



Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM)

Consolidated report

December 2015

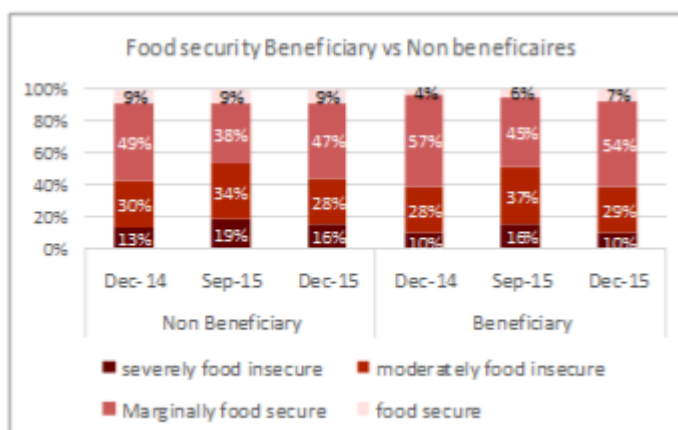
Highlight

- The food security situation among beneficiaries was stable compared with a year on year comparison. Some 39% were food insecure in December 2014 and 2015.
- Large regional differences do exist and North-western pastoral zone (Turkana and parts of West Pokot) even though it has improved compared with last year, remain the most food insecure zone with 64% food insecure beneficiaries (severe and moderate) compared with the least food insecure zone, South-eastern marginal mixed farming (Kitui) with 15% food insecure households.
- A large proportion of households could not afford the cost of the minimum healthy basket (43-49%) All livelihood zones apart from Western Agro pastoral zone and Kakuma have however improved significantly compared with previous years.
- North-western pastoral zone and Kakuma refugees have remained with the highest proportion of households who were not able to purchase the basket in December (86 and 92%) which partly was caused by high food prices and also unreliable income sources.
- Less households had an acceptable food consumption score in December 2015 compared with the same time in 2014, which could be a result of ration cuts. There is however an improvement compared with 2012/2013. Some 71% of WFP beneficiaries had an acceptable consumption compared with 64% among non-beneficiaries in December 2015.
- The admission trends from the supplementary feeding programme in the arid counties in 2015 indicate in general lower levels than 2014. The admissions in November 2015 was 30% lower than in the previous month, as per seasonal trends.
- The majority (60%) of children 6-23 months were only consuming 2 meals a day or less and only 8.8% received the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) a composite indicator of meal frequency and dietary diversity.

Food security situation

The food security situation among beneficiaries has improved compared with the last round in September and is stable compared with a year on year comparison. Some 61% were food secure/marginally food secure in December 2014 and 2015 compared with 51% in September indicating seasonal differences in food security. There were also less severely food insecure in December (10%) compared with 16% in September.

The situation was the same for non-beneficiaries where the December months in 2014 and 2015 were stable and better than September round. Some 58% of non-beneficiaries were food secure/marginally food secure in December compared with 47% in September. Less households were also severely food insecure in December compared with September (16 versus 19%)



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

2172 households were visited of which 60% were beneficiaries and 40% were non-beneficiaries.

- Cash for assets-12%
- Food for assets 26%
- GFD 29%
- Refugees 18%

Demographics

37% female headed households.

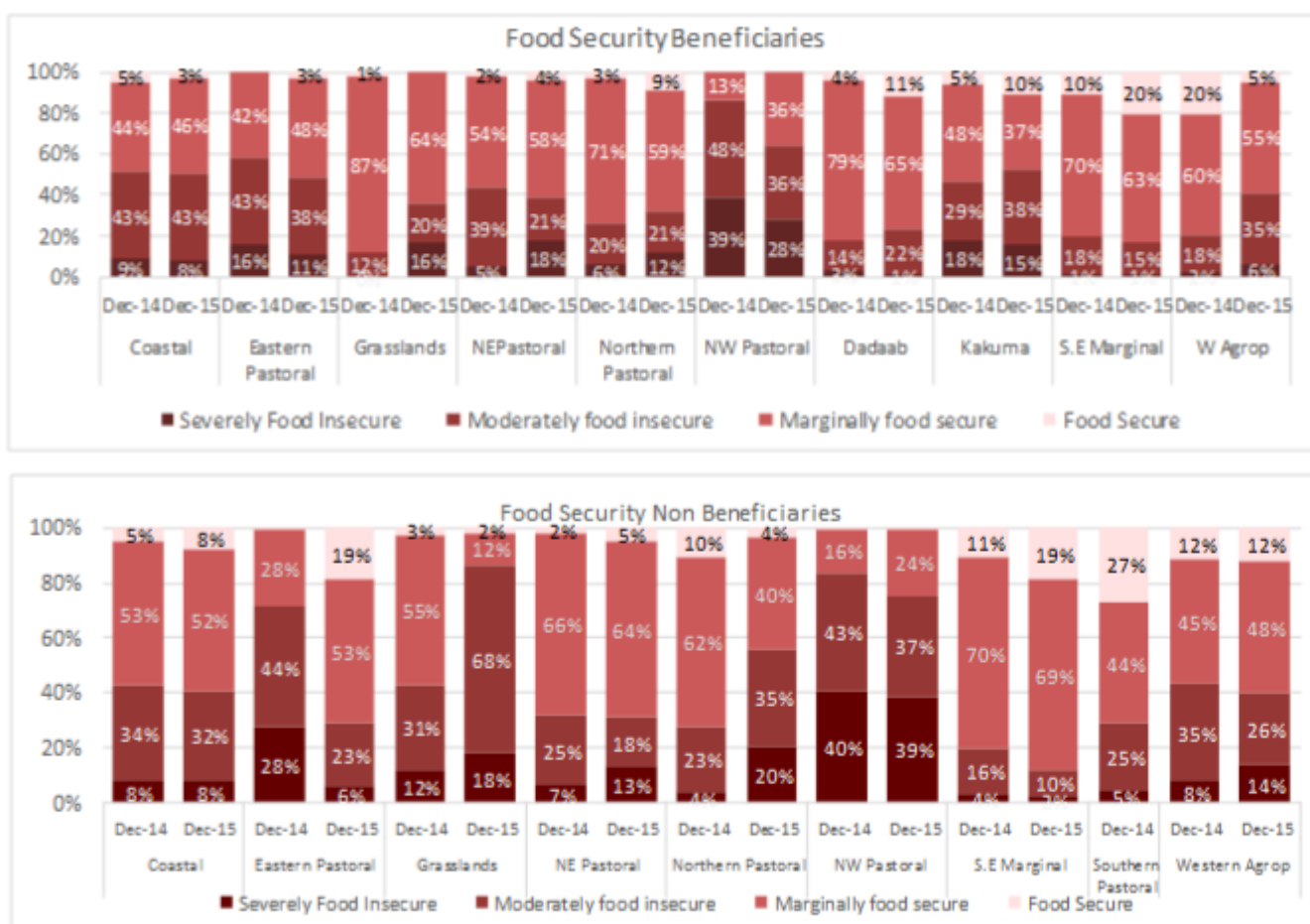
Average household size: 5.6

Household Food security situation

The situation in the livelihood zones paints a varied picture where the greatest improvement was seen among beneficiaries in North-western pastoral zone (Turkana) with some 36% food secure compared with only 13% in December last year. Despite this improvement, North-western pastoral zone still remain the most food insecure livelihood zone in the country which was also the case for non-beneficiaries. The largest deterioration in this round was seen in Western Agro pastoral zone (Baringo, Laikipia, Samburu) where the proportion of food secure households reduced from 80% in December 2014 to 60% in this round. This is most likely caused by increased food basket prices as reported in next sections.

Other livelihood zones where food security deteriorated for beneficiaries were; Grasslands– and Northern pastoral zones as well as Dadaab and Kakuma.

Improvements were seen in Eastern pastoral zone as well as South-eastern marginal mixed farming. The marginal mixed farming zone (Kitui) remain the least food insecure livelihood zone that are assessed through the FSOM and only 15% of households are food insecure among beneficiaries and 12% among non-beneficiaries.



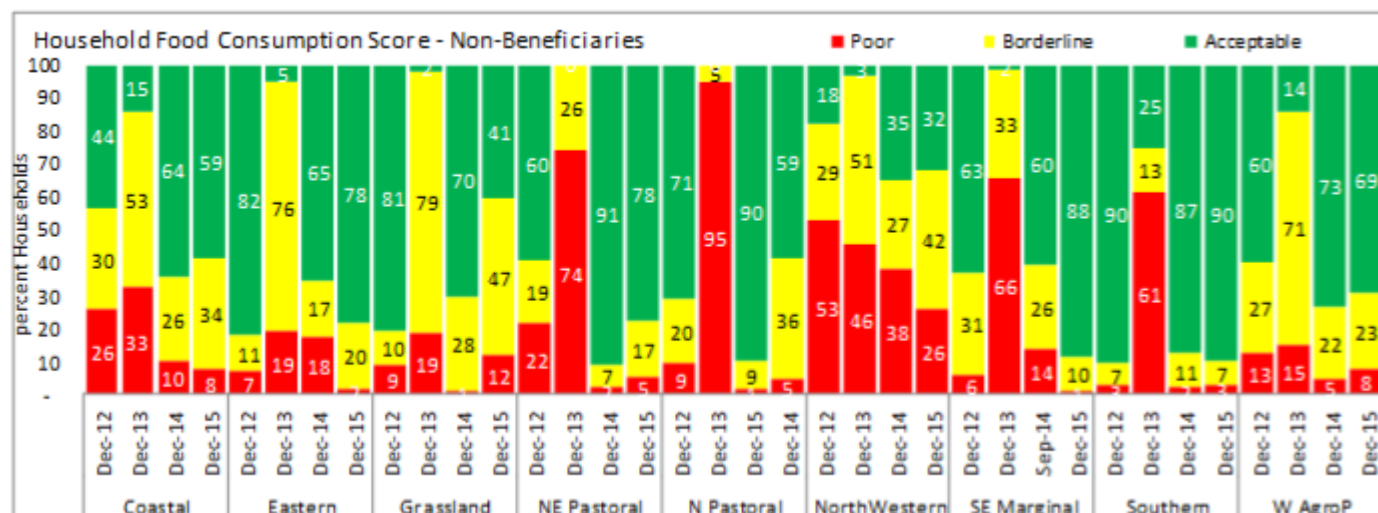
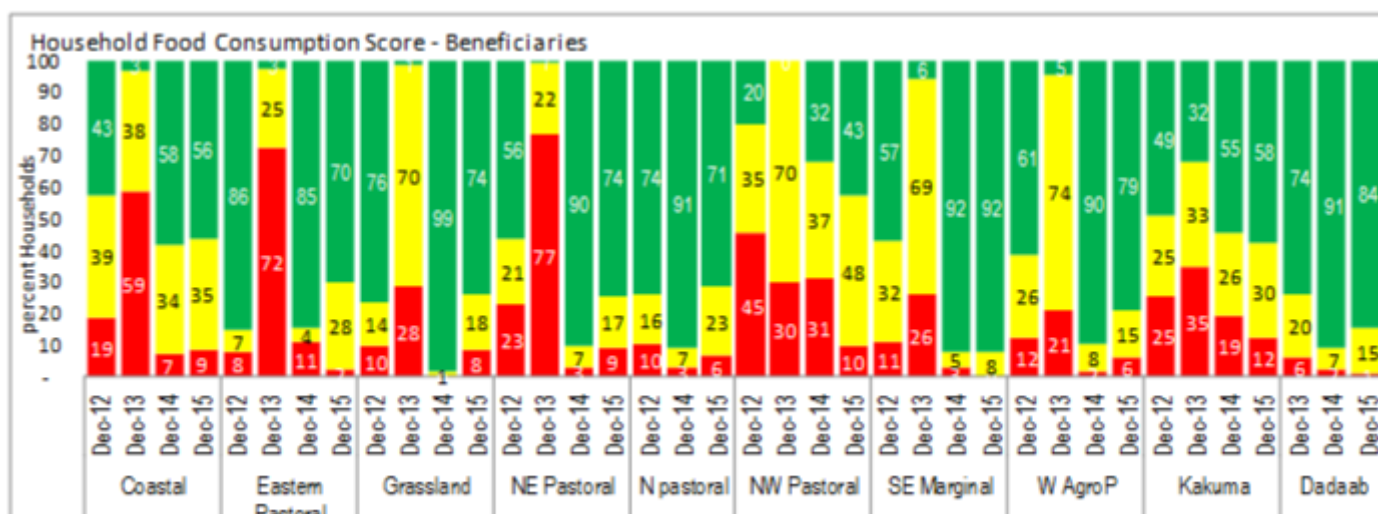
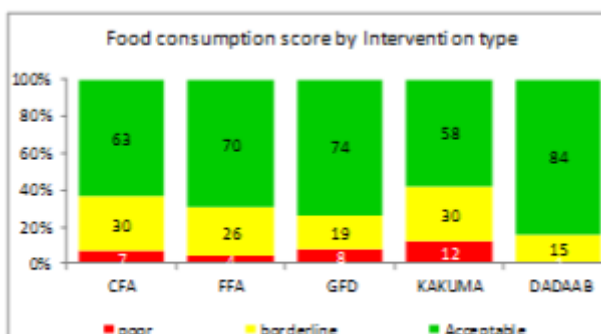
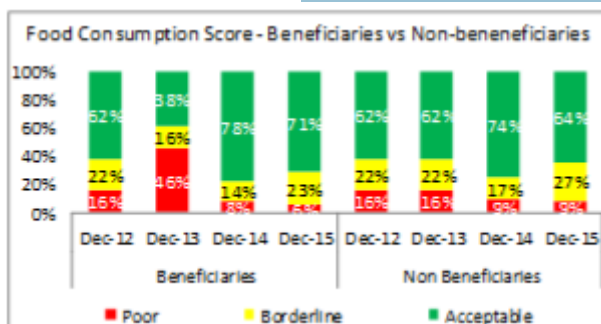
Less households had an acceptable food consumption score in December 2015 compared with the same time in 2014 for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. There was however an improvement compared with 2012/2013. Some 71% of VFP beneficiaries have an acceptable consumption compared with 64% among non-beneficiaries. Some 6-9% of all households have poor consumption.

The proportion of households who received GFD and had an acceptable food consumption reduced compared with December last year when 83% had an acceptable consumption. FFA beneficiaries have also deteriorated as 77% have an acceptable consumption in 2014 compared with 70% in this round, caused by ration cuts. The proportion of CFA beneficiaries with an acceptable food consumption is even lower and has also deterioration from 68% in December 2014 to 63% in this round. This can also partly be explained by the reduced transfer value that was introduced in July due to lack of funds. CFA beneficiaries receive equivalent of 40% ration while FFA and GFD receive a 50% ration.

A steady improvement were seen in North-western pastoral zone and in Kakuma refugee camp (situated in the same livelihood zone) compared with previous years.

The food consumption in Coastal, South-Eastern marginal and Dadaab remain relatively stable compared with 2014. while there has been an improvement compared with 2012/13.

Deteriorations were recorded in Grassland, North-eastern, Northern and Western Agro pastoral. The worst consumption situation continued to be in Northwestern (Turkana) where 10% of the households had a poor food consumption score. This however is a huge improvement compared with December in previous years. On the other hand, 26% of non-beneficiaries had a poor consumption score, which never the less also is an improvement from previous years.





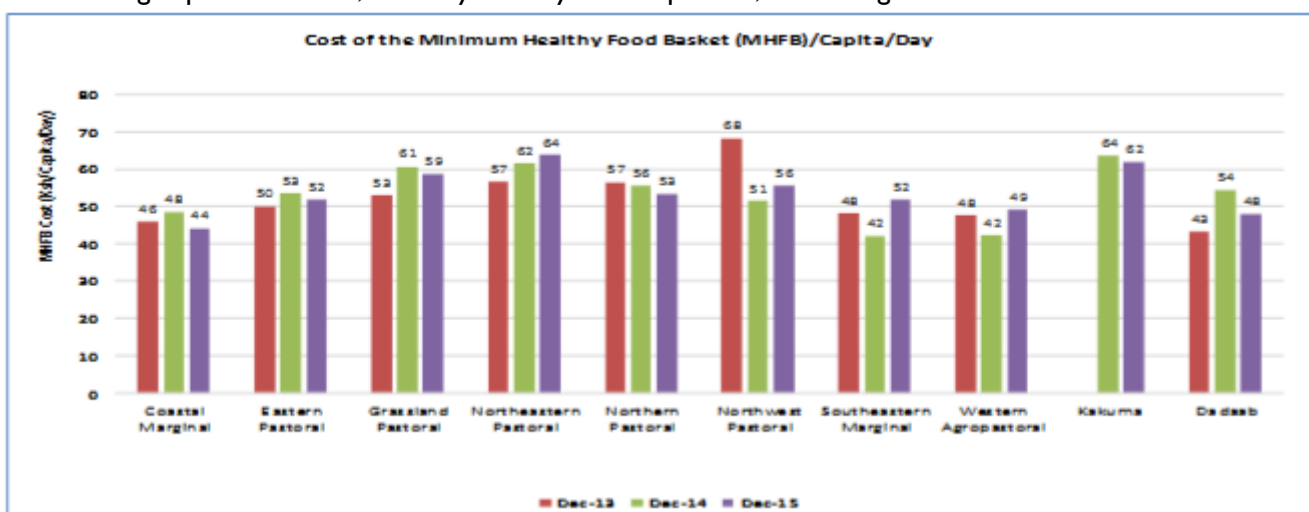
Market Prices

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics' (KNBS) November 2015 report, the inter-annual inflation rate stood at 7.32% which was higher than the 6.09% in the same month last year, thus somewhat reducing the purchasing power of Kenyan households –especially those in lower income groups. The inter-annual food and non-alcoholic drinks' inflation stood at 12.67%, which was higher than 7.71% in December 2014. There were significant price increases of several food items such as beans, onions, potatoes (Irish), avocado, bananas (ripe), tomatoes and sukuma wiki (kales), from a year on year comparison.

Price data collected during the December 2015 FSOM showed that, nominal retail maize prices fell by between 7% in Kakuma refugee camp to 29% in Northern pastoral livelihood zone from a year on year comparison. The long rains harvest in the northern Rift valley and cross-border imports continue to increase maize supply in the markets. In other regions however, maize prices rose by between 3% in Western agro pastoral zone to 11% in South-eastern marginal agricultural zone.

The Northern pastoral region has recorded a drop in the cost of the minimum healthy food basket in the last three years and fell by 5%, compared to same month last year. The cost also fell in Coastal marginal zone, Eastern pastoral, Kakuma and by as much as 11% in Daadab 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.

The cost of the minimum healthy food basket has however increased in the North-eastern pastoral region over the past three years and rose by 3%, compared to same month last year. The food basket cost also increased by between 10% in North-western pastoral zone to 17 % in South-eastern marginal agricultural and Western agro pastoral zones, from a year on year comparison, see the figure below.



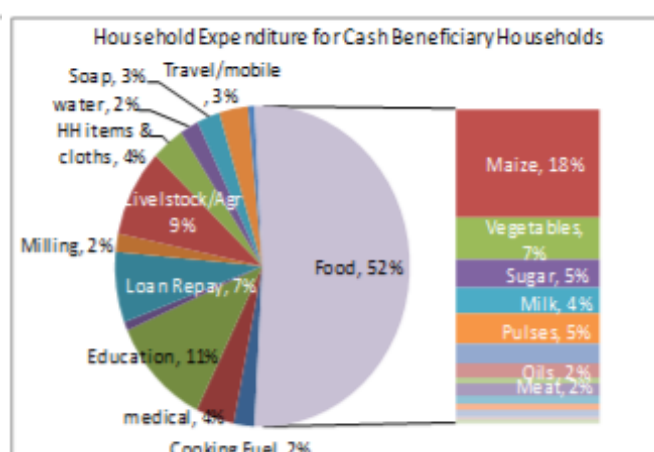
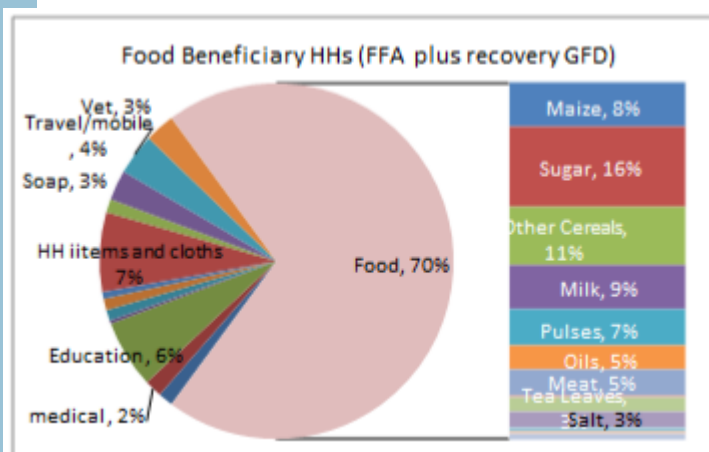
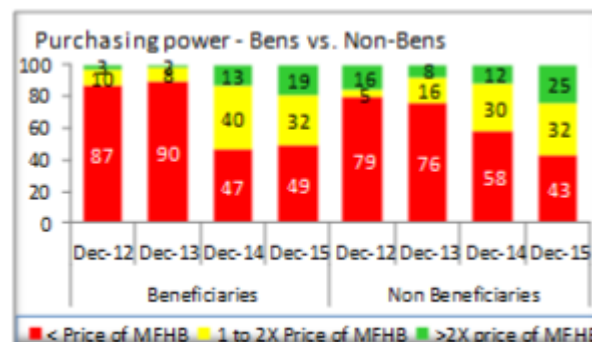
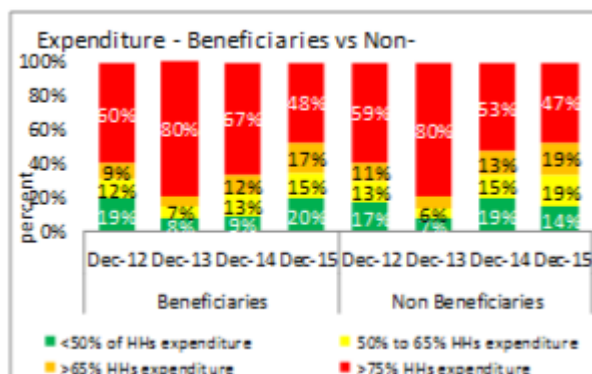
Household Expenditure (income proxy)

The proportion of beneficiary households who spent more than 75% of their income on food reduced compared with previous years and was 48% in December 2015. Consequently, the proportion of beneficiary households that spent less than 50% of their income on food increased to 20% compared with December 2013/14. The situation for non-beneficiaries has to the contrary worsened slightly compared with 2014 as the proportion who spend less than 50% on food has reduced to 14%.

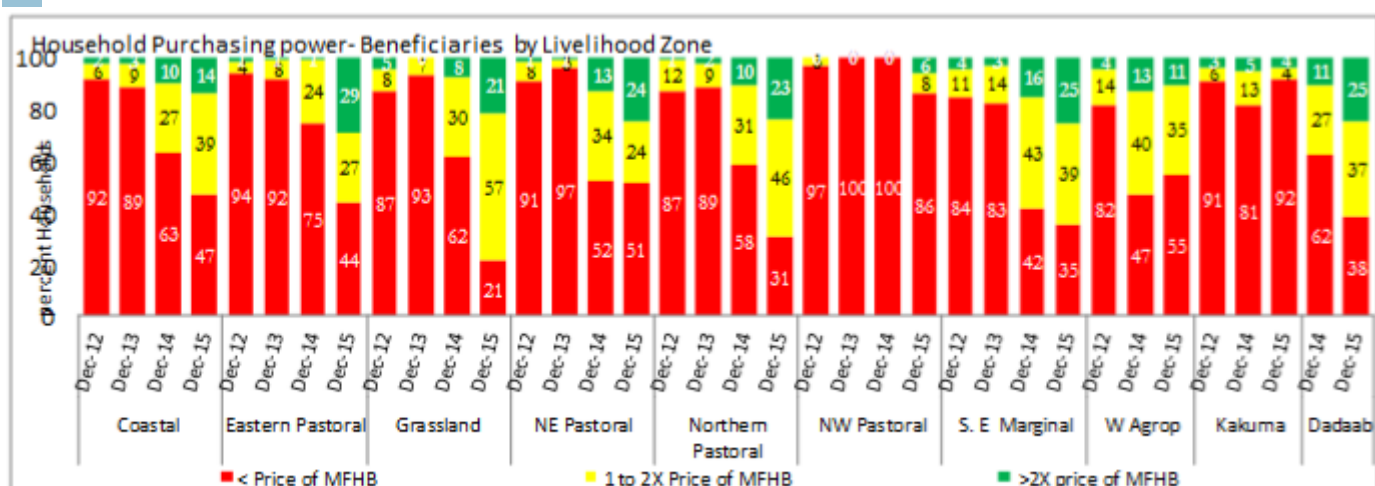
Households' purchasing power has steadily improved compared to the previous three years as food prices in some zones reduced and therefore some 51% of beneficiary households and 57% among non-beneficiaries were able to afford the minimum healthy food basket.

The beneficiaries who received WFP food (GFD and FFA) spent an average of 70% of their overall income on food while cash beneficiaries spent 52% on food. Education remained by far the largest non-food expenditure item, covering 6-11% of households' total income. Livestock/ariculture inputs, loan repayment and other household goods were also expenditure lines that were competing with education in this round.

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



A large proportion of households could not afford the cost of the minimum healthy basket (43-49%) even if this, as mentioned has improved. All livelihood zones apart from Western Agro pastoral zone and Kakuma improved compared with previous years. Northwestern and Kakuma remained the areas with the highest proportion of households who were not able to purchase the basket (86 and 92%) which partly was caused by high food prices and also unreliable income sources.



Household Coping Strategies (CSI)

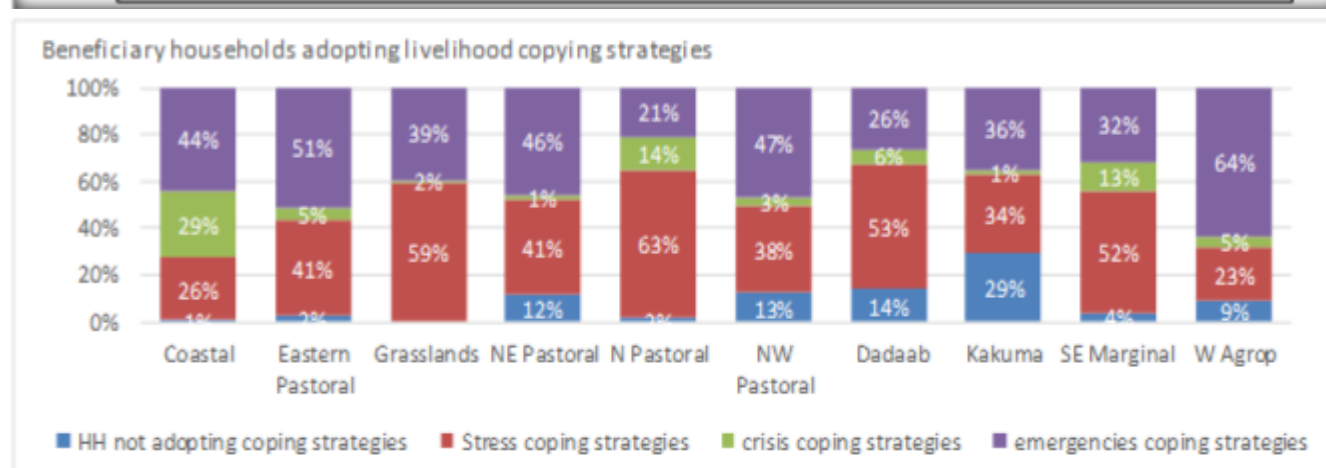
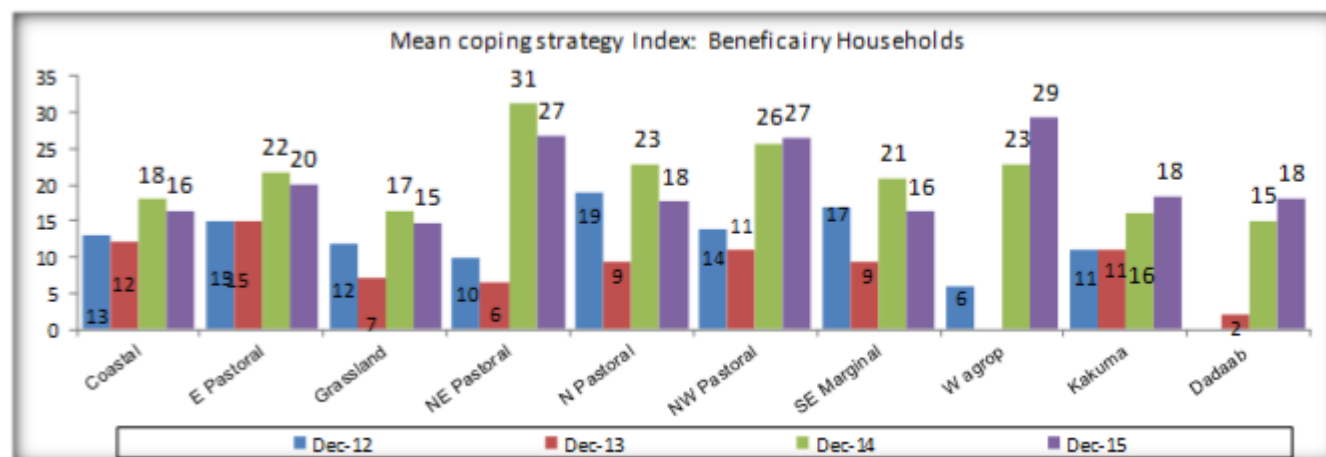
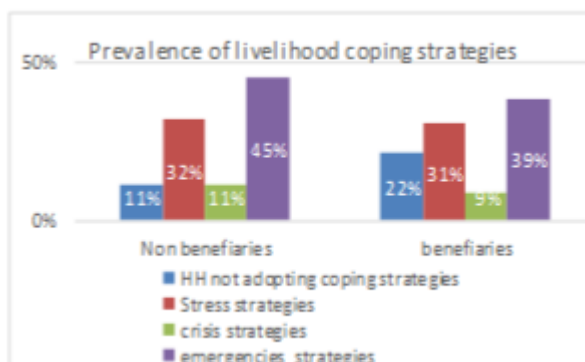
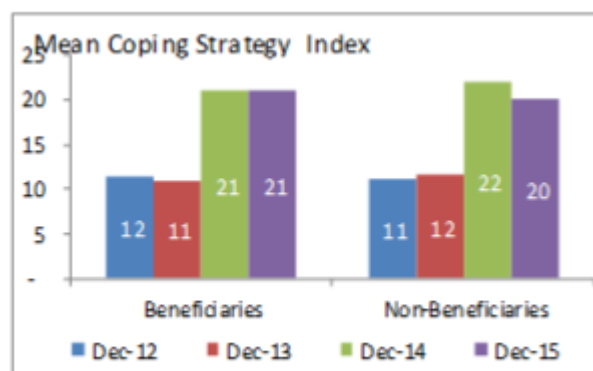
Ninety four (94)% of the interviewed households faced shortages of food or cash to purchase food for in the month prior to the interview. Consumption related coping strategies were used at the same frequently in this round as in December 2014 and much more frequent than in 2012/2013. The index in December 2015 was 21 and 20 for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries respectively. This is regarded as relatively high.

Big regional differences still remain and Grassland Pastoral zone remain one of the zones with the lowest Coping strategy index of 15. Deteriorations were observed in Western Agropastoral zone, which has the highest index at 29. Kakuma and Dadaab have also deteriorated, most likely a result of ration cuts.

Improvements however were seen in all the other livelihood zones apart from North-western pastoral zone that remained stable.

A much higher proportion of beneficiary households did not use any livelihood coping strategies in this round (22%) compared with non-beneficiaries (11%). This is a marked improvement for beneficiaries compared to the round in September. What remains a concern is the unacceptably high proportion of households who use emergency coping strategies among the two groups (45% and 39%).

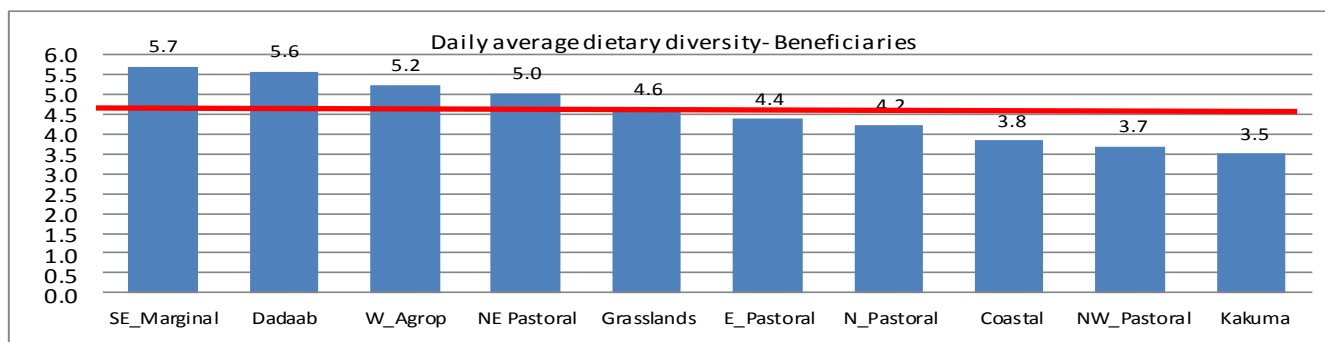
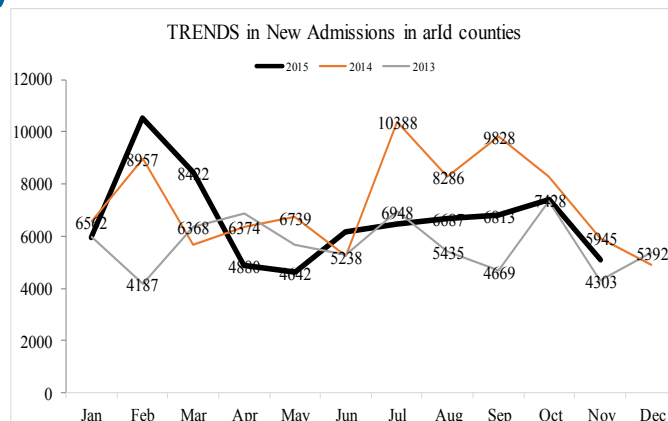
An alarmingly high proportion of beneficiary households in Western Agro pastoral zone used emergency strategies with long term negative impact (64%) and is a huge increase since September (44%). Livelihood zones where the majority of households used less severe strategies i.e. stressed strategies were found in Grasslands-, Northern-, South-eastern marginal pastoral zones as well as Dadaab.



Nutrition Situation and Dietary Diversity

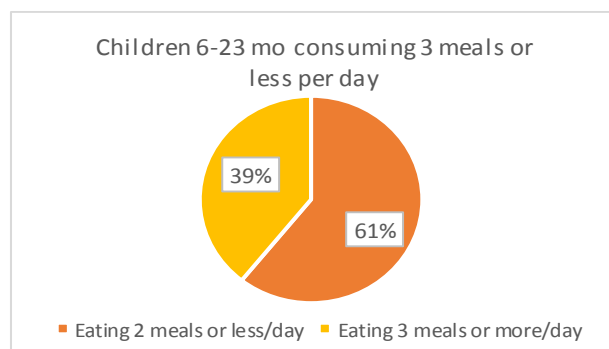
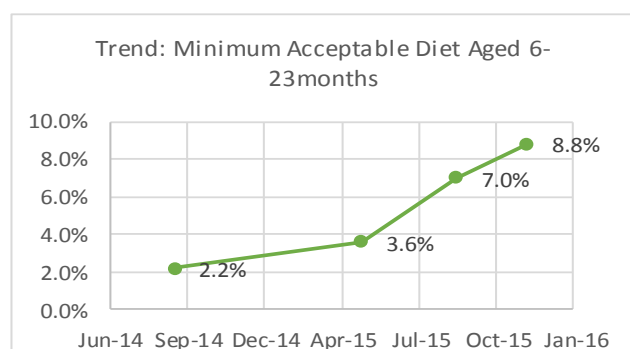
The admission trends from the supplementary feeding programme in the arid counties in 2015 indicate in general lower levels than 2014. The admissions in November 2015 was 30% lower than in the previous month, as per seasonal trends.

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 South-eastern Marginal Mixed Farming almost reached it in this round with 5.7 and continues to have the highest dietary diversity among the assessed livelihood zones. There were five livelihood zones that were below the threshold for what is regarded as poor dietary diversity (4.5) these were Eastern-, Northern-, North-western pastoral livelihood zone, Coastal low potential farming and Kakuma refugee camp.

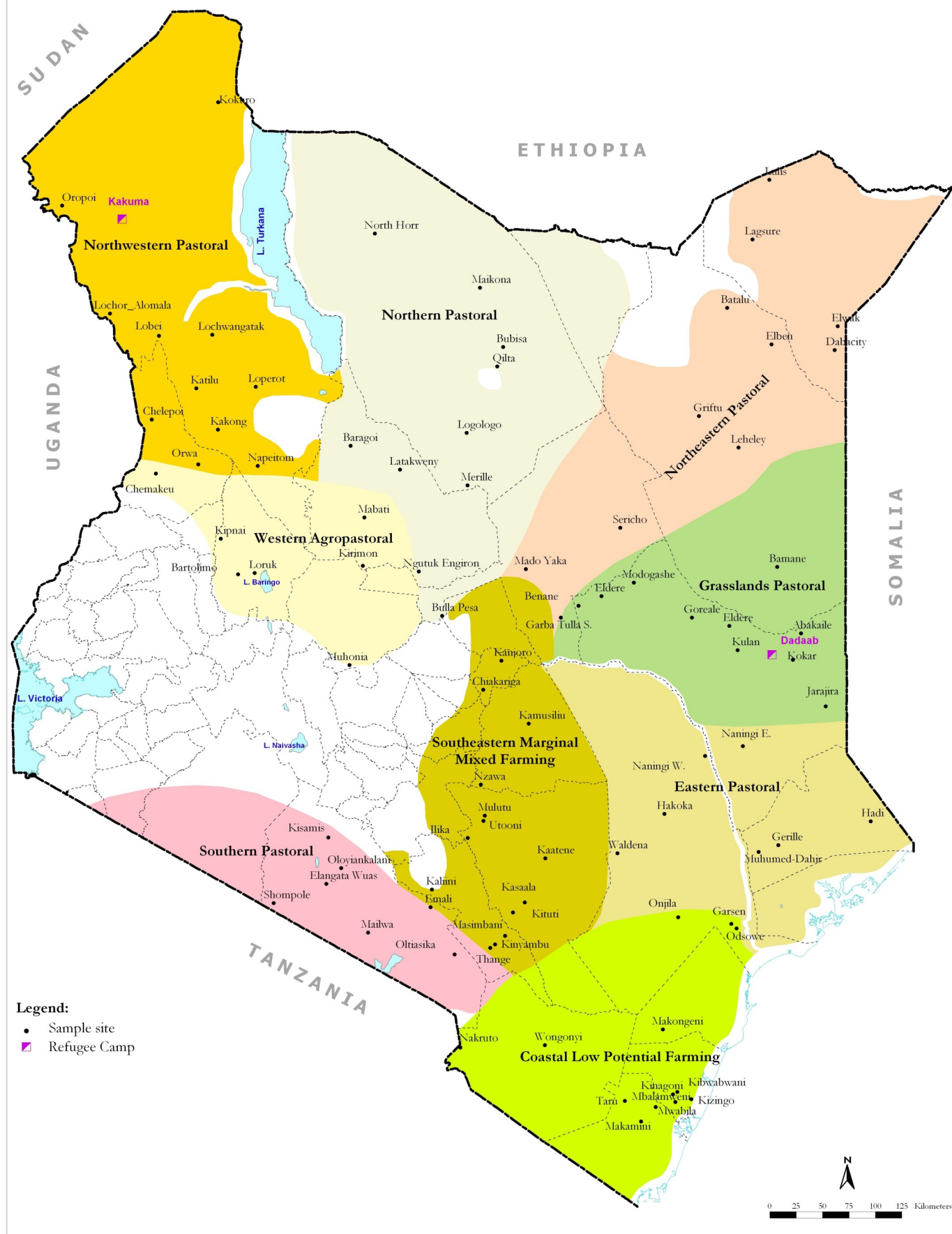


The minimum acceptable diet (MAD) indicator is a composite indicator combining minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency. The percentage of children 6-23 months receiving the minimum acceptable diet is 8.8% which, while well below the corporate target of 70%, is a slight improvement from Sept 2015 (7.0%) and over double the number consuming a MAD in May 2015 (3.6%) and over triple the 2.2% in September 2014, when the indicator was introduced.

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). While more children receive minimum meal frequency than dietary diversity, the majority (60%) of children 6-23 months are only consuming 2 meals a day or less.



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 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.