



Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM)

Consolidated report

September 2015

Highlight

- September month is a post harvest month in many areas of the country. The long rains harvest this year was 12% above the 5 year average.
- While food consumption have improved for many beneficiaries over the last 4 years, deteriorations were recorded in the three pastoral zones North-eastern, Northern and North-western. The worst consumption situation was found in North-western and North-eastern pastoral zones where 19-34% of the households had a poor food consumption score. Only 26% of beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score in Turkana (North-western).
- WFP beneficiaries who received a General Food Distribution (GFD) had a worse food consumption score than households engaged in food/cash for assets. Only 40% of GFD beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score compared with 60% of food for asset and 70% of cash for asset households. This could be a result 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.
- Results show that none of the livelihood zones reach the threshold for what is regarded as good dietary diversity (IFPRI threshold of 6). However South-eastern Marginal Mixed Farming (Kitui) almost reached it with 5.7 and continues to have the highest dietary diversity among WFP beneficiaries. Two livelihood zones remained at, or below the threshold for what is regarded as poor dietary diversity (3.5) these were North-western pastoral livelihood zone (Turkana) and Kakuma refugee camp.
- The percentage of children 6-23 months receiving the minimum acceptable diet in September 2015 was 7.0% which, while well below the target of 70%, is nearly double the number consuming a MAD in May 2015 and over triple the 2.2% meeting the MAD in September 2014.
- Households' purchasing power has steadily improved compared to the previous three years as food prices in some zones reduced and some 43% of beneficiary households and 49% among non-beneficiaries were able to afford the minimum healthy food basket.

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

2165 households were visited of which 55% were beneficiaries and 45% were non-beneficiaries.

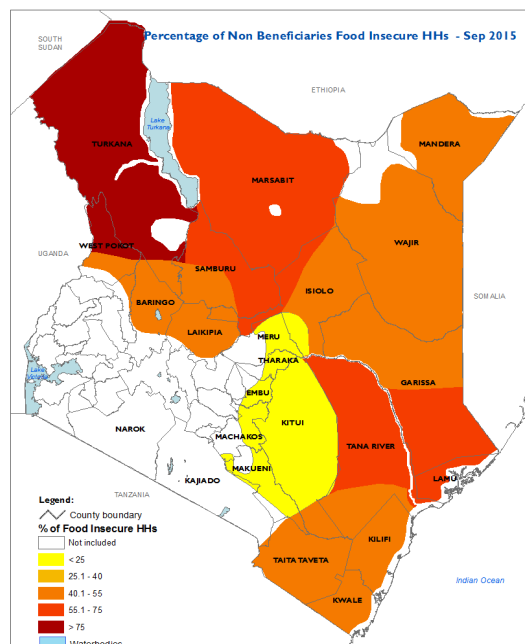
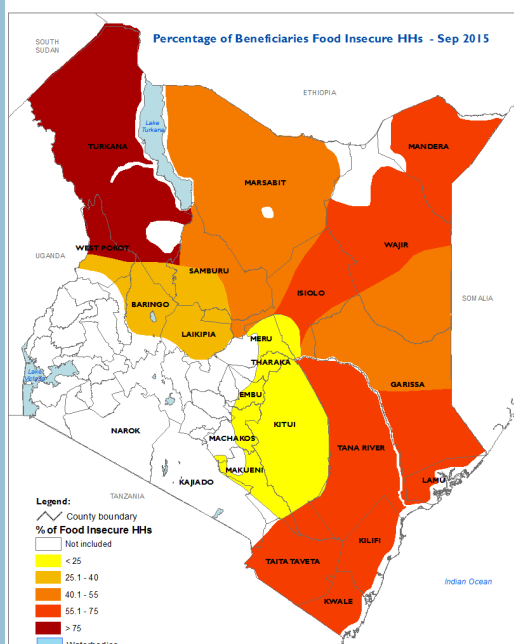
- Cash for assets-13%
- Food for assets 15%
- GFD 39%
- Refugees 17%

Demographics

42% female headed households.
Average household size: 5.5

Food security situation

The North-western livelihood zone (Turkana and part of West Pokot) remain the most food insecure region in Kenya with over 75% either moderately- or severely food insecure. This is in stark contrast to the South-eastern marginal mixed farming (Kitui, Makueni, Embu, Machakos) where less than 25% of WFP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were food insecure.



Household Food security situation

The food security situation among beneficiaries has improved compared with September last year when 65% were food insecure compared to 53% in September 2015 and situation remained stable compared with the previous FSOM round in May.

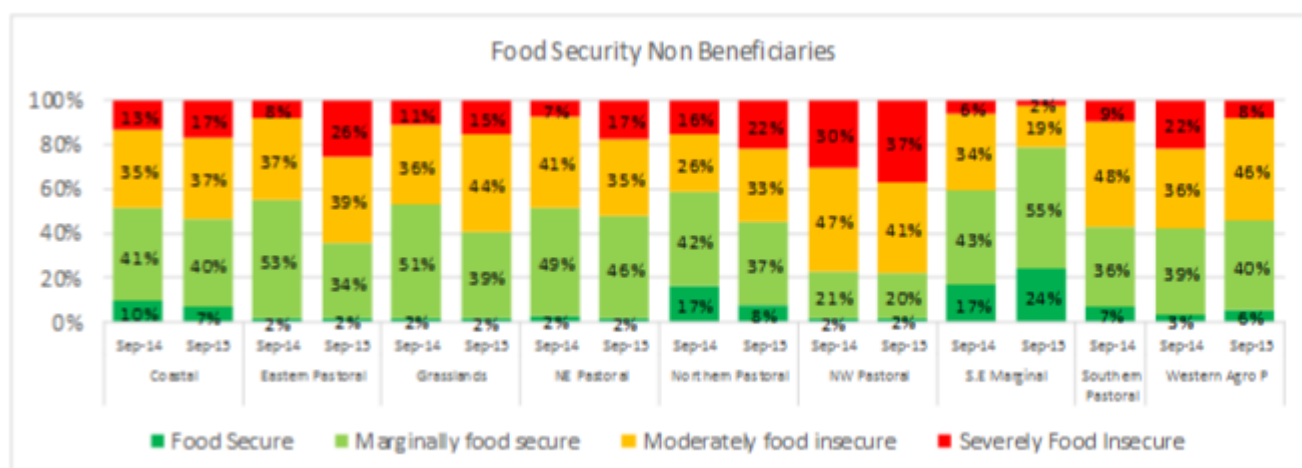
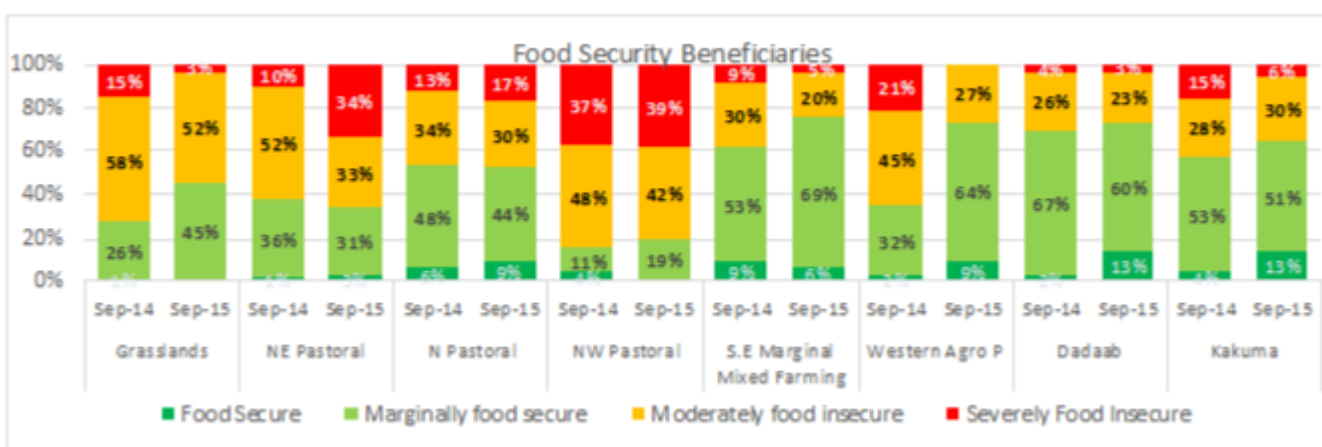
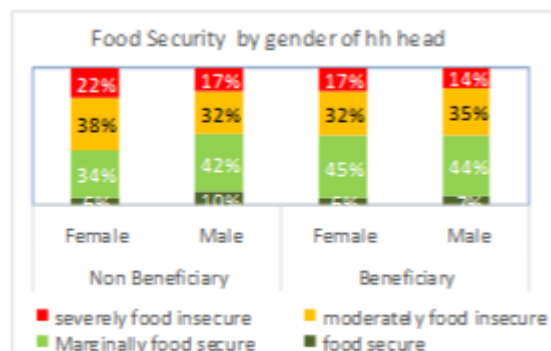
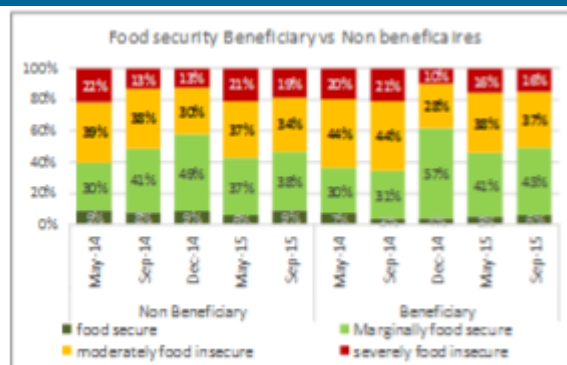
The situation remained stable for non-beneficiaries compared with last round in May and September last year.

There were only small differences in food security status between female- and male headed households. The highest proportion of severely food insecure households (22%) was however found among non-beneficiary female headed households.

An improvement was seen among beneficiaries in all livelihood zones apart from North-eastern pastoral zones (Mandera and parts of Wajir and Isiolo) where a deterioration was recorded and households moved from moderate- to severely food insecurity. This is also in line with Long rain assessment results that highlighted pockets in this livelihood zone being in IPC phase 3 (Crisis). The zone with the greatest improvement was Western Agro pastoral zone that had nearly 75% food secure which is the same as in South-eastern marginal mixed farming zone.

The situation remained stable in Dadaab with some 25% were food insecure while 36% of refugees in Kakuma were food insecure compared with 43% in September 2014.

The food security situation for non-beneficiaries has deteriorated in all livelihood zones apart from South-eastern mixed farming and Western agro pastoral zones.

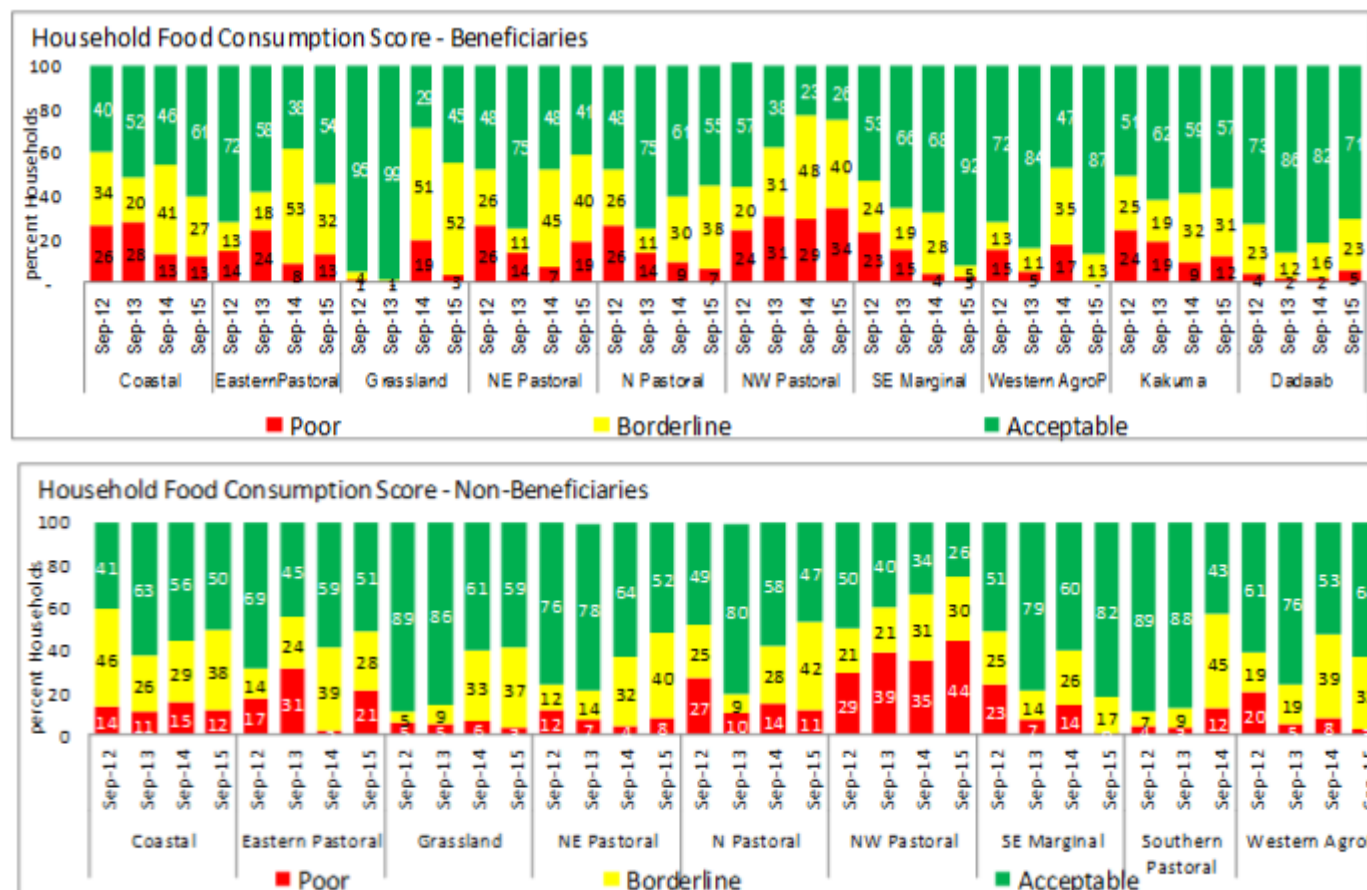
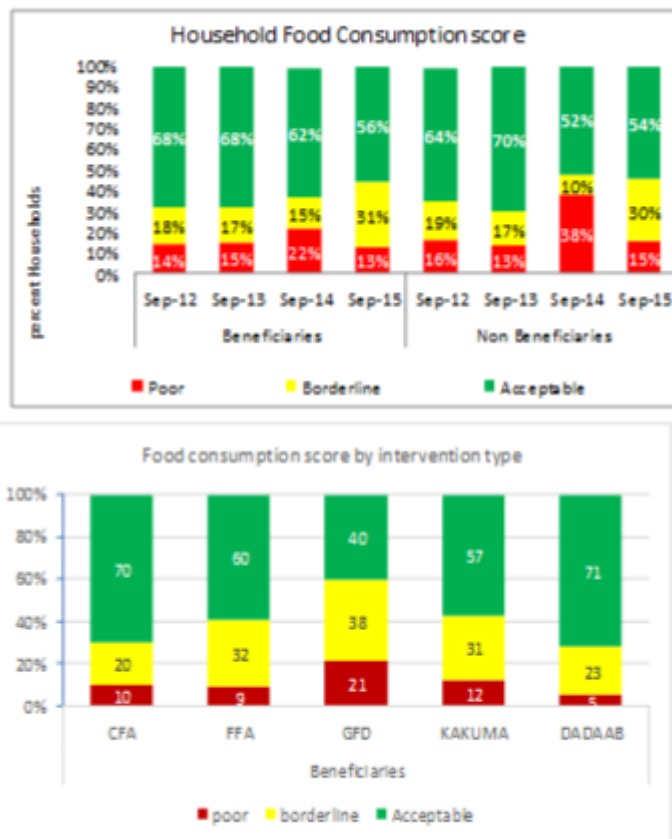


The food consumption show a similar trend among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries over the past four year with a deterioration in 2015 compared with 2012/2013. Some 55% of households had an acceptable food consumption score in September 2015 compared with some 70% in 2012/2013. The proportion of households with poor food consumption has however improved in September 2015 compared with last year.

Among the WFP beneficiaries, households who received a General Food Distribution (GFD) had a worse food consumption score than households engaged in food/cash for assets. Only 40% of GFD beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score compared with 60% of food for asset and 70% of cash for asset households. 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.

The Coastal Low Potential Farming zone has seen a steady improvement in food consumption among beneficiaries over the past 4 years and some 61% of households had an acceptable consumption in September 2015 compared with 40% in the same month of 2012. South-eastern marginal mixed farming has also improved over the years and 92% of beneficiaries have an acceptable consumption. The same goes for Western Agro pastoral zone where 87% of beneficiaries had an acceptable FCS.

Deteriorations were however recorded in the three pastoral zones North-eastern, Northern and North-western. The worst consumption situation was found in Northwestern and North-eastern pastoral zones with 19-34% of the households having a poor food consumption score. This was even higher amongst the non-beneficiaries in North-western with 44% having poor consumption score. In Turkana (North-western) only 26% of beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score.





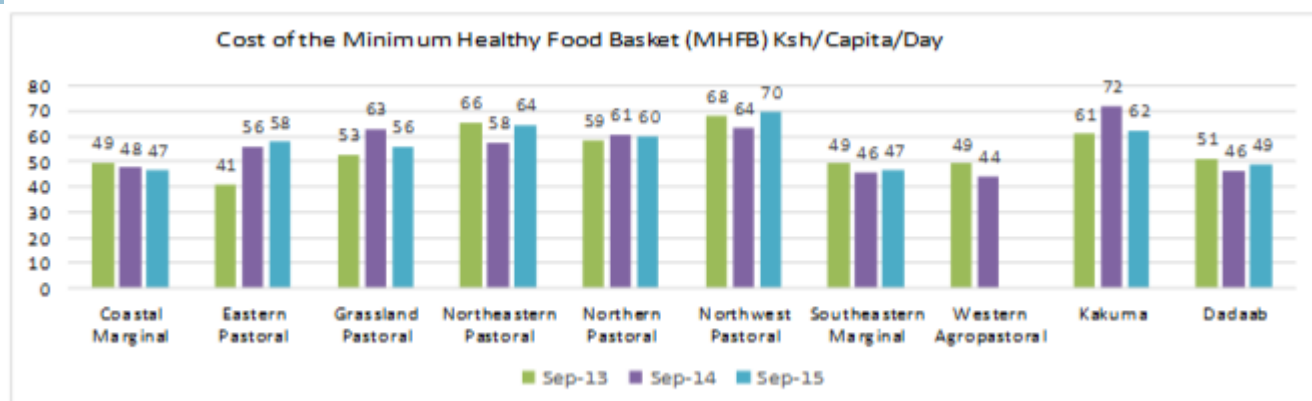
Market Prices

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) September 2015 report, the inter-annual inflation rate stood at 5.97% which was lower than the 6.60% in the same month last year, thus marginally increasing the purchasing power of Kenyan households –especially those in lower income groups. The inter-annual food and non-alcoholic drinks' inflation stood at 9.81%, which was higher than the 8.40% in September 2014; there were significant price increases in respect of several food items such as meat, beans, spinach, kales, potatoes (Irish), tomatoes, fresh packet milk and onions.

As per the price data collected during the September 2015 FSOM, nominal retail maize prices fell by 6% in northern pastoral livelihood zone, 7% in coastal marginal agricultural, 11% in Kakuma refugee camp and 36% in grassland pastoral zone - from a year on year comparison. The long rains harvest and cross-border imports have increased food supply in markets, and maize supply is likely to continue increasing as the harvest starts in the northern Rift Valley in October. In other regions maize prices rose by between 1% in northwest pastoral zone to 15% in eastern pastoral zones.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket has been revised slightly by removing meat to make it more affordable while nutrient are still met for the average population. Prices have consequently also been revised for previous rounds so that a correct comparisons are done. The basket remains most expensive in Turkana at Ksh70 per day per person.

The basket increased in the eastern pastoral region over the past three years and rose by 14%, compared to same month in 2013. In other regions, food basket cost increased by between 2% in south-eastern marginal agricultural to 10% in northwest pastoral zone, from a year on year comparison, see figure below. The coastal region has recorded a drop in the food basket cost in the last three years and fell by 2%, compared to same month last year. In other regions, the cost fell by between 1% in northern pastoral to 13% in Kakuma refugee camp, from a year on year comparison. The reduction in the basket cost will most likely lead to improved food access, assuming that household income remains constant within the season.



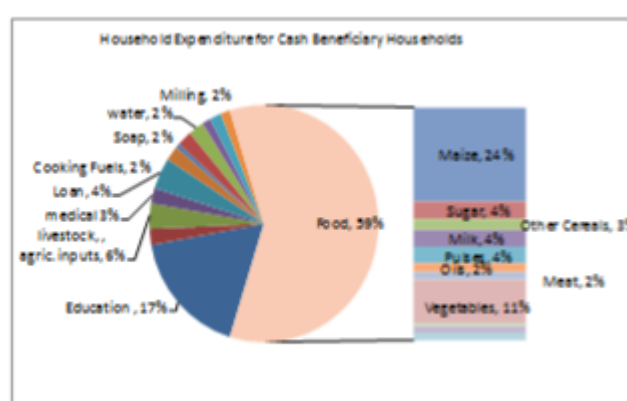
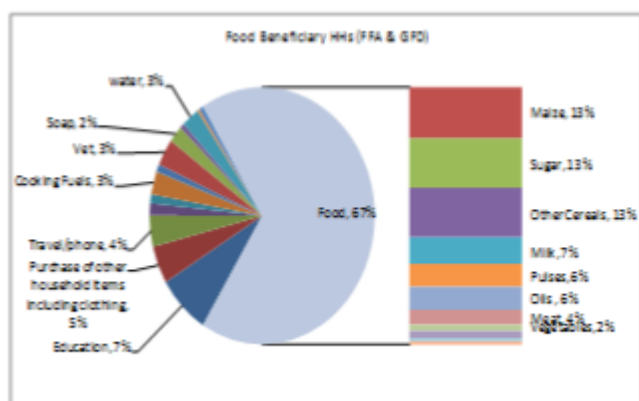
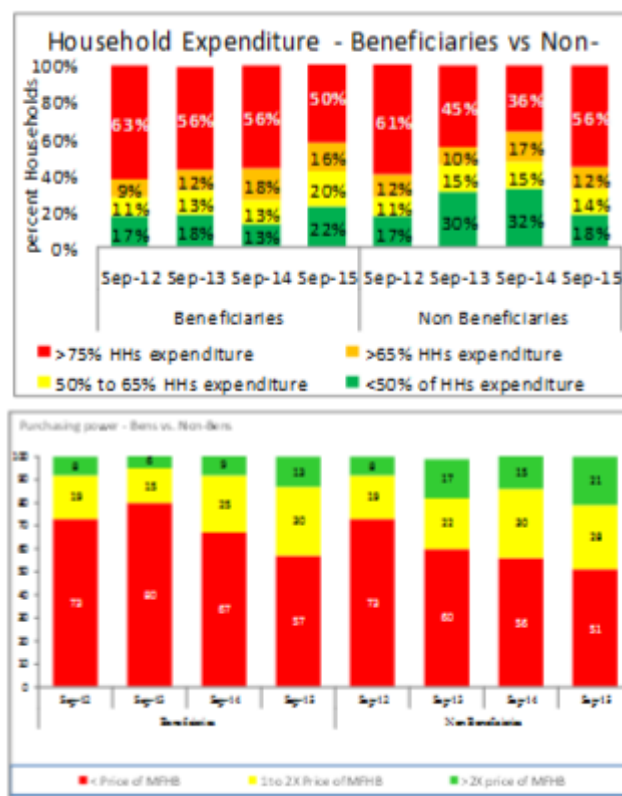
Household Expenditure (income proxy)

The proportion of beneficiary households who spent more than 75% of their income on food reduced compared with previous years and was 50% in September 2015. The proportion of households that spent less than 50% of their income on food increased to 22% and is a sign of reduced vulnerability to price shocks. The situation for non-beneficiaries has to the contrary worsened compared with 2013 and 2014. Some 56% of the non-beneficiary households spend more than 75% of their income on food.

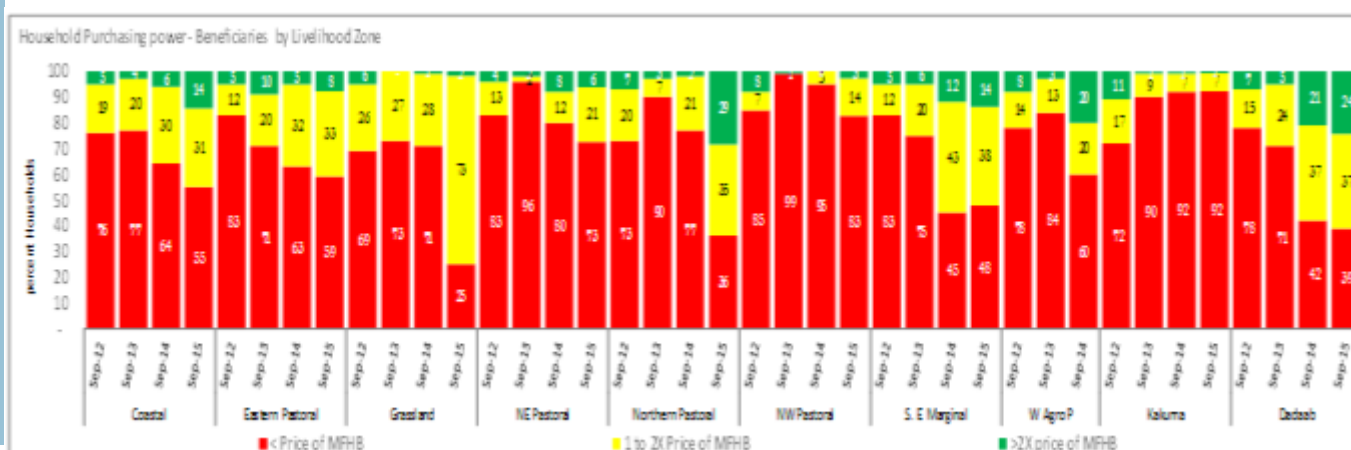
Households' purchasing power has steadily improved compared to the previous three years as food prices in some zones reduced and some 43% of beneficiary households and 49% among non-beneficiaries were able to afford the minimum healthy food basket.

The beneficiaries who received WFP food (GFD and FFA) spent an average of 67% of their overall income on food while cash beneficiaries spent 59% on food. Education remained by far the largest non-food expenditure item, covering 7-17% of households' total income.

Maize was the most purchased food item by all households but much higher among cash beneficiaries who spent a quarter of their food expenditure on this item. Sugar remained the second item that household spent food money on and was particularly high among food beneficiaries. Food beneficiaries continued to spend a larger proportion of their income on high value protein items compared with cash beneficiaries.



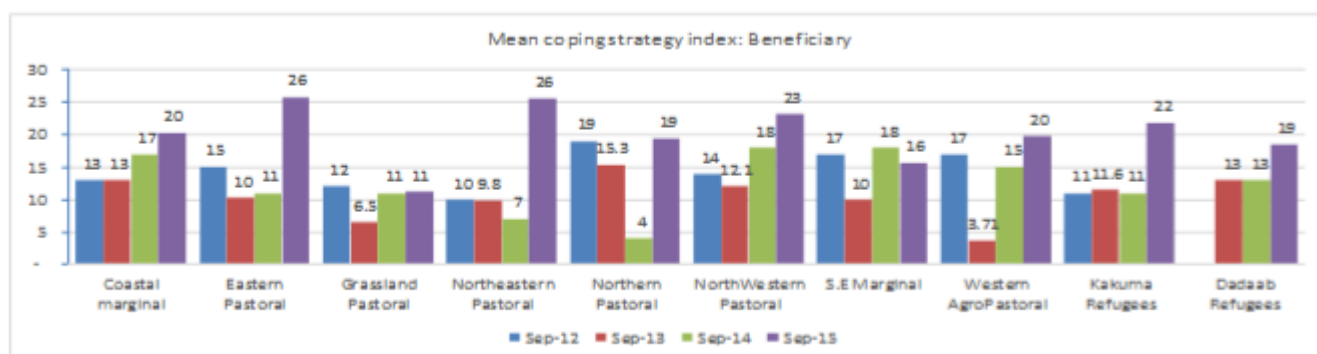
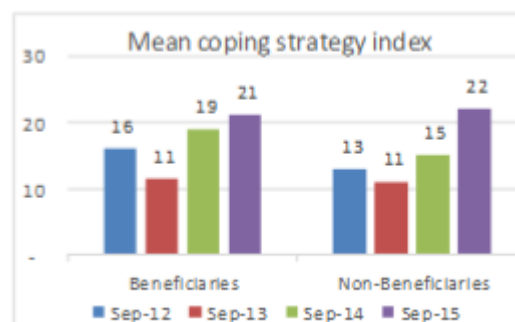
As mentioned, the majority of households cannot afford the cost of the minimum healthy basket. Northwestern and Kakuma have remained the areas with the highest proportion of households who were not able to purchase the basket and was partly a reflection of the higher food prices in the North-west but also of unreliable income sources that these households are engaged in. Improvements have been seen in all livelihood zones since 2012/2013 with the greatest improvements found in Grassland– Northern pastoral and South-eastern mixed farming as well as Dadaab. Kakuma has remained stable since 2013 but proportion of households who could not afford the basket has increased since 2012.



Household Coping Strategies (CSI)

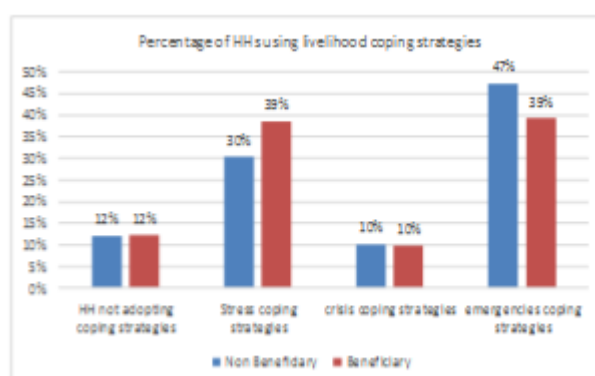
Ninety three (93)% of the interviewed households faced shortages of food or cash to purchase food for in the month prior to the interview. Consumption related coping strategies were used more frequently in this round than all in previous years of FSOM data collection (2012, 2013 and 2014). The index in September 2015 was 21 and 22 for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries respectively.

Grassland Pastoral zone remain one of the zones with the lowest Coping strategy index of around 11 and has been stable since 2012. All the other zones have seen a deterioration this year with higher scores, indicating that consumption related strategies have been used more often than before and/or used more severe strategies.

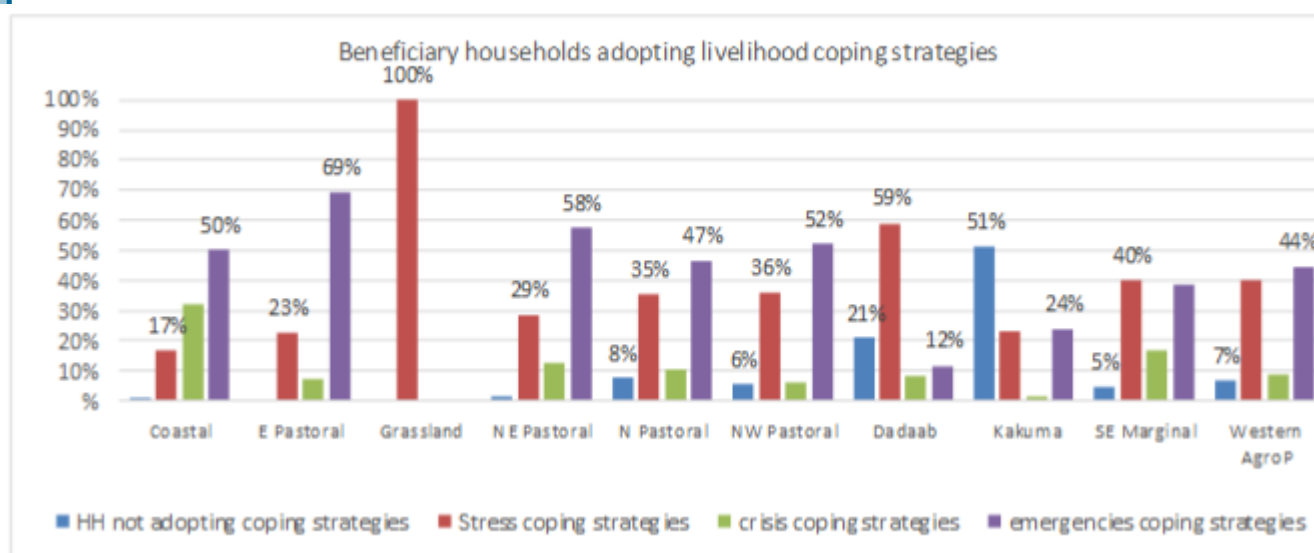


The zone with an alarming deterioration in 2015 compared to previous years was the North-eastern pastoral zone and was most likely a result of insecurity in parts of Mandera and effects of the poor Long rains season in parts of Wajir and Isiolo. It is supported by the deteriorated food consumption score reported in the earlier section of this report.

Some 12% of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households reported not having used livelihood coping strategies in September 2015. A large proportion of households (39-47%) used emergency livelihood strategies, such as selling the last female animal, which is most worrisome. For non-beneficiaries this is higher than reported in May 2015 (41%). The proportion using emergency strategies remained stable for beneficiaries. A slightly lower proportion were using stress strategies (30-39%).



An alarmingly high proportion of beneficiary households in Eastern- and North-eastern pastoral livelihood zones (69 and 58%), continued to use emergency strategies with long term negative impact on the households. It is however a reduction from May this year. Other zones where households also use more emergency strategies than less damaging were Coastal-, Northern-, North-western-, and Western agro Pastoral zones.

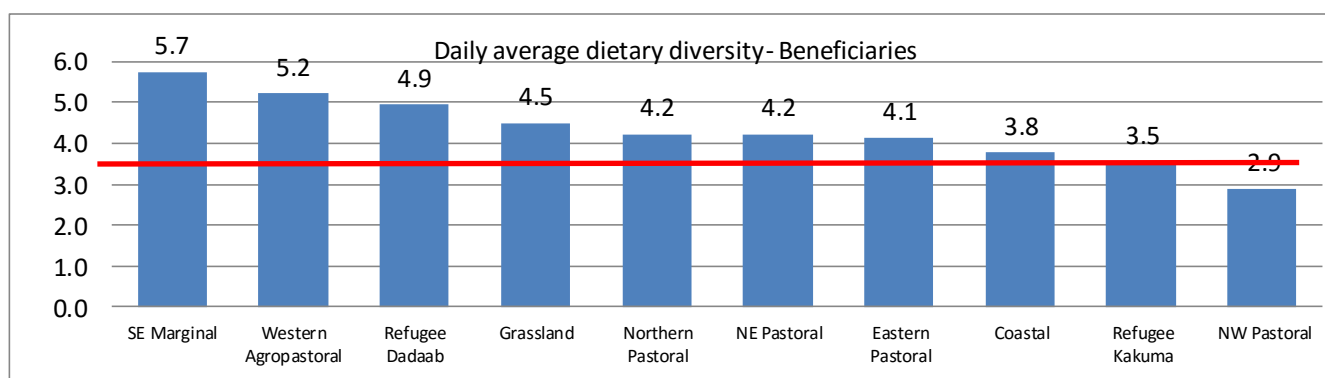
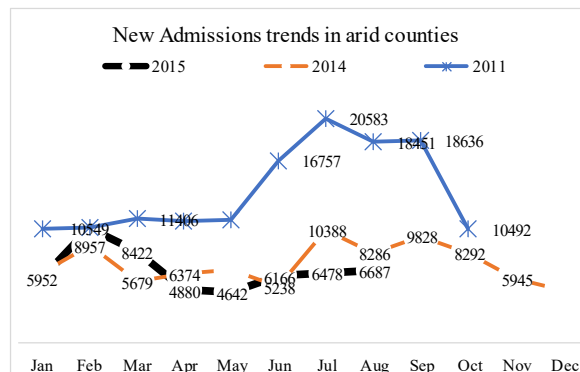


Nutrition Situation and Dietary Diversity

The admission trends from the supplementary feeding programme in the arid counties indicated a stable situation in new admissions since June. The admissions in August 2015 was 20% lower than the same time in 2014..

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), however Southwestern Marginal Mixed Farming almost reached it in this round with 5.7 and continues to have. the highest dietary diversity.

There were two livelihood zones that remained at, or below the threshold for what is regarded as poor dietary diversity (3.5) these were Northwestern pastoral livelihood zone and Kakuma refugee camp.

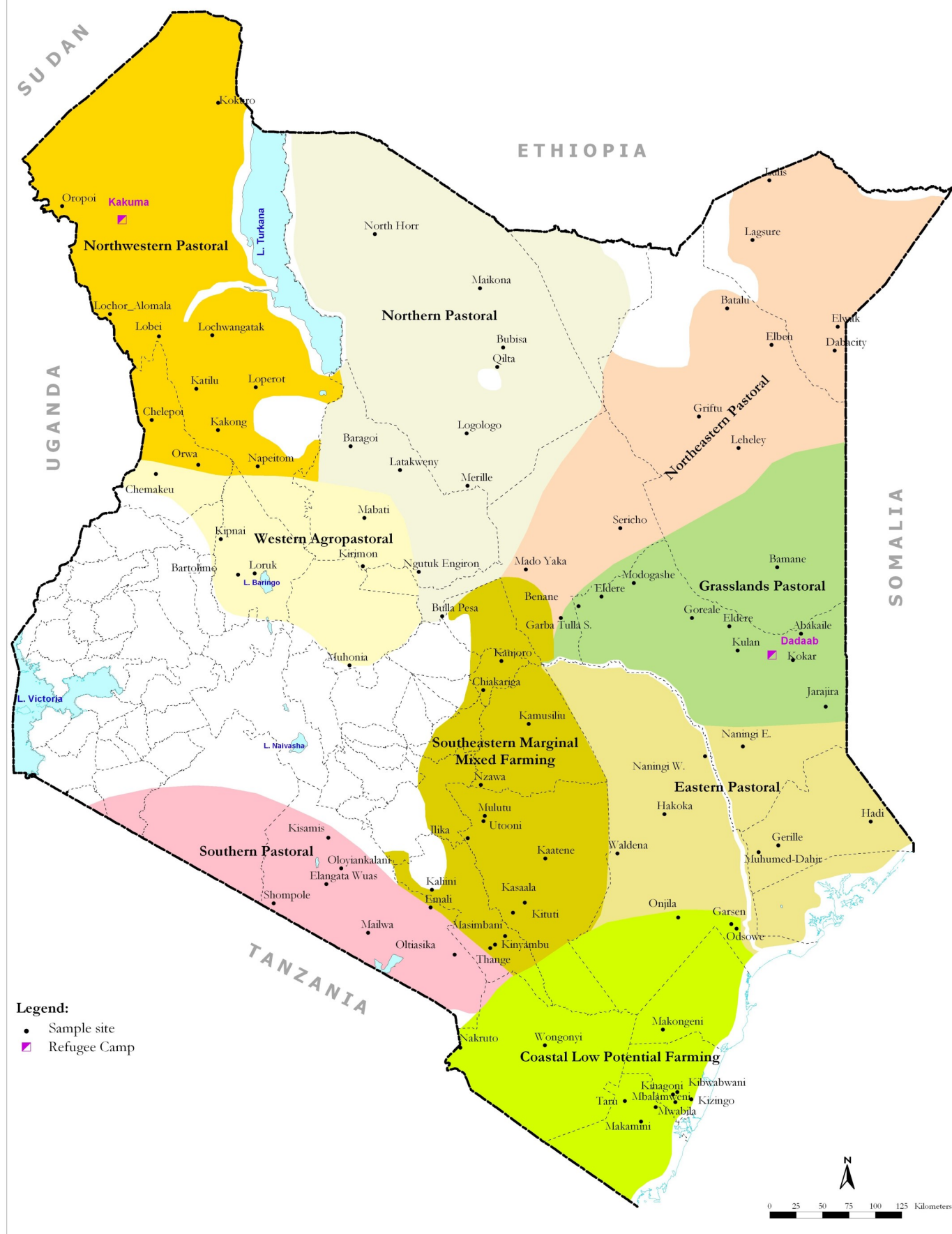


The minimum acceptable diet (MAD) indicator is a composite indicator combining minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency. The percentage of children 6-23 months receiving the minimum acceptable diet in September 2015 was 7.0% which, while well below the target of 70%, is nearly double the number consuming a MAD in May 2015 and over triple the 2.2% meeting the MAD in September 2014.

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 families and non-beneficiary families, although the sample size is small to dis-



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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 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.