



# Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM) Consolidated report SEPTEMBER 2014

## Highlight

- The performance of the last two rainy seasons have been below normal in large parts of the country and the maize harvest in large parts of the South Rift valley (high potential agricultural area) have been attacked by a disease. The estimated harvest is approximately 30% below normal.
- Based on WFP's new corporate categorisation of households' the September data indicated that some 35% of beneficiaries were food secure and/or marginally food secure while some 20% were severely food insecure. The situation remained stable compared with May 2014.
- Food consumption among beneficiaries improved slightly since May 2014 and is most likely an outcome of a stabilised purchasing power. There are currently 10% of beneficiary households with poor consumption compared with 15% in May.
- Some 40% of households were however adopting irreversible emergency livelihood coping strategies to cope with food shortages such as selling the last female animal.
- The cost of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket (MHFB) increased from May 2014 in the Eastern, Grassland, Northern, and Northwestern pastoral zones, as well as in Kakuma refugee camp while it reduced in Coastal-, Northeastern- and Southern- and Western agro-pastoral zones.
- There was a direct correlation with the proportion of expenditures spent on food and the household food security status as well as the severity of coping strategies used. The majority of Food insecure households spent more than 75% of their income on food and used emergency livelihood coping strategies.
- The new admissions to supplementary feeding programmes for moderately malnourished children dramatically increased in July and August but reduced again in September. It is however higher than the two previous years and a reflection of the alarming results from anthropometric surveys in June.

## 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

2415 households were visited of which 51% were beneficiaries and 49% were non-beneficiaries.

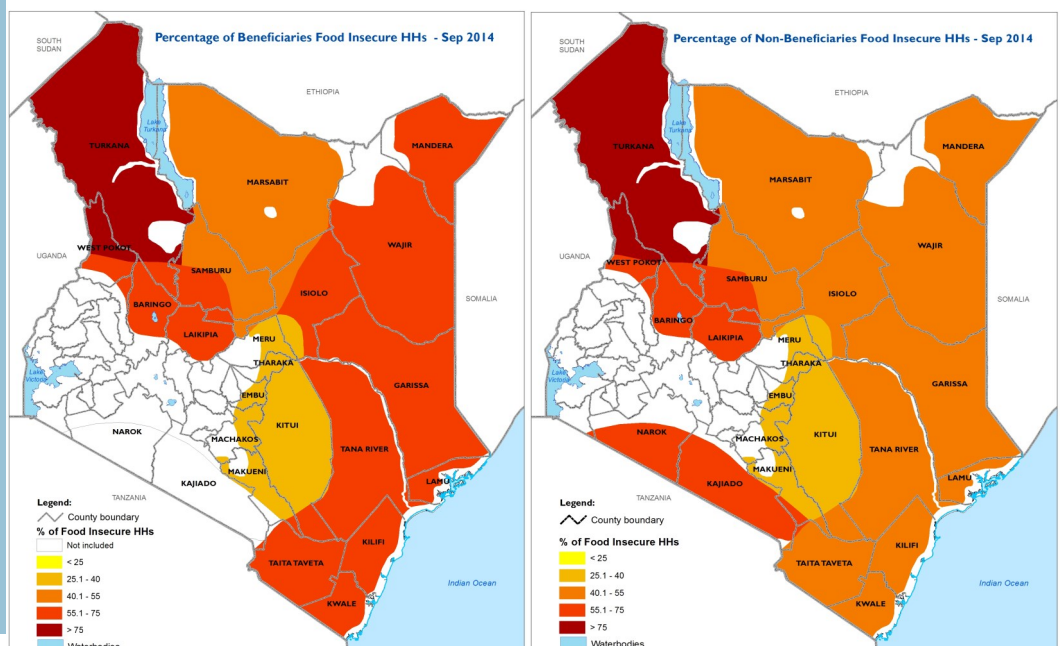
- Cash for assets-16%
- Food for assets 24%
- GFD 27%
- Refugees 16%

## Demographics

43% female headed households.  
Average household size, 4.5

## Food security situation

Turkana and parts of West Pokot were worst off with more than 75% of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries being food insecure (severely and moderately combined). The situation was best in the South-eastern marginal farming zone with less than 40% food insecure. Some 57% of households in Kaijado and Narok were food insecure. However, WFP has no food assistance programmes there at the moment as Kaijado was not recommended for immediate food assistance in the latest Long Rains assessment.



### Household Food security situation

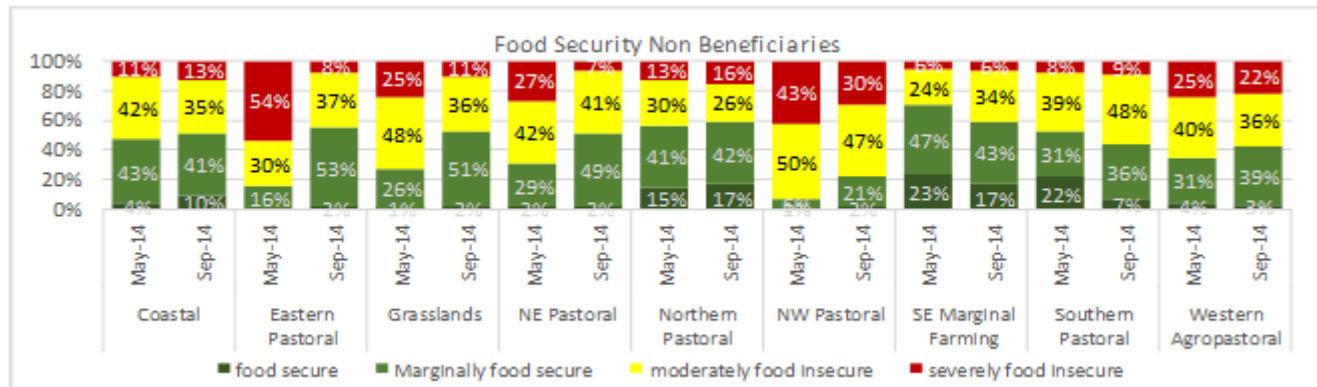
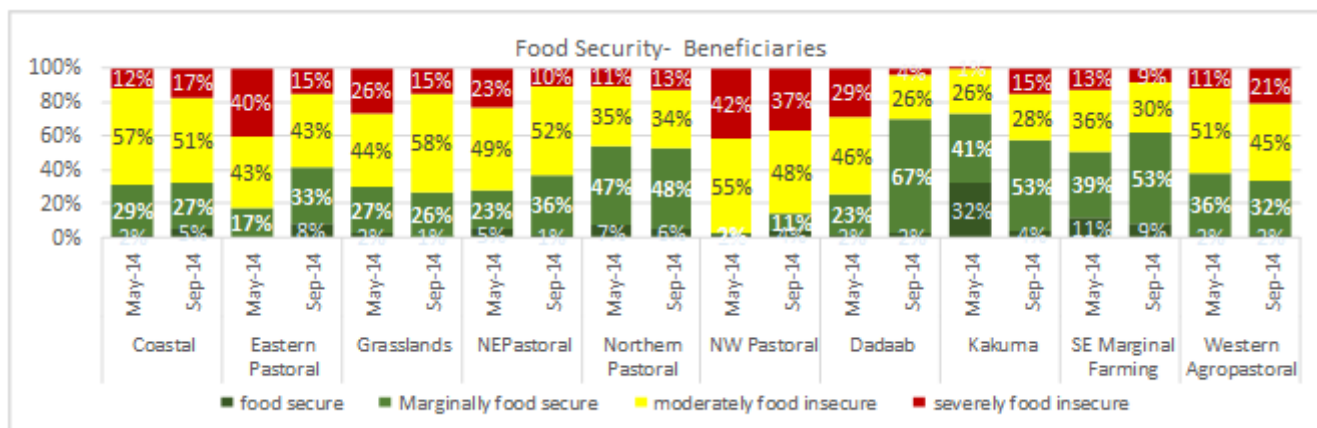
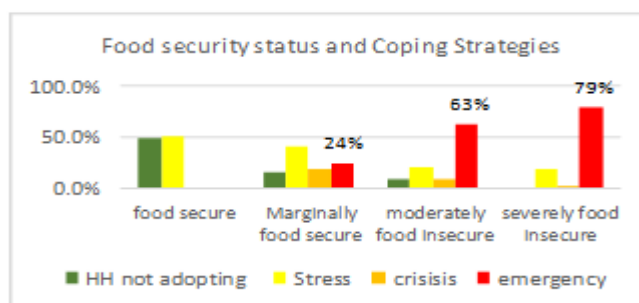
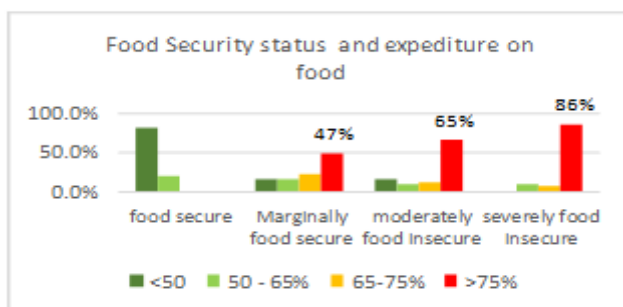
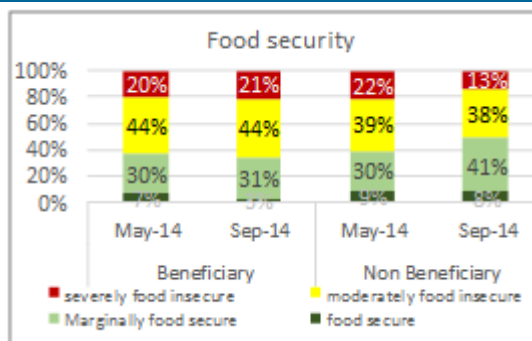
Based on WFP's new corporate categorisation of households' food security status where households are either food secure, marginally food secure, moderately food insecure or severely food insecure, the September data indicated that some 35% of beneficiaries were food secure and/or marginally food secure while some 20% were severely food insecure. The situation remained stable compared with May 2014.

The situation for non-beneficiaries improved since May as more households were marginally food secure and less severely food insecure in this round.

The Northwestern pastoral zone (Turkana) remained with the worst food security with over 35% of beneficiaries severely food insecure and 48% moderately food insecure. The situation among non-beneficiaries in Turkana was marginally better with 30% severely food insecure. The Long Rains assessment in August 2014 indicated that the proportion of people in need of immediate food assistance in Turkana had doubled compared with the same time in 2013.

The food security situation has improved since May in the Eastern-, Grasslands-, Northeastern- and Northwestern-pastoral zones as well as in Dadaab while the others remained stable. Kakuma on the other hand deteriorated and 15% were severely food insecure in September as compared with only 1% in May.

There was a direct correlation with the proportion of expenditures spent on food and the household food security status as well as the severity of coping strategies used. The majority of Food insecure households spent more than 75% of their income on food and used emergency livelihood coping strategies.



Food consumption for beneficiaries improved compared with May and there were only 10% of beneficiary households with poor consumption in September compared with 15% in previous years and in May 2014.

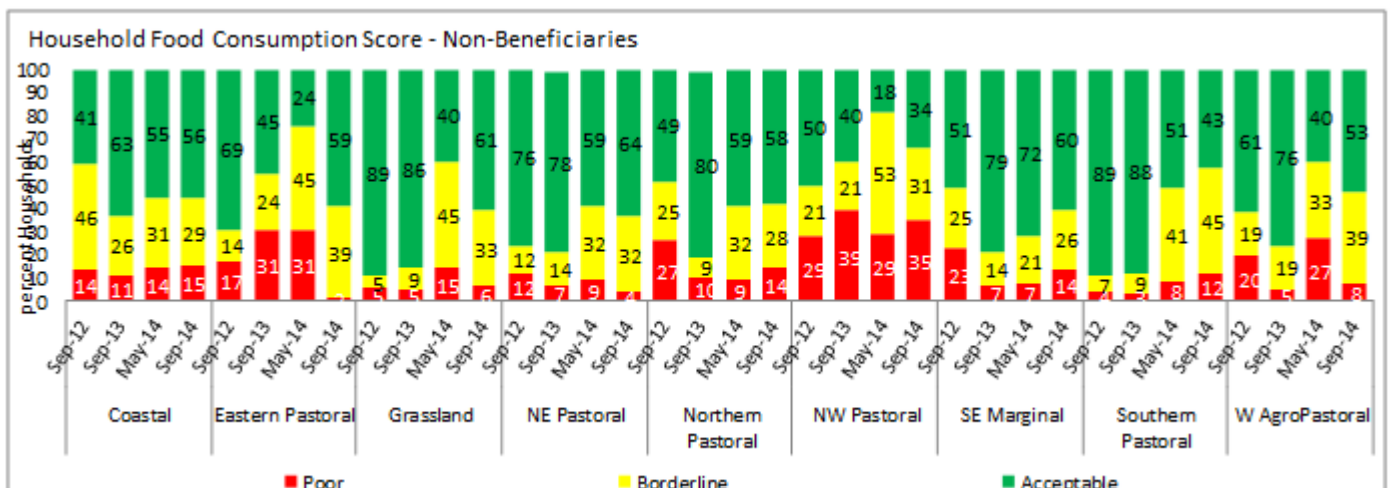
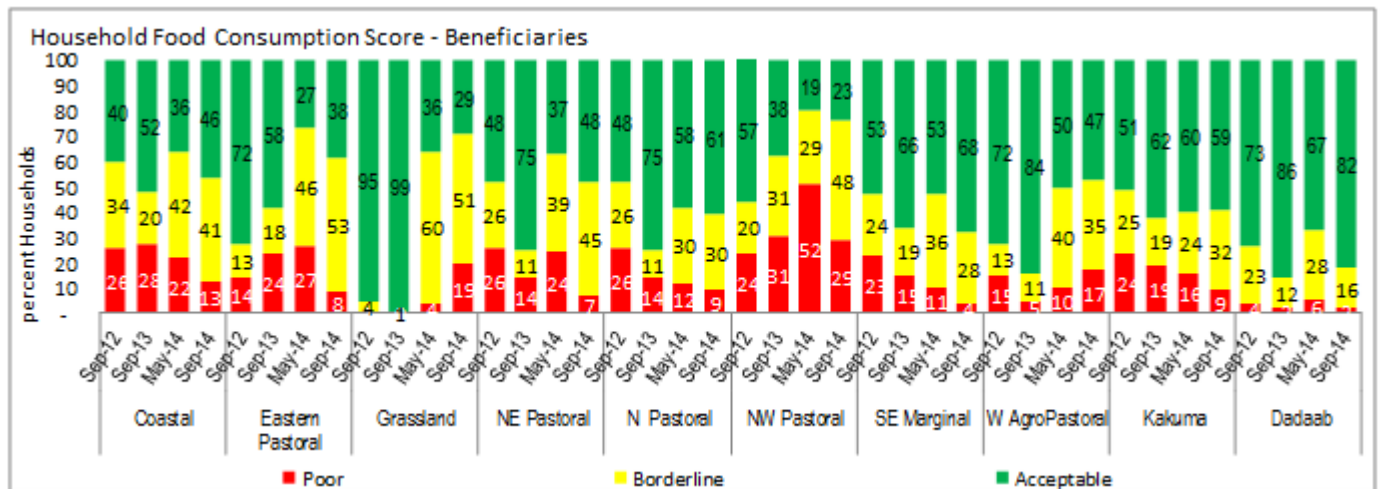
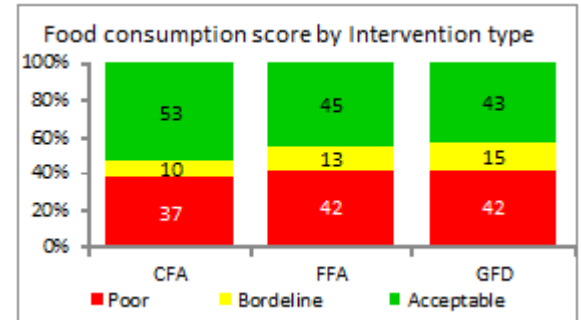
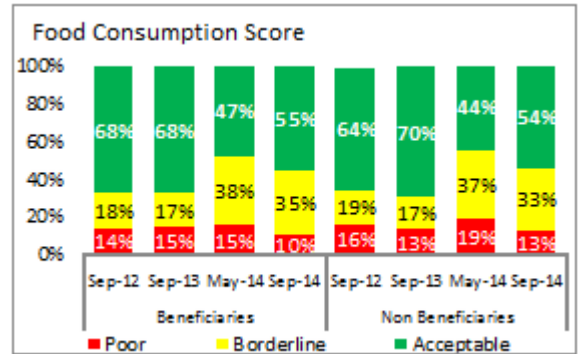
The proportion of households with acceptable consumption improved compared with May but is lower than the same period in 2012 and 2013. The situation and the changes in household food consumption for beneficiaries over the years reflects the same trends for non-beneficiaries.

There is little difference between the three different WFP intervention modalities where Cash for Food has a slightly higher proportion of households with an acceptable food consumption and less with poor consumption than households in General Food Distribution or Food for Asset. This is most likely a reflection of the different food security situations in the livelihood zones where cash and food for assets are implemented.

Compared with May, some improvements to the food consumption were seen among beneficiaries in the Coastal potential farming zone as well as in Eastern, Northeastern, and Northwestern pastoral zones and in South-eastern marginal mixed farming zone. Dadaab also improved.

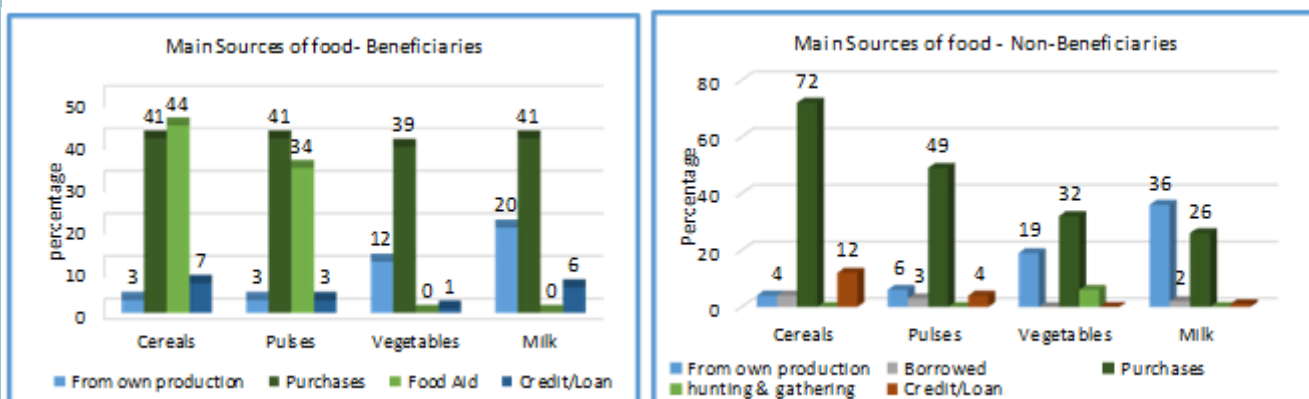
Kakuma has seen a steady reduction in households with poor food consumption compared with September the two previous years but the proportion of those with an acceptable food consumption score has remained relatively stable. The grasslands pastoral zone (parts of Wajir) deteriorated though and 19% of beneficiaries had a poor food consumption.

For non-beneficiary households the food consumption deteriorated in Northwestern and in Southern pastoral zones as well as in the Southeastern marginal mixed farming zone.



## Sources of Food

The main source of food for beneficiaries was the market for all commodities apart from cereals where food aid was slightly more important. The market was the main source among non-beneficiaries as well apart from milk where 36% sourced it from their own production. Some 20% of beneficiaries also produced their own milk. Purchasing food on credit was relatively important for beneficiaries where some 7% mentioned using credit for cereals and milk and 12% of non-beneficiaries also used credit to obtain cereals.



## Market Prices

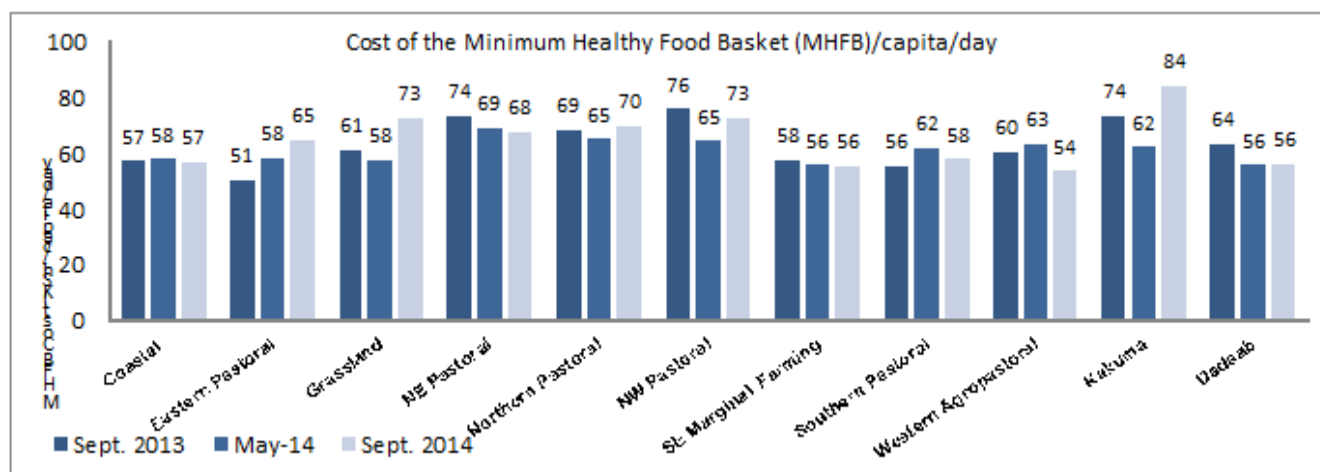
According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) September 2014 report, the inter-annual inflation rate stood at 6.60% which is lower than 7.30 % in May 2014 and 8.29% in September 2013, thus slightly easing the pressure on the cost of living.

The inter-annual food and non-alcoholic drinks' inflation stood at 8.40% also lower than 8.89% in May 2014) and 12.55% in September 2013. There were significant falls in the prices of several food items, which outweighed the slight increase in prices of other commodities (especially maize); for instance, the national average nominal retail price of one kilogram of sukuma wiki (kales), onions, carrots, cabbages and potatoes (Irish) fell by 33, 13, 43, 35, and 10 percent respectively while maize increased by 4%.

As per the price data collected during the September 2014 FSOM, nominal retail maize prices went up by 67% in the eastern pastoral, 25% in grassland pastoral and 4% in coastal marginal agricultural zone from September 2013 to September 2014, mainly driven by the poor long rains harvests. The increase in maize prices was however outweighed by decrease in price of other commodities in the food basket. In all other clusters, nominal maize prices fell by between 1 percent (northern and southern pastoral clusters) to 23 percent (western agro-pastoral cluster).

The cost of the Minimum Healthy Food Basket (MHFB) increased from May 2014 in the Eastern-, Grassland-, Northern-, and Northwest pastoral zones, as well as in Kakuma refugee camp. The price increase of the basket is an important driver in the deteriorating food access.

Within the same period, the cost remained constant in the South-eastern Marginal agricultural zone and Dadaab camp while it decreased in Coastal-, Northeastern- and Southern- and Western agro-pastoral zones. Kakuma camp had the highest basket cost at 84Ksh/capita/day which was mainly attributed to the increased prices of fresh milk and vegetable oil. Western agro-pastoral, South-eastern marginal agricultural and Daadab clusters had the lowest basket cost at around 56ksh/capita/day.



## Household Expenditure (income proxy)

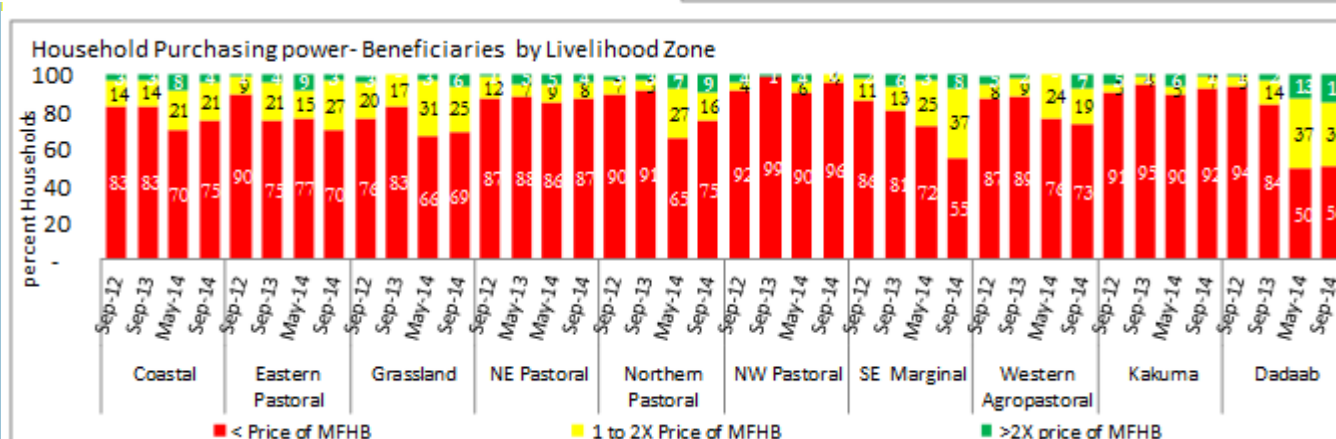
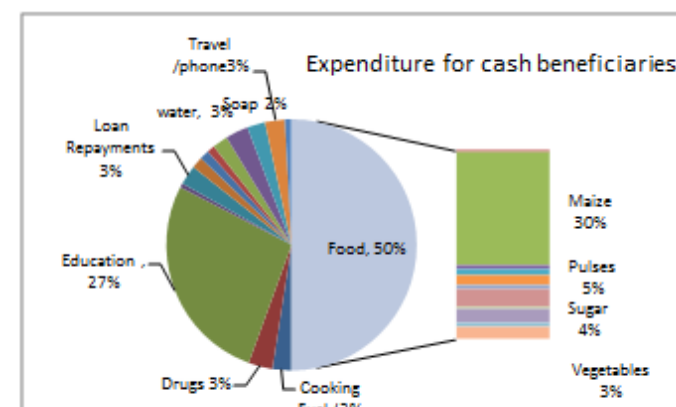
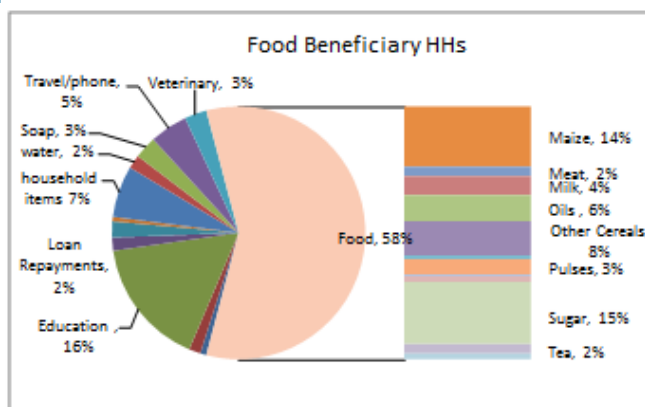
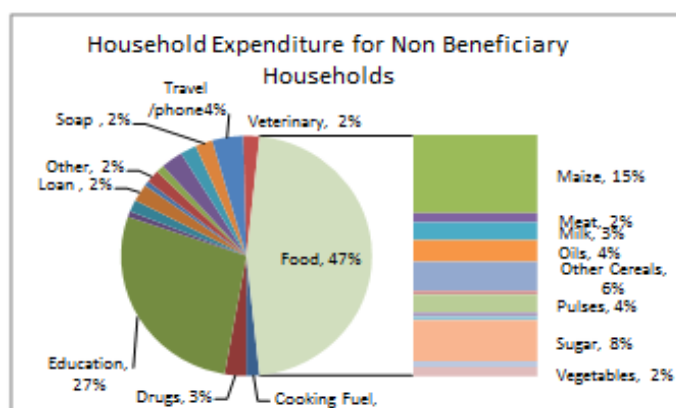
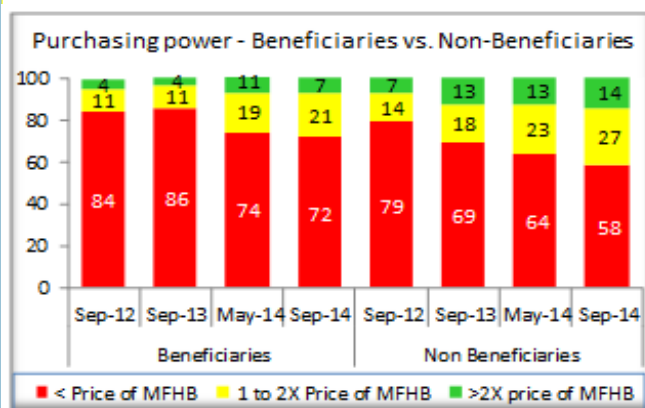
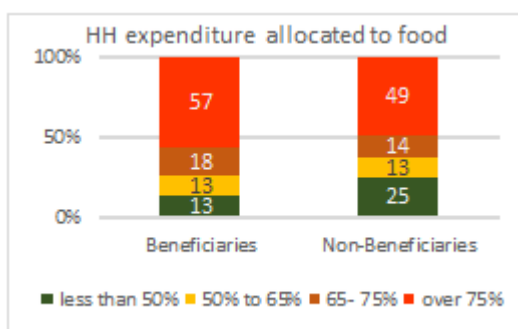
The majority of beneficiary households (57%) spent more than 75% of their income on food, making them very vulnerable to price increases. The situation was slightly better among non-beneficiaries but only 25% would cope well with price increases as they spend less than 50% of their income on food and thus have larger margins.

The purchasing power remained stable among beneficiaries compared with May but improved over the past two years. Some 30% could support themselves with the minimum healthy food basket.

There are however big differences between the livelihood zones. While the large majorities in most of the livelihood zones cannot afford the basket, the worst zone remains North-western pastoral zones where over 95% of household cannot afford the minimum basket. In contrast, some 45-50% of beneficiary households in South-eastern marginal mixed farming zone and Dadaab could afford the basket.

Education remains by far the biggest non-food expenditure item for all households followed by travel and phone expenditures. The average food expenditures varied where non-beneficiaries use their income on a relatively large variety of food items, including meat, milk and vegetables. Also Food beneficiaries who receive cereals, pulses and oil spend their money on a little meat and milk, however the item they spend most money on is sugar.

Among cash beneficiaries, the biggest expenditure item is maize with less than 1% spent on high quality animal protein.



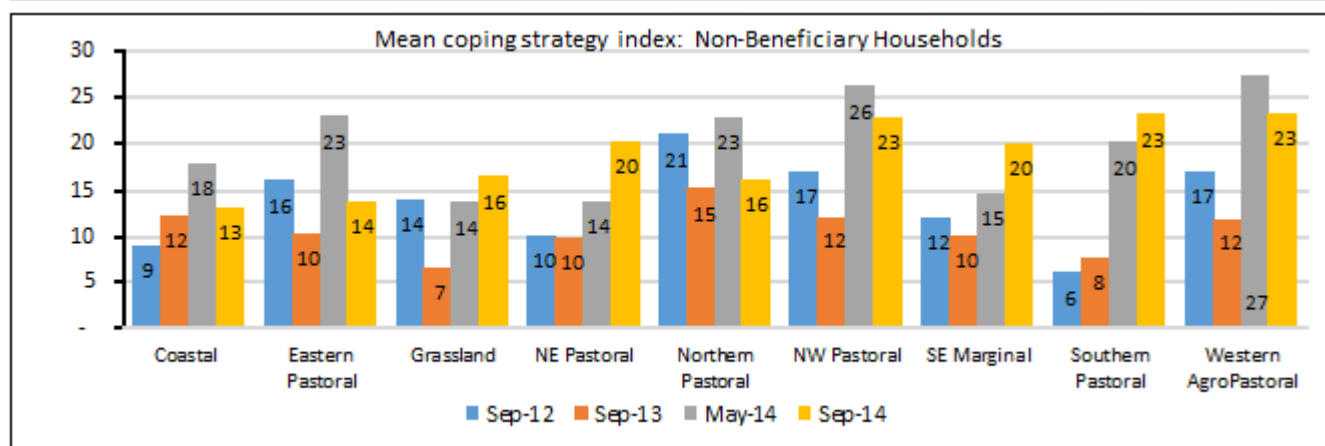
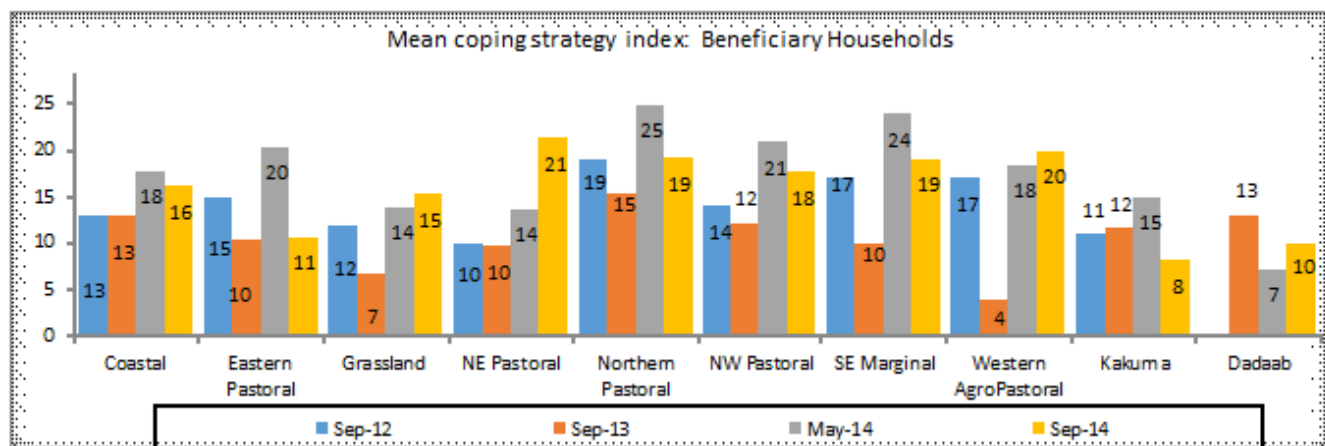
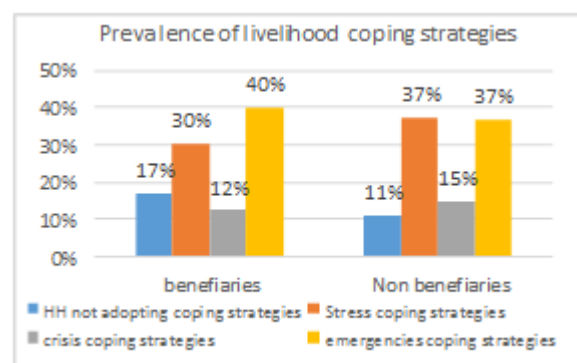
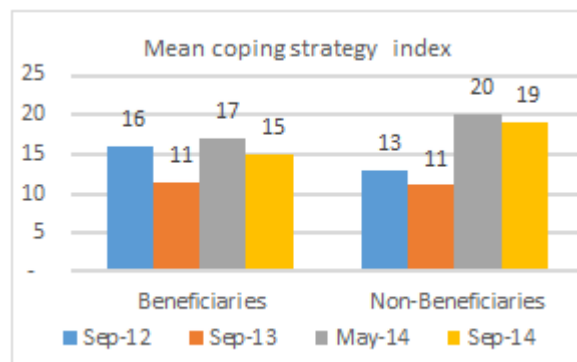
### Household Coping Strategies (CSI)

Eighty-five (85)% of the interviewed households reported having faced food shortage and are thus using coping strategies. The coping strategy index which is based on consumption related strategies reduced slightly compared with May for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The index and thus the severity and/or the frequency of the use of the coping strategies is higher among non-beneficiaries than beneficiaries and has increased compared with the previous two years. For beneficiaries, the index is the same as in 2012.

Some 40% of households using livelihood based strategies to cope were adopting emergency strategies such as selling last female animals, which are irreversible. A large proportion are also using stressed strategies that are less severe.

Non-beneficiaries were also using high levels of livelihood coping strategies in a similar pattern as the beneficiaries.

Also here the differences between livelihood zones were big. The zones where the index was highest among beneficiaries were in Northeastern and Western agropastoral zones with an index as high as 21. This can be compared with only 11 in Eastern pastoral zone. As mentioned, non-beneficiaries use more severe and/or more often strategies and therefore their index is higher. North-western-, Southern-, and Western agropastoral zones had the highest index of 23.



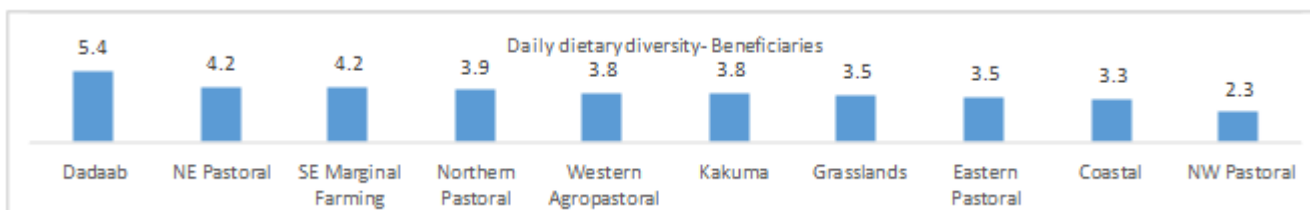
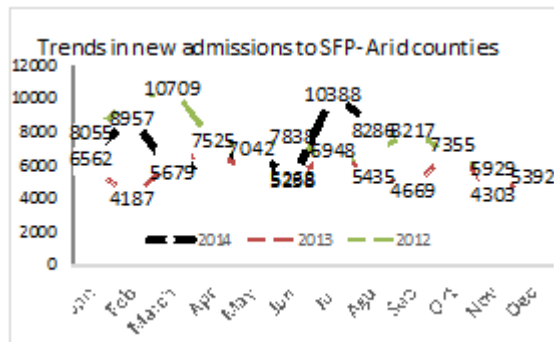
### Nutrition Situation

The preliminary findings from Dadaab anthropometric survey conducted in September indicated a slight reduction from in the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children less than 5 years of age from GAM at 9.9% in 2013 to 8.9% in September 2014. However it is not a statistically significant change and thus the nutritional situation in Dadaab is regarded as stable.

The admission rates to supplementary feeding programmes for moderately malnourished children dramatically increased in July and August but reduced again in September. It is however higher than the two previous years and is a reflection of the alarming results from anthropometric surveys in June.

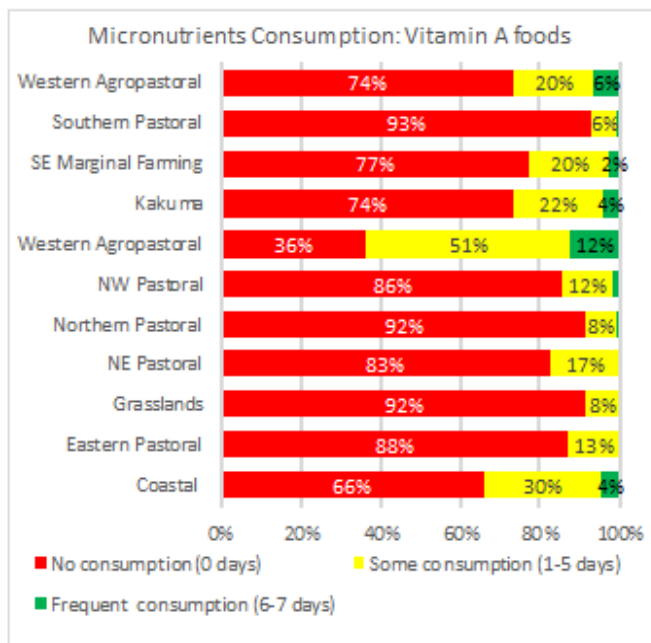
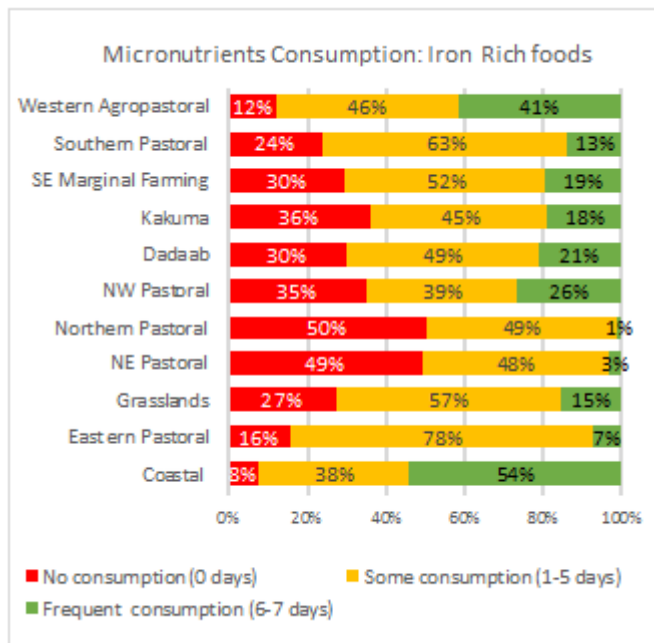
WFP has a new corporate indicator measuring infant and young child feeding (Minimum Acceptable Diet). In the interviewed households 405 children were in the age group 6-23months, of these only 2% met the criteria of having an acceptable diet and thus eating enough food groups and a minimum meal frequency in the past 24hours.

The infant's diet very much reflect that of the rest of the family who on average consumed fruits and animal proteins only once a week. Vegetables and dairy are consumed 3 times a week. The Daily Dietary Score (a new WFP corporate indicator) was slightly below the threshold for poor dietary diversity (<4.5). Non-beneficiaries had an average score of 3.9 and beneficiaries 4. Northwestern pastoral had by far the worst dietary diversity with a score of only 2.3.

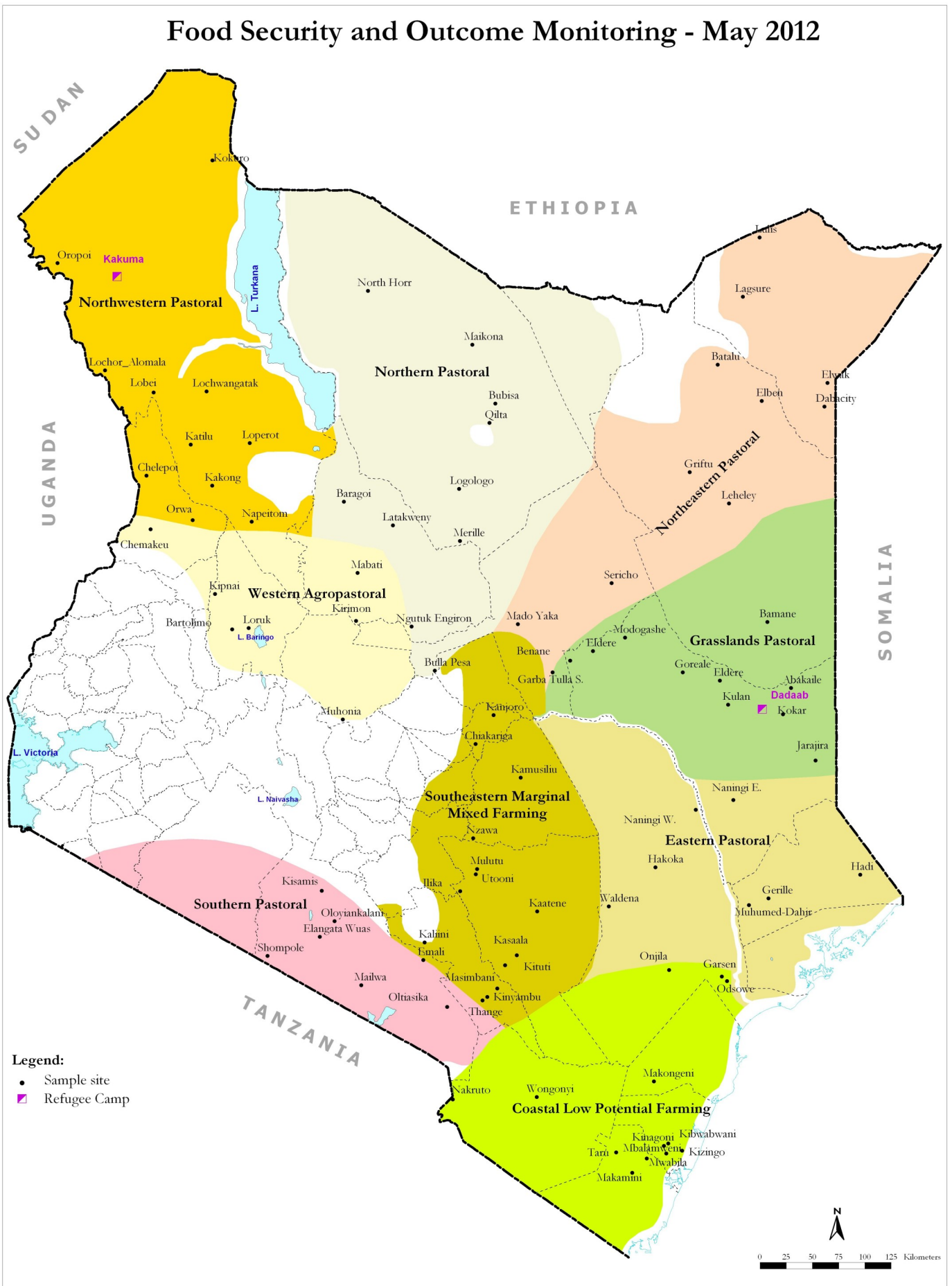


Looking at the livelihood zones, the zones with the largest proportion of households consuming iron rich foods were Coastal and Western agro pastoral zones where some 40-50% consumed frequently (6-7times a week) some foods rich in iron. The worst zones were Northern– and Northeastern pastoral zones where 50% of the households did not consume any iron rich food at all in the 7 days prior to the interview.

Consumption of Vitamin A rich foods was worse and only Western Agropastoral consumed at least some vitamin A rich foods. The worst was the southern pastoral where 93% did not consume any vitamin A rich food.



# 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.