Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM)
Consolidated report
December 2013

Highlight

- The cumulative rainfall from the Short Rains season was below the long term average (1996-2012) in most of the country apart from North-Western and South-Western areas that had a good rainfall season. Most of the cumulative rainfall deficits were due to the late start of the rainfall season.

- The Food Security situation for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries has seasonally deteriorated in waiting for the harvest in January/February. However, the deterioration is more severe than in December last year and some 40-50% of the population is currently severely food insecure. The worst livelihood zones for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in this round is in the Northern and North-Eastern Pastoral zones.

- The driver in the deterioration in food security is primarily driven by a deterioration in food consumption. In December nearly one in two (46%) beneficiary households had a poor food consumption score while this was slightly better among non-beneficiaries where 38% of interviewed households had a poor food consumption score.

- In comparison with December 2012, the cost of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket reduced in the Coastal Low Potential farming, Eastern-, Northern-, and Southern pastoral zones as well as in Daadab. North Western pastoral still had the highest cost at 75Ksh while the Coastal, Western agro-pastoral and Daadab had the lowest basket value at around 55Ksh.

- Compared with December last year there is statistically no difference in purchasing power among beneficiaries and a very slight difference among non-beneficiaries.

- The proportion of beneficiary households who did not need to use any coping strategy in the month prior to the interviews among beneficiaries is the same as in December 2012 (25%). A slight improvement is seen among the non-beneficiaries where 33% reported not having used any coping strategy. However, among the households who did, a deterioration is seen in the North-Western pastoral and Western agro pastoral for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries compared with December 2012. The mean CSI index in those to livelihood zones is 20-22, which is regarded as high and thus worrying.

Food security situation

As seen in the two maps below, the Food security situation for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries is worse in the Northern and North-Eastern pastoral livelihood zones. The South-Eastern marginal agricultural zone and Southern pastoral zone have an equally high proportion of non-beneficiary households being severely food insecure while the Coast and the Eastern pastoral zones are equally severe among WFP beneficiaries.
**Household Food security situation**

The Food Security situation for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries has seasonally deteriorated in waiting for the short rains harvest in January/February. However, as shown in the graph the deterioration is more severe than in December last year and some 40-50% of the population is currently severely food insecure compared with some 30% with a year on year comparison. The driver this time is a deteriorated food consumption as will be shown later in this report.

The worst livelihood zones for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in this round in the Northern and North-Eastern Pastoral zones. The Eastern pastoral zone and the Coastal low Potential farming zones have also deteriorated among beneficiaries but not among non-beneficiaries, in fact the situation among non-beneficiaries in those location improved compared with the same time last year. Some of the deterioration among beneficiaries in the Coastal zone can be attributed to the fact that only two locations received cash from WFP the month before the interviews (Taita Taveta and Kitui).

WFP has currently no food assistance beneficiaries in Southern pastoral zone where the food security situation among non-beneficiaries have severely deteriorated.

An improvement in food security based on a year on year comparison among non-beneficiaries was seen in the Coastal low potential farming zone as well as Eastern pastoral, Western Agropastoral and among the HIV clients. Among beneficiaries the situation has improved in North-Western pastoral zone (Turkana) and well as Western Agropastoral zone and among HIV clients.
As mentioned earlier, the driver in the deterioration in food security is primarily driven by a deterioration in food consumption. In December nearly one in two (46%) beneficiary households had a poor food consumption while this was slightly better among non-beneficiaries where 38% of interviewed households had a poor food consumption score. Only some 15% of households had a poor food consumption in December 2012. This can partly be attributed to a reduction in WFP ration among pastoralists from 75% to 65% after the Long Rains assessment in August 2013, but also the general situation of a poor rainy season.

Meal frequencies have also deteriorated and there are now 31% of young children who only consumed one meal per day, compared with only 8% last year and no one was fed 4 meals or more. A deterioration was also seen among older children where some 33% consumed only one meal per day. The situation among adults was stable.

Among beneficiaries the worst situation was found in Northern-, North-Eastern- and Eastern Pastoral zones where over 70% had a poor food consumption score. The Coastal low potential farming zone also deteriorated with some 50% having a poor food consumption.

Among non-beneficiaries, Southern-, Northern– and North-Eastern pastoral zones saw a severe deterioration in food consumption score as well as in the South-Eastern Marginal Agricultural zone. All the other zones were stable or saw an improvement compared with year on year.

Household food consumption and dietary diversity

![Household Food Consumption Score - Beneficiaries vs Non-beneficiaries](image)

![Household Food Consumption Score - Beneficiaries](image)

![Household Food Consumption Score - Non-beneficiaries](image)
Sources of Food

Looking at the four main staple commodities, there is a dramatic shift in the source of cereals for WFP beneficiaries. In September 2013 some 61% of the households reported food aid as their main source of cereals, this has dropped to 34% in December and purchase of cereals from the market is reported by 45% households while this was only 23% in September. This is most likely attributed to WFP distributing only Sorghum in the month on November and thus households wanting to diversify with other type of cereals had to buy it. The pattern among non-beneficiaries is very similar to previous rounds.

Sources of Income

As presented in this report, the Northern– and North-Eastern pastoral livelihood zones have currently the worst food security situation and when looking at beneficiaries’ income sources and comparing them with the previous round there is a marked reduction in the proportion of households who engaged in the most important activity; livestock sale in the Northern zone (22% compared with 32% in September). All the other activates that were a source of income in previous rounds have reduced for the same livelihood zone. This is also the case for households in Northeastern pastoral zone where households reported less engagement in their main income sources.
The month on month Consumer Price Index (CPI) marginally increased by 0.50 per cent from 143.14 in November 2013 to 143.85 in December 2013. The overall annual inflation rate stood at 7.15 per cent in December 2013, a fall from 7.36 percent recorded in November 2013. This was also lower than September 2013; when inflation was at 8.29 percent, but higher than December 2012; when inflation stood at 3.2 percent.

Between November and December 2013, the month on month Food and Non Alcoholic drinks’ Index marginally increased by 0.55 percent, while the annual increase was 10.41 percent. This was observed as a net effect of the increase in prices of some food items outweighing notable falls in others; for instance, the price of processed milk marginally increased by 0.4 percent, as compared to November 2013. Prices of bread, cooking oil and beef (with bones) increased by 0.1, 0.2, and 0.9 percent respectively. Carrots and Sukuma-Wiki (Kales) prices fell by 0.6 and 1.1 percent respectively.

As per the price data collected during the Dec 2013 FSOM round, maize retail prices increased, by between 10 -40 percent – compared to September 2013 - in most of the livelihood clusters apart from Northern, North-eastern and Grassland pastoral and Daadab, where prices reduced by between 12 – 16 percent. As compared to December 2012, maize prices reduced in all other livelihood clusters except Northwest, Northern, Eastern and Southern pastoral, including Daadab.

The cost of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket (MHFB) reduced – as compared to September 2013 - in all livelihood clusters except in Eastern, Grassland and Southern pastoral as well as in the South-eastern marginal agricultural livelihood zone.

In comparison with December 2012, the cost of the basket reduced in the Coastal Low Potential farming, Eastern, Northern-, and Southern pastoral zones as well as in Daadab. The MHFB cost remained at the same level in North-eastern pastoral and Western agro pastoral. North Western pastoral still had the highest MHFB value at KES 75 while the coastal Low Potential farming, Western agro-pastoral and Daadab had the lowest basket value at KES 55 and 54 re-

![Cost of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket/ person/day](image-url)
Some 75-80% of households spend more than 65% of their income on food which has increased among both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries compared with last year when it was 70% of households spending that much on food.

WFP beneficiaries spend 70% of their income on food which is a slight increase from December last year when it was 63%. Expenditure on maize has markedly increased which is a result of sorghum being the only cereal distributed in November. The expenditures on other commodities were similar to the last round and education remains the highest non-food expenditure item.

Cash beneficiaries also spend a higher proportion of their income on food than in December last year (64% compared with 59%) of which Maize almost accounts for half of that.

The big difference between food and cash beneficiaries is the proportion of money spent on high quality animal protein foods that is higher among food receiving beneficiaries.

Non-beneficiaries spend also more of their income on food in this round (64% compared with only 48% in September).

When comparing households’ overall expenditure with the cost of the minimum healthy food basket we estimate their purchasing power and thus their ability to support themselves.

Compared with December last year there is statistically no difference in purchasing power among beneficiaries (87% versus 90% have an income less than the cost of the basket) and a very slight difference among non-beneficiaries (76 versus 79% cannot afford the basket).

The purchasing power by livelihood zones among non-beneficiaries indicate a year or year improvement for households living in Coastal Low Potential farming, northern, southern pastoral, South-Eastern marginal zones who have all seen a reduction in households who cannot afford the minimum healthy basket. However, it still remains a vast majority who cannot afford the basket. There is no difference in the year or year comparison among the beneficiaries by livelihood zones.
The proportion of beneficiary households who did not need to use any coping strategy in the month prior to the interviews among beneficiaries is the same as in December 2012 (25%). A slight improvement is seen among the non-beneficiaries where 33% reported not having used any coping strategy. However, among the households who did, a deterioration is seen in the North-Western pastoral and Western agro pastoral for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries compared with December 2012. The mean CSI index in those to livelihood zones is 20-22, which is regarded as high and thus worrying.

Use of Food assistance

As previously reported, the large majority of households do consume the food they receive. Sharing is the most common alternative. The sharing in the North-Western pastoral zone has increased to 20% in this round and sharing among HIV clients has also increased. Sharing in North-Eastern pastoral zone has reduced slightly. As mentioned before, it is understood that this question is sensitive for beneficiaries to answer truthfully and thus a certain level of under-reporting is well noted.
Nutrition Situation

The preliminary findings from Kakuma anthropometric survey indicate a slight decline in the nutritional status of children less than 5 years of age, however it is statistically not significant. In 2012 the GAM rate was 5.2% and in November 2013 GAM is 7.9% with a confidence interval of 5.1-12.0. For comparison the GAM rate in 2010 was 7.9% and in 2011 results were 7.5%.

The admission rates to supplementary feeding programmes for moderately malnourished children and pregnant/breast feeding women has been stable throughout the year.

The FSOM covered 432 children in the age of 6-23months. Only some 26% had consumed iron rich food in the 24hours prior to the interviews, which is higher than in September when only 8% reported having given iron rich food to their child. Vitamin-A rich food was consumed by 33% of the young children which is also an increase from September when this indicator was introduced.

Only 6% of the infant and young children had an acceptable dietary diversity i.e. consumed 4 or more food groups in the 24 hours prior to the interviews.
Please contact Grace Igweta, WFP M&E unit, Allan Kute or Yvonne Forsen, VAM, should you have any questions.