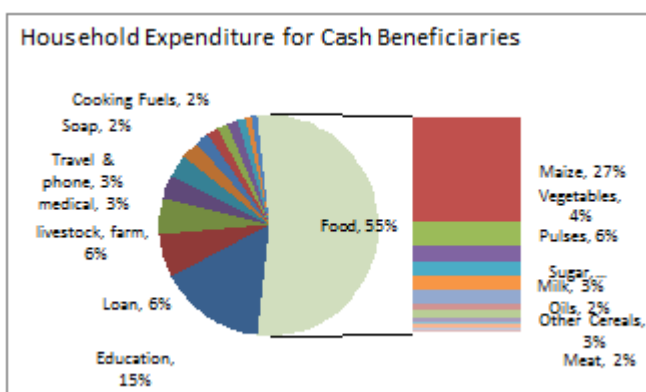
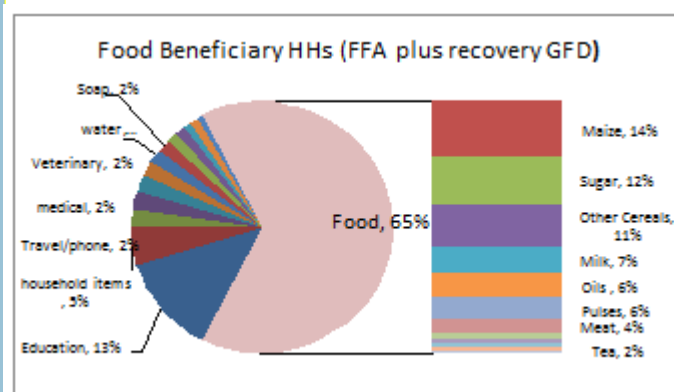
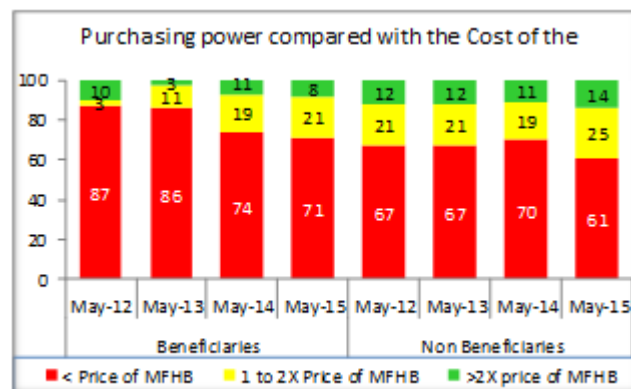
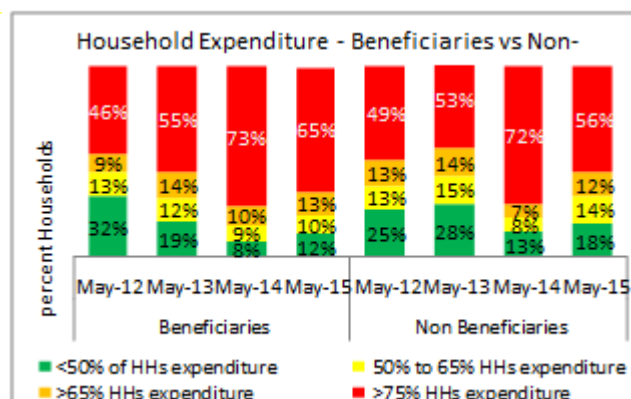
## Household Expenditure (income proxy)

The proportion of households (both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) who spent more than 75% of their income on food reduced compared with May 2014 but was higher than in 2012 and 2013. Some 65% of beneficiary households spent most of their income on food and are thus very vulnerable to increases in food prices.

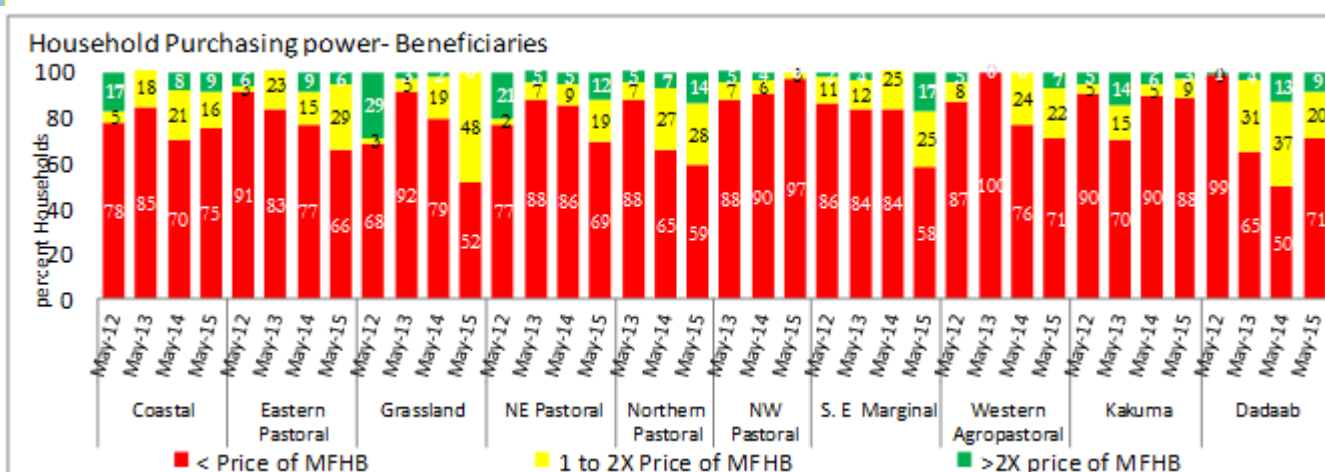
Households' purchasing power did however improve in general, compared to the previous two years as food prices in some zones reduced. The purchasing power pattern remained similar to 2014 and some 29% of beneficiary households and 39% among non-beneficiaries were able to afford the minimum healthy food basket.

The beneficiaries who received WFP food (GFD and FFA) spent an average of 65% of their overall income on food while cash beneficiaries spent 55% on food. Education remained by far the largest non-food expenditure item, covering 13-15% 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 their food expenditure on this item. Sugar remained the second item that household spent food money on. Food beneficiaries continued to spend a larger proportion of their income on high value protein items compared with cash beneficiaries.



As mentioned, the majority of households cannot afford the cost of the minimum healthy basket. Northwestern and Kakuma have remained the areas with the highest proportion of households who were not able to purchase the basket and was partly a reflection of the higher food prices in the North-west but also of unreliable income sources that these household are engaged in. Northeastern livelihood zone that had the highest basket price in May 2015 but, despite this, had an increase in households who could afford the basket from 14% of households to 31%. These households saw their income increase in the month of the monitoring round which could be either obtained through legitimate means or through emergency coping strategies.



## Household Coping Strategies (CSI)

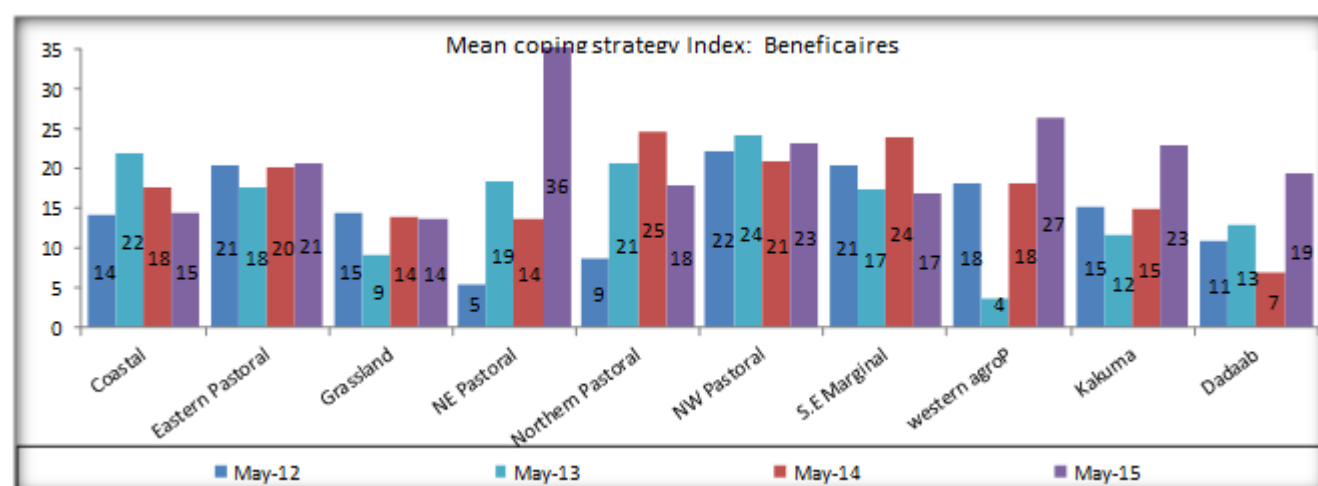
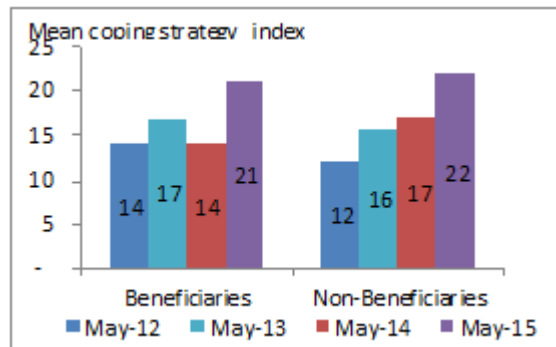
Ninety (90) % of the interviewed households faced shortages of food or cash to purchase food for in the month prior to the interview. Consumption related coping strategies were used more frequently in this round than in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

There has been a steady improvement in the Coastal low potential farming zone in the last three years and the CSI in May 2015 was the same as in May 2012. Eastern- and Northwestern pastoral zones have had a stable coping index for four years at around 20-24.

The livelihood zones where the use of more severe consumption strategies increased in the last few years were Grassland-and

Northeastern pastoral zones as well as Southeastern marginal mixed farming zone and Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.

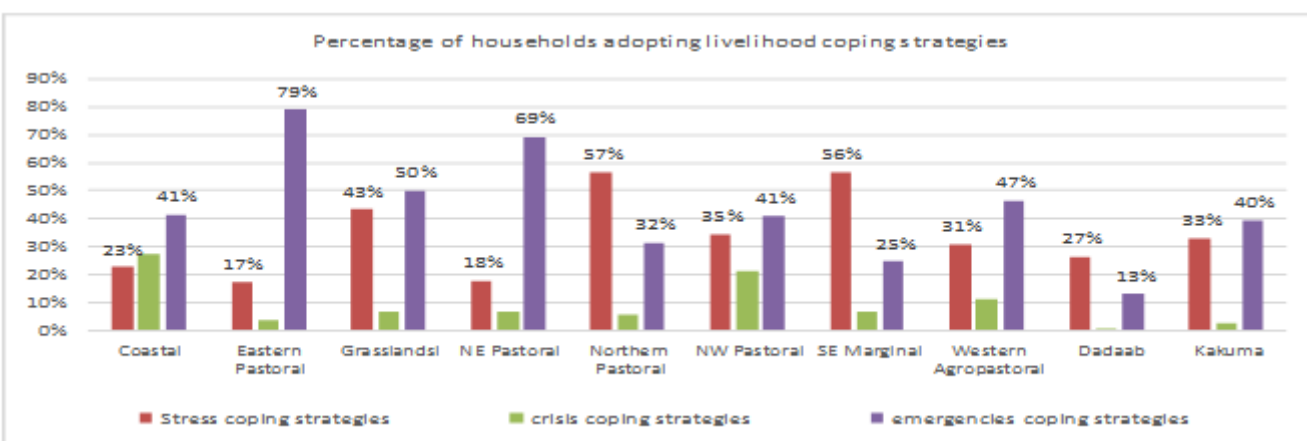
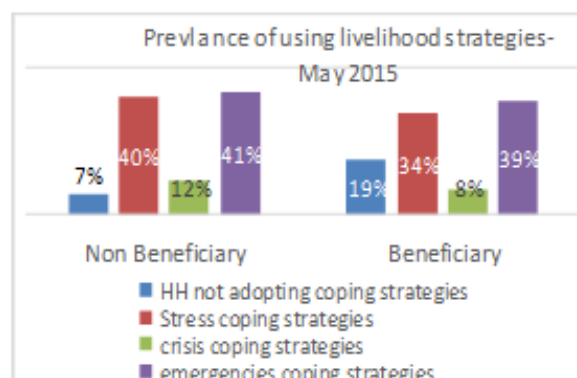
The zone with an alarming deterioration in 2015 compared to previous years was the Northeastern pastoral zone and was most likely a result of insecurity in parts of Mandera and poor rainfall in parts of Wajir and Isiolo.



A slightly lower proportion of households reported not using any livelihood coping strategies in May 2015 compared with the last round in December 2014 (beneficiaries 19% instead of 22% and non-beneficiaries 7% instead of 11%).

A large proportion of households (39-41%) used emergency livelihood strategies, such as selling the last female animal, which is most worrisome. The proportion using emergency strategies remained stable compared with December 2014. An equally large proportion were using stress strategies.

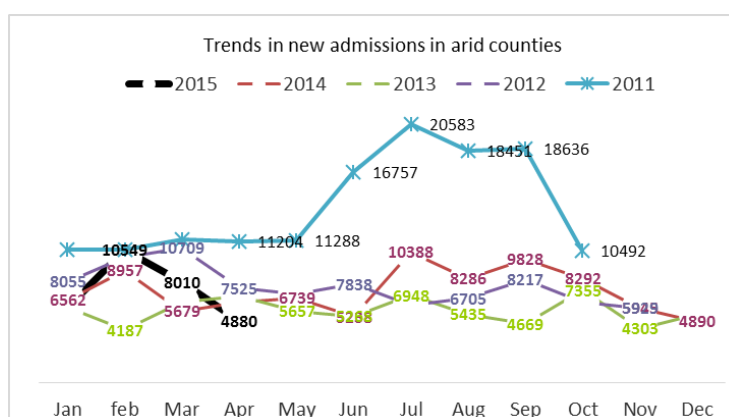
An alarmingly high proportion of households in Eastern- and Northeastern pastoral livelihood zones continued to use emergency strategies with long term negative impact on the households.



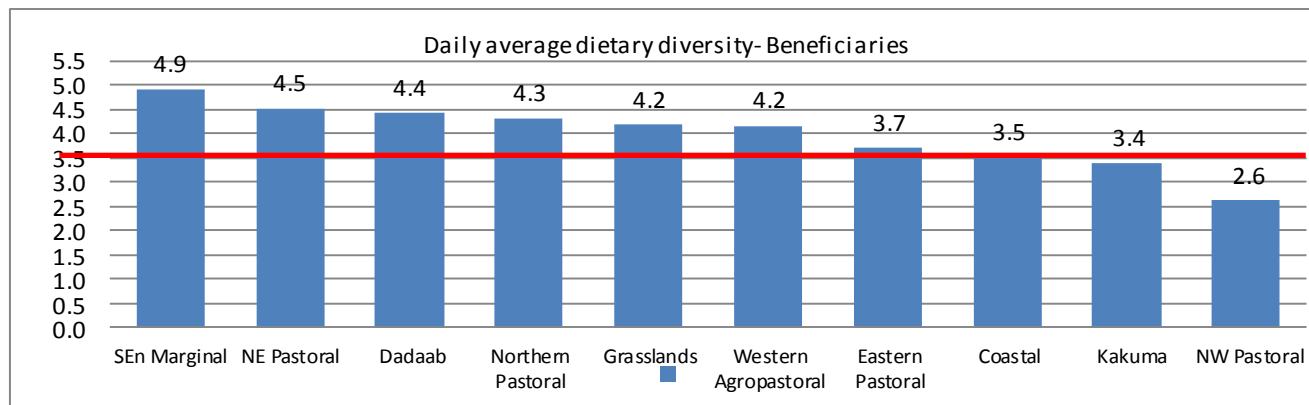
## Nutrition Situation and Dietary Diversity

According to the most recent nutrition survey results from February 2015, Wajir West reported the highest GAM rate at 22.6%. This result indicates a Very Critical nutrition situation. In Wajir East/South the nutrition situation remains Critical with GAM at 17.4%. Survey results for northern Garissa also indicate a Critical nutrition situation, with GAM of 15.2%. Isiolo county survey results indicate a GAM of 13.2%, indicating a serious nutrition situation, further analysis showed that a high number of malnourished cases were noted in Merti and Sericho bordering Wajir West and Northern Garissa County. The main factors aggravating acute malnutrition in these areas were the declining food security situation caused by the negative impact of the underperforming October to December 2014 short rains season coupled with chronic vulnerabilities such as poor infant and young child feeding and care practices, high morbidity and limited access to clean water and appropriate sanitation. In Tana River County, the nutrition survey conducted in February 2015, recorded a GAM rate of 9.9%, indicating a poor nutrition situation and was stable compared to the same time last year.

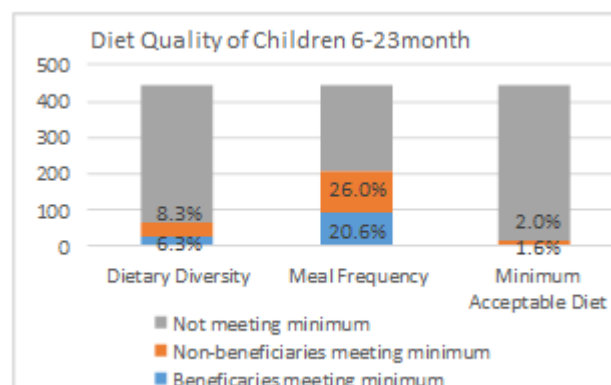
The admission trends from the supplementary feeding programme in the arid counties indicated a continued reduction in new admissions since the peak in February. The admissions in April 2015 were the lowest in 5 years.



The corporate indicator “daily average dietary diversity” indicate that none of the livelihood zones reach the threshold for what is regarded as good dietary diversity (IFPRI threshold of 6). Southeastern marginal agriculture zone continue to have the highest dietary diversity at 4.9. There were two zones that remained below the threshold for what is regarded as poor dietary diversity, these were Kakuma refugee camp and Northwestern pastoral livelihood zone.

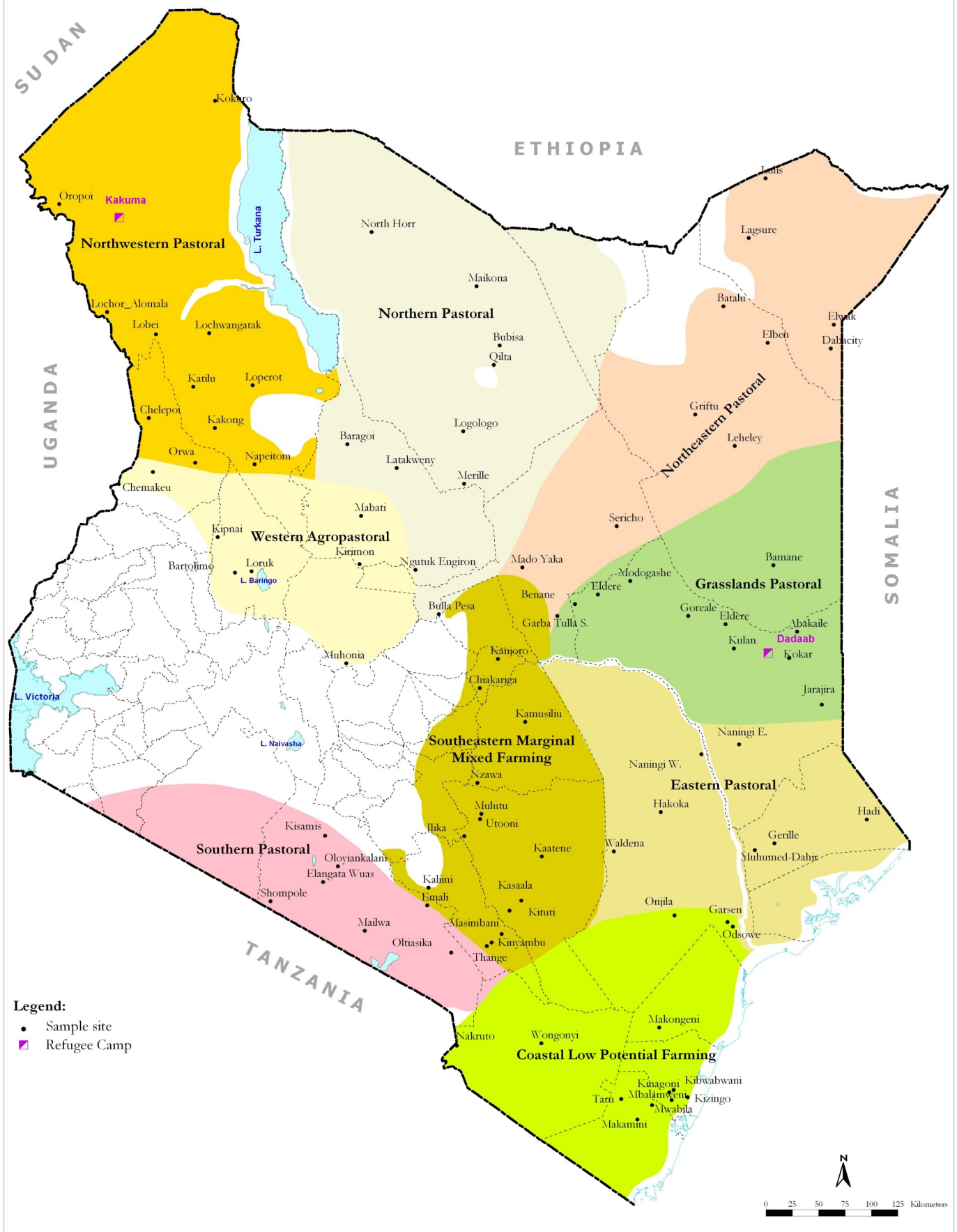


The minimum acceptable diet (MAD) indicator is a composite indicator combining minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency. The percentage of children 6-23 months receiving the minimum acceptable diet is 3.6% which remains well below the target of 70%. This most vulnerable population in the arid lands continues to experience a more depressed diet quality than the national average of 21% of children 6-23 months meeting the MAD, as revealed by the recent Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS). When disaggregated, dietary diversity is low amongst beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. While more children receive minimum meal frequency than dietary diversity, still less than half receive the minimum meal frequency. Little difference is experienced between beneficiary and non-beneficiary families, although the sample size is small to disaggregate for statistically significant comparison.





# 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%
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.