



Kenya Food Security and Outcome monitoring (FSOM) Refugee Operation MAY 2017

Highlights

- Households that are food insecure have increased to 34% in Kakuma in May 2017 compared to the same time last year while food security has improved in Dadaab with the proportion of households that are food secure reducing from 21% to 10% during the same period.
- Similarly, food consumption has deteriorated in Kakuma and improved in Dadaab. In Kakuma the proportion of households with a poor diet is 10% compared to 5% last year. In Dadaab, those with a poor diet have remained the same at 1-2% but more households that had borderline consumption now have an acceptable diet (95%).
- Households in Dadaab on average had more consumption days of other food groups that have high nutrient value than households in Kakuma and the daily average dietary diversity score in Dadaab has been improving and is currently 7 and in Kakuma the dietary diversity score is 5.
- No significant increase in admission trend was noted in Dadaab while an increase in admissions was noted in Kakuma within the year as compared to previous years. Kalobeyi is a new settlement established last year and the increase in admissions was due to an increase in the population as new arrivals are being settled as well as relocatees from Dadaab.
- Households in Kakuma applied consumption coping strategies more frequently than households in Dadaab with an index of 13 in Kakuma compared to 8 in Dadaab in May 2017. Of the households adopting livelihood coping strategies, majority in Dadaab (50%) and Kakuma (44%) were employing "Stress" strategies.

Methodology

Methodology 10 clusters were randomly selected in Kakuma and Dadaab. 15 households are randomly selected and interviewed in each cluster. Due to security constraints in Dadaab, household visits are not possible and interviews are therefore carried out during distributions.

Indicators

Each household has been assigned to a Food Security Index group based on a simple averaging process using the 4 point scale scores it attained for each indicator. Specifically, each household's Food Security Index classification is based on a simple average of their food consumption score (current status) and their coping capacity score. The latter is itself formed from a simple average of the food expenditure share score and the asset depletion score.

Monitoring coverage

318 households interviewed
Dadaab 193
Kakuma 125

Summary demographics

Female-headed households
Dadaab 27%
Kakuma 65%

Average Household Size

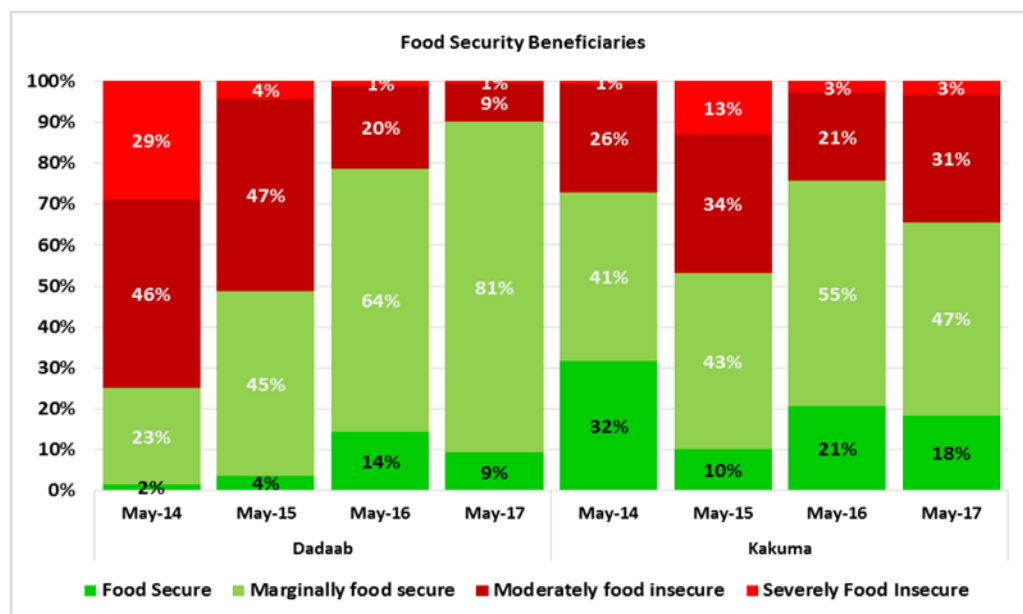
Dadaab 4.8
Kakuma 5.9

Household Food security situation

Among those considered as food insecure (severe and moderate), household food security has improved in Dadaab while it has deteriorated in Kakuma in May this year compared to the same period last year.

In Kakuma, the proportion of households who are food insecure is 34% compared with 24% last year. Though the people who are severely food insecure is similar to May 2016 at 3%, those that are moderately food insecure increased from 21% last year to 31% this year. Households that were in the marginally food secure (7%) and food secure (3%) categories have moved into the moderately food insecure phase.

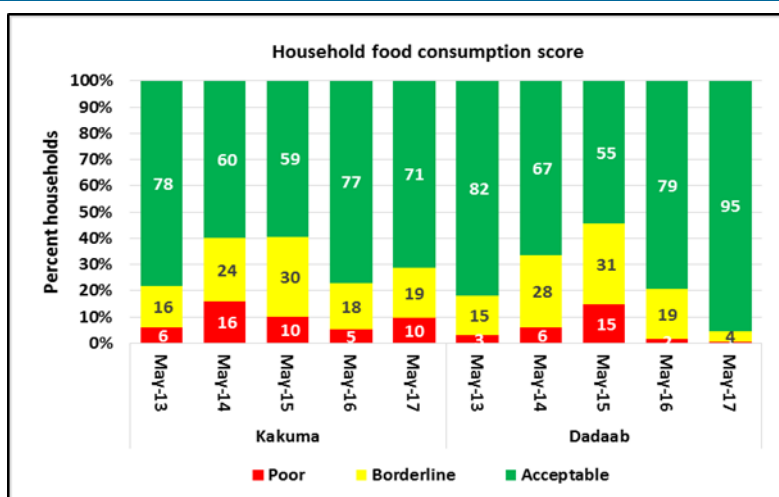
Some 10 percent of households remain food insecure in Dadaab down from 21% in 2016. More households (81%) are marginally food secure compared to 64% last year while the proportion of households who are food secure reduced from 14% last year to 9% currently.



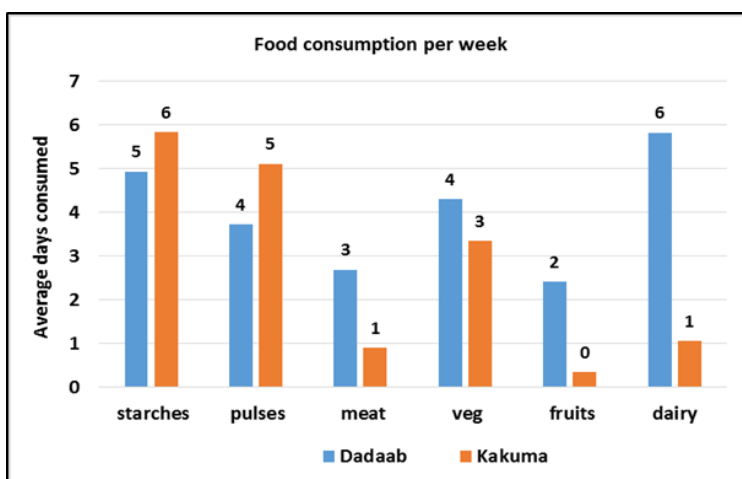
The household food consumption has deteriorated in Kakuma and has improved in Dadaab compared to the same period last year.

In Kakuma, more people (10%) currently have a poor diet compared with 5% in May 2016. Those with borderline food consumption remains comparable while the proportion of households with acceptable consumption has reduced from 77% last year to 71% in 2017.

In Dadaab, the proportion of households with acceptable consumption is the highest over the last four years in the months of May. Currently, some 95% have acceptable consumption compared with 79 last year. Households with borderline consumption reduced from 19% to 4% in 2017.



The deterioration and improvement of food consumption score is reflected in the quality and diversity of the diets in Kakuma and Dadaab respectively. Households in Dadaab on average had more consumption days of other food groups that have high nutrient value than households in Kakuma. In Dadaab meat was consumed 3 times in a week compared to once in Kakuma. Consumption of dairy products was almost daily in Dadaab while in Kakuma consumption of the same was very low (1 day) weekly. In Kakuma, households hardly consumed any fruits while vegetables were consumed on average 3-4 times in a week in both camps.



Consequently, the daily average dietary diversity score in Dadaab has been improving and is currently 7 which implies they have been consuming almost all the food groups but with varying frequencies per week. In Kakuma the dietary diversity score is 5. Dietary diversity is on average still better than the livelihoods areas of the host communities in the Northwest (4 in Turkana) and Northeast (5 in Turkana).

Nutrition situation

From August 2016, the MAM admissions includes both the moderately malnourished children and Pregnant and Lactating women (PLWs), and not just the children as was previously being reported. This has been done in order to harmonize the nutrition admissions being reported in FSOM reports for both the ASAL counties and the Refugee Camps. The number of PLWs are however few, and thus for the period they have been included, this may not contribute to significant increase of admissions, in comparison to the previous years.

Dadaab

No significant increase in admission trend was noted in Dadaab. An increase in admission was however noted in May and June as compared to April, due to heavy rains in the month of May resulting in flooding of some sections of the camps. This affected the sanitation practices leading to an increase in infections and watery diarrhoea, which could have had an effect on the nutrition situation among the children. Mother Child Health week was also conducted in May and one of the activities involved nutrition screening at the home level, thus resulting in timely identification of the malnourished children and consequently an increase in admissions due to the increased referrals.

Kakuma

An increase in admissions noted in Kakuma within the year as compared to previous years. This could possibly be associated with some new arrivals arriving in the camp with poor nutrition status and poor sanitation and hygiene practices.

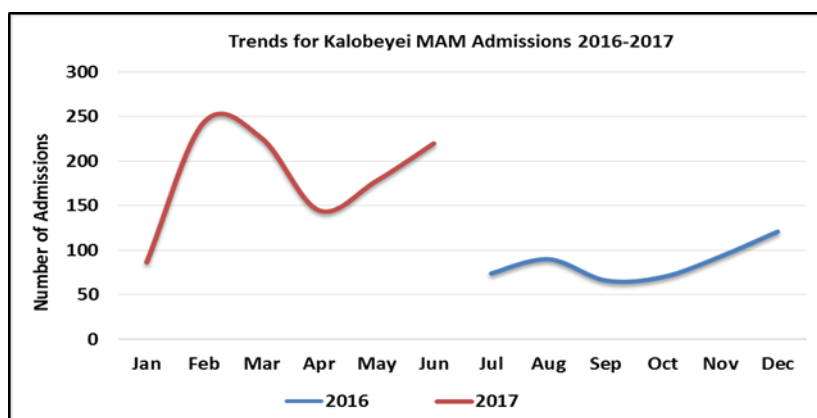
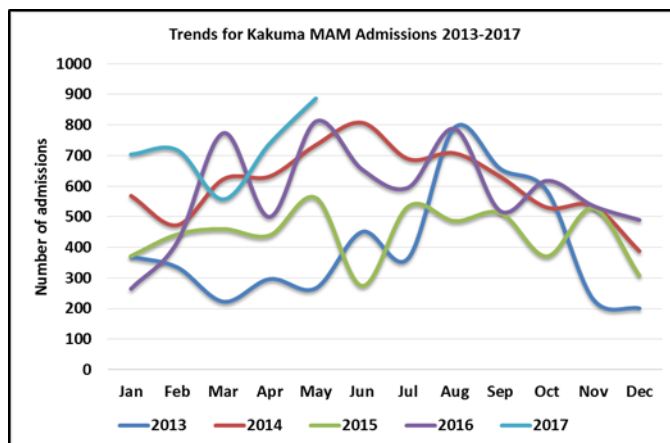
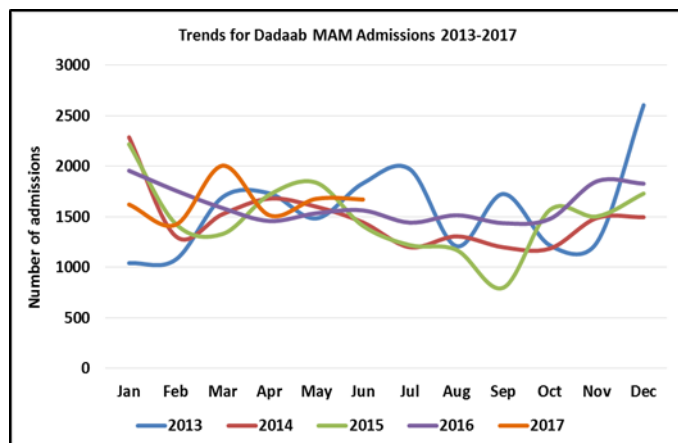
Kalobeyi

Kalobeyi is a new settlement established last year and thus the increase in admissions is due to an increase in the population as new arrivals are being settled as well as relocatees from Dadaab.

Within the first quarter of the year, there was an increase in watery diarrhoea cases, which caused deterioration of the nutrition status of children who were admitted into the appropriate treatment programme.

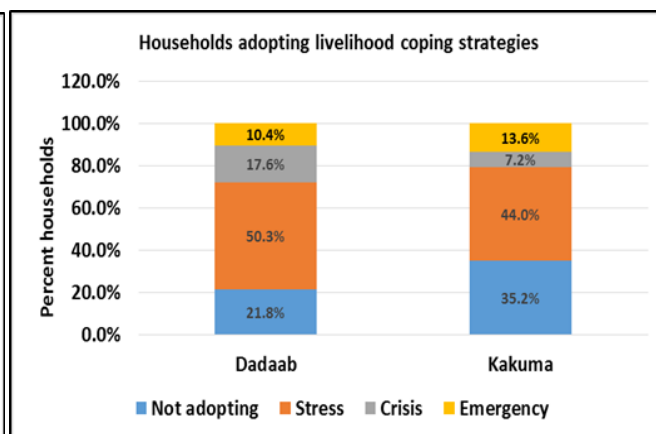
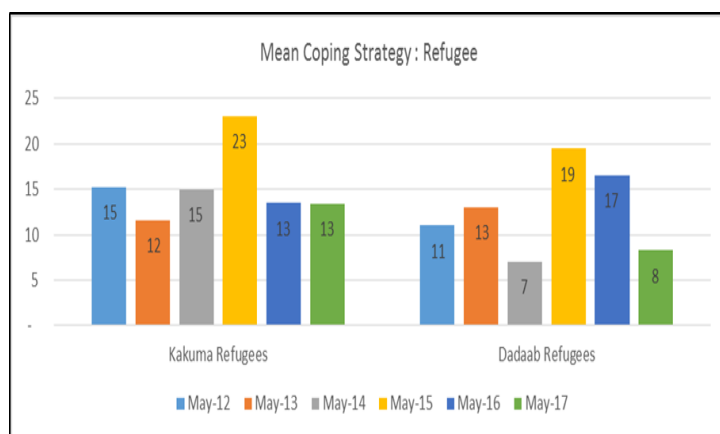
Cholera outbreak in the camps

Cholera outbreak was declared in Dadaab and Kakuma/Kalobeyei in April and May respectively. An assessment was conducted in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, at the end of May and some of the issues that were noted could have further aggravated the nutrition situation in both Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Some of the issues included; poor access to adequate water; no handwashing facilities; Inadequate latrine coverage; and open defecation and poor hygiene and sanitation practices especially among the new arrivals. Discussion with UNHCR and relevant partners is currently being held on ways in which the living conditions can be improved with access to water and hygiene/sanitation standards as priorities, with longer term strategies on behavior change communication on sanitation and hygiene messaging being explored.



Household Coping Strategies

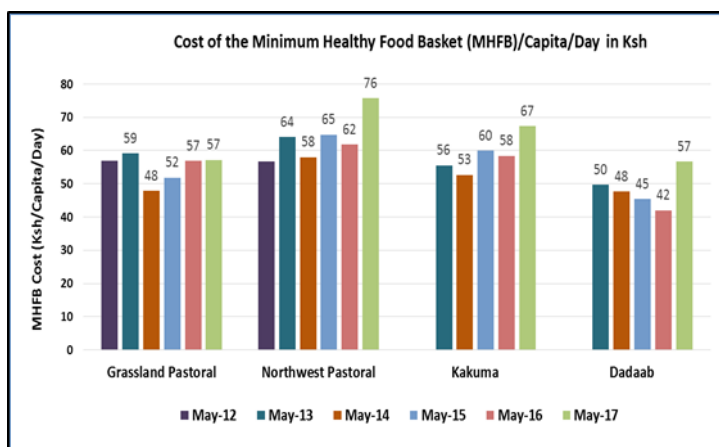
Among the refugee communities, households in Kakuma applied consumption coping strategies more frequently than households in Dadaab with an index of 13 compared to 8 in May 2017 respectively. There was a significant improvement in Dadaab compared to same period in 2016 where the index was 17. Coping for households in Kakuma remained stable for 2016 and 2017 May comparatively. Of the households adopting livelihood coping strategies, majority in Dadaab (50%) and Kakuma (44%) were employing "Stress" strategies by either purchasing food on credit, borrowing money or spending their savings. Less than 15% of households in both camps were using "Emergency" strategies like begging or selling of the female livestock. More households in Kakuma (35%) were not adopting any of the livelihood coping strategies compared to 22 percent in Dadaab.



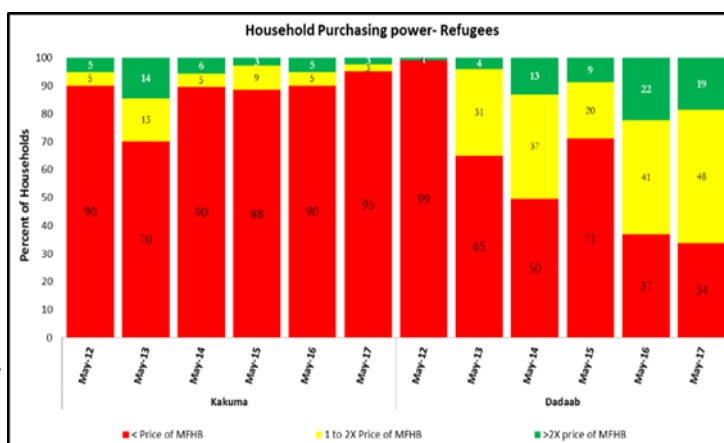
Market Prices

Maize price data collected during the May 2017 FSOM shows that, nominal retail prices increased by 55% in Kakuma and 81% in Dadaab, from a year on year comparison. This atypical price increase reflected the reduced supplies from the 2016 short-rains harvest, due to the failure of the rainy season. Prices of maize were also underpinned by concerns over the upcoming 2017 long-rains harvest, due to early season dryness and the fall armyworm infestations. The highest price increases - between May 2016 and May 2017 - were recorded in maize (by Ksh 22 in both Kakuma and Dadaab); sugar (by Ksh 72 in Kakuma and 38 in Dadaab) and fresh milk (by Ksh 6 in Kakuma and 42 in Dadaab).

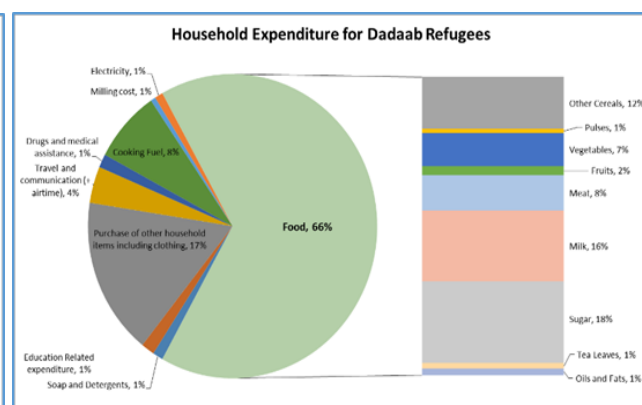
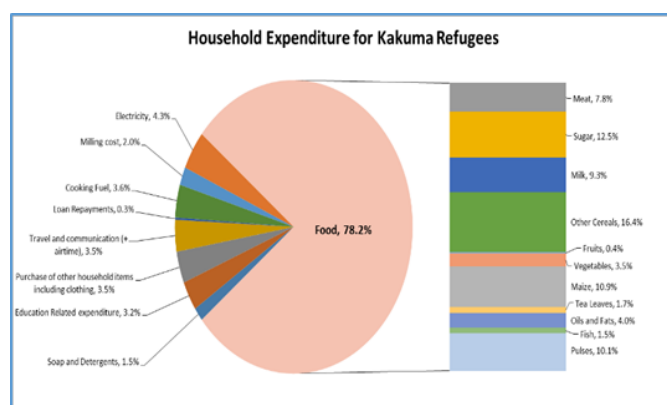
The cost of the Minimum Acceptable Healthy Food Basket (MAHFB) was 15% and 35% in Kakuma and Dadaab respectively, from a year on year comparison. The basket cost was 11% and 1% lower in Kakuma and Dadaab respectively, as compared to average basket cost, in the livelihood zones where they are situated (North-western and Grassland pastoral). Turkana County had the second highest basket price in the country. Dadaab had recorded a drop in the food basket cost in the last 4 years, however this trend was reversed this year, as prices of most essential food commodities were higher - from a year on year comparison - in both camps.



Purchasing power has remained the same for the past three years in Kakuma, there was a slight deterioration, where 95% of the households could not afford the minimum healthy food basket as compared to 90% in May last year. The situation in Dadaab was very different, where 66% of the households, could afford the basket from their own income generating activities, a slight improvement from 63% in May last year.



Households in Kakuma spend on average 78% of their income on food, while households in Dadaab spend 66% of their income on food. Expenditure on all essential food items dropped on a year on year comparison, due the sharp increase in prices. Sugar and high value proteins, such as meat and milk were top expenditure items, together with other cereals than the WFP ration. In Kakuma, fish was among the high value proteins that households spend on, though at a low proportion of 1.5%. Expenditure on maize and other pulses than the WFP ration, was considerably high in Kakuma as compared to Dadaab. Vegetables and fruits expenditure was higher in Dadaab, as compared to Kakuma.



Food security console

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 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.