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1.0 | INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of the 2025 Short Rains Assessment

The Kenya Food and Nutrition Security Assessment (FNSA) is a multi-sectoral, multi-agency exercise spearheaded by the Government of Kenya. It is conducted in 23 Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties as well as the refugee camps of Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei. Additionally, the assessment was conducted in hot spots of nine ASAL counties of Kenya.

The assessment is coordinated by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in collaboration with the County Steering Groups (CSGs) bringing together representatives from government ministries, United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the food and nutrition security sector. The multi-agency assessment team is chaired by the National Drought Management Authority, with the World Food Programme serving as co-chair.

The assessments are conducted bi-annually following the bimodal rainfall pattern experienced in the ASAL counties, after the long rains (March to May) and the short rains (October to December). The 2026 Long Rains Assessment was conducted from 13th July to 4th August 2026.

1.2 Objective

The assessment sought to establish the impact of the 2026 long rains on food and nutrition security across 23 ASAL counties, as well as the food security situation in the refugee camps. It examined the combined effects of the season and other shocks influencing food security, including their implications for food availability, access, utilization, and stability. The report analyzes both the underlying drivers and the resulting outcomes, assessing their effects on critical livelihood sectors such as livestock, water, agriculture, health and nutrition, education, peace and security, and markets and trade. It also outlines recommended interventions based on the findings and presents the overall results of the assessment.

1.3 Methodology and Coverage

The assessment primarily examined acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition, while also accounting for underlying chronic drivers. It addressed the four dimensions of food security; availability, access, utilization, and stability. In addition, the analysis considered how other contributing factors affected key sectors, including agriculture, livestock, water, health and nutrition, education, peace and security, and markets and trade. The assessment further proposed both immediate and long-term interventions to respond to the challenges identified in each sector.

The assessment covered the 23 counties that make up Kenya's ASAL region and hot spots in 9 additional counties (Machakos, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Nakuru, Elgeyo

Marakwet, Migori, Homa Bay and Siaya), where populations are typically among the most food-insecure due to elevated poverty levels, heightened exposure to shocks and hazards, the effects of arid conditions and highly variable rainfall. It also included the three refugee settlements of Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei.

The livelihoods are the main units of analysis with the main livelihood zones within these clusters include Pastoralism, Agro-pastoralism, Mixed Farming, Marginal Mixed Farming, and limited Irrigated Cropping clustered across the counties as follows;

- i. Pastoral North-East: Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Tana River and Wajir.
- ii. Coastal Marginal Agriculture: Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu and Taita Taveta.
- iii. Pastoral North-West: Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana.
- iv. South-East Marginal Agriculture: Embu, Kitui, Makueni, Meru and Tharaka Nithi.
- v. Agro-pastoral: Baringo, Kajiado, Laikipia, Narok, the northern part of Nyeri county (Kieni sub-county) and West Pokot.

The main livelihood systems within these clusters include Pastoralism, Agro-pastoralism, Mixed Farming, Marginal Mixed Farming, and limited Irrigated Cropping, which collectively served as the units of analysis.

The assessment drew on both primary and secondary data sources. The key sources included:

- i. NDMA's drought early warning and monitoring system.
- ii. Data collected from the relevant sectors at county and sub-county level.
- iii. Secondary data from Kenya Health Information System (KHIS).
- iv. FEWNET and Kenya Meteorological Department Agro-climatic data.
- v. WFP's food security outcome monitoring.
- vi. Field observations during transect drives.
- vii. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) poverty and population figures.
- viii. Community and market interviews, utilizing focus group discussions with community members and structured interviews with traders.

The analysis applied the **Acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC Version 3.1)** to assess severity and root causes. Additionally, **IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis** helped determine both food and non-food factors contributing to malnutrition. The IPC is a standard global tool for classifying the severity of food insecurity and ensures that best practices are adhered to.

counties generally received enhanced or near-average rainfall, with southern Kajiado, southern Narok and Tiaty performing best. In the South Eastern Marginal Agriculture (SEMA) Livelihoods cluster, Kitui received the highest amounts (mostly 141–200% of normal, and over 200% in some wards). Makueni mostly received enhanced rainfall, while Embu and Meru were largely near average. Along the Coast about 90% of the assessed areas received near-average rainfall.

Even though many areas received good total amounts, the rainfall was not well spread in space or time. Some places received heavy rain in a few days followed by long dry spells. This was common in Garissa, Mandera, parts of Isiolo, Tana River and the Pastoral Northwest. Rainfall peaked early in March in several northern areas instead of the usual April peak. In Samburu, March alone contributed about 67% of the whole season's rain. In Isiolo some stations recorded over 20 rainy days while others recorded fewer than 10. Wajir and parts of Kitui and Tharaka Nithi had better distribution. Distribution was more uneven in Narok, Baringo, West Pokot and the lower parts of Embu, Meru and Makueni. Hinterland areas along the Coast also had poorer distribution than the coastal strip.

The rains ended at the normal time or earlier in most places, which shortened the growing period. In Wajir the rains stopped in the first week of May, earlier than normal. In Mandera they stopped in late April in most areas. In Isiolo they ended in late April in many places. Garissa ended at the normal time in mid-May. In the Pastoral Northwest the rains generally stopped between late April and mid-May. In the lower parts of Embu and Meru they ended in early May, while higher areas and the Coast continued longer, with some light rain into June and July. Agropastoral areas mostly ended in late May.

Although many parts of the country received near-average or enhanced rainfall, the early start followed by dry spells, poor distribution in May, and early cessation limited the benefits. Pasture, water sources and crops did not recover as well as the total amounts might suggest, especially in areas that received depressed rainfall or long dry periods.

2.2 Conflict and insecurity

Insecurity and conflict remained an important driver of food and nutrition insecurity in several parts of Kenya during the assessment period and into the July 2026 outlook. The problem was most severe in the Pastoral Northeast and Pastoral Northwest clusters, with more localised effects in the Agropastoral, SEMA and Coast areas. Conflict affected all three pillars of food security — availability, access and stability — by causing livestock and crop losses, restricting movement to grazing areas and markets, disrupting trade, and increasing uncertainty for households.

The main reasons for conflict were competition over scarce natural resources (pasture, water points, grazing corridors and riverine land), which was made worse by the uneven recovery of rangelands after the MAM 2026 rains. Other important drivers included the

commercialisation of livestock theft and the spread of illegal firearms, cross-border livestock movements and historical inter-clan or inter-community tensions (especially along the Kenya–Somalia and Kenya–Ethiopia borders), Al-Shabaab activity in border areas, human–wildlife conflict caused by climate-related habitat changes and expansion of human activities into wildlife areas, local governance grievances over land, boundaries and resource allocation, youth unemployment, poverty, and weak security presence in remote locations. Cycles of retaliation also kept some conflicts active.

Major hotspots were concentrated in the arid and semi-arid lands. In the Pastoral Northeast these included Lagdera, Balambala, Ijara, Dadaab, Fafi and areas along the River Tana in Garissa; Mandera East, Mandera North, Mandera South and Lafey (including areas near the Kenya–Somalia border); Garbatulla (especially Malkadaka), Oldonyiro (Kipsing) and Quri in Isiolo; Basir Ward and areas receiving pastoralists from Ethiopia in Wajir; and Bangale, Tana North, Tana River, Galledyertu and Tana Delta in Tana River. In the Pastoral Northwest hotspots included North Horr, Moyale, Laisamis, Sololo, Shurr, Gas, Dakaye, Sarima, Loglogo and several grazing belts in Marsabit; Loosuk, Poro, Suguta and border areas in Samburu; and Naipetom, Lokwamosing, Kakitetei, Kalemngorok, Kaputir and Kakong in Turkana. In other clusters, hotspots were more localised: parts of Narok (inter-community conflict and cattle rustling); areas around Amboseli, Nairobi National Park, Tsavo West and wildlife corridors in Kajiado; several wards in Laikipia (including Muramati, Marura, Mutara, Salama, Ngobit and Rumuruti); Tseikuru Ward in Kitui; and Tigania East in Meru. The Coast remained largely stable, although livestock influx from neighbouring counties increased pressure on pasture and water in some locations.

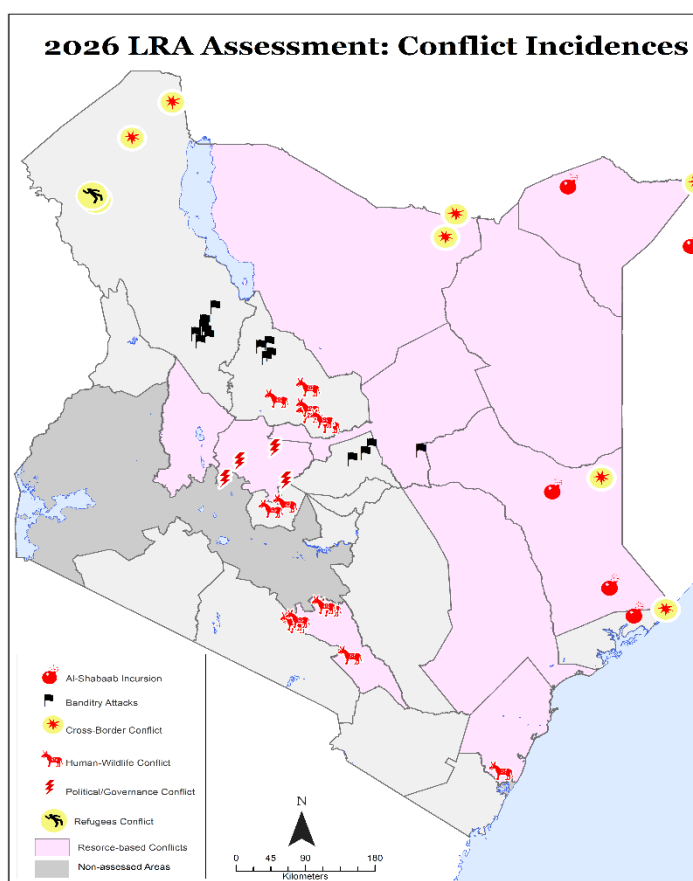


Figure 2 Locations of reported cases of conflict by type

Responses combined formal security operations with community-based approaches. Multi-agency teams involving the Kenya Police Service, General Service Unit, Anti-Stock Theft Unit, National Police Reservists and other agencies conducted operations, pursuits and recovery of stolen livestock. County and national government administrations, peace

committees, local elders and cross-border peace initiatives organised dialogue, resource-sharing agreements and rapid interventions that prevented larger escalations in several cases. In some areas collaboration with neighbouring regional governments (for example Ethiopia's Oromia region) supported the opening of new markets and reduced cross-border tensions. Compensation for human–wildlife damage remained only minimally effective. Continuous security operations reduced the operational space of Al-Shabaab, although the group retained capacity for localised attacks. Strengthening natural resource management and sustained peace-building remain essential.

Precise national totals are incomplete, but documented incidents show the scale of impact. In Garissa, five resource-related incidents resulted in the theft of approximately 250 goats and sheep and 30 cattle, two fatalities and four injuries; two major incidents in Balambala displaced about 10 households. In Mandera, an IED attack on 28 July 2026 killed five Kenyan security personnel. In Isiolo, 700 shoats were stolen in Garbatulla (300 recovered), more than 20 shoats were stolen in recurrent Oldonyiro raids, and wildlife killed over 250 shoats while destroying crops. Markets in Kipsing, Ngarandare and Lebarua remained closed for two months. In Tana River, 15–20 resource-based incidents restricted access to 300–500 acres of farmland, 50–100 livestock were stolen and 30–50 killed, and 80–120 households (about 500–600 people) were temporarily displaced. In Marsabit, incidents included the killing of herders and four people during a livestock raid, theft of 10 camels, and temporary closure of the Moyale–Marsabit corridor that raised the price of a 2 kg packet of maize flour from KES 180 to KES 300. In Meru, 21 banditry incidents in Tigania East resulted in the theft of approximately 1,570 livestock and the death of 20 animals. In Kitui, an isolated attack in Tseikuru Ward caused eight fatalities. In Laikipia, human–wildlife conflict caused crop losses of up to 40% in several wards.

The main types reported were resource-based conflict which were most widespread driven by competition over pasture, water, grazing corridors and riverine land, made worse by uneven MAM recovery and climate-induced livestock movements (including cross-border). Others included Banditry and livestock theft, Human–wildlife conflict reported in in Isiolo, parts of Tana River, Kajiado, Laikipia, Embu and Meru, causing crop destruction and livestock predation.

Al-Shabaab-related attacks and intimidation mainly along the Kenya–Somalia border in Mandera and Garissa were reported as well as inter-community, inter-clan and cross-border tensions particularly in border areas of Mandera, Wajir, Marsabit, Samburu and parts of Narok.

2.2.1 Impacts of conflict with respect to food security

Conflict affected all three pillars of food security. On availability, it caused direct losses of livestock through theft, predation and conflict-related deaths, restricted access to productive grazing areas and water points, destroyed crops (especially by wildlife and in

contested riverine zones), and reduced own-production from disrupted farming. On access, market closures and disruptions (for example in Benane, Modogashe, Kipsing, Ngarandare, Lebarua, Bangale, Madogo and the Moyale–Marsabit corridor) forced households to travel longer distances and incur higher costs. Household income from livestock sales and milk declined, food prices rose in some areas because of supply constraints, and expenditure on livestock treatment or alternative livelihoods increased. On stability, continued uncertainty over access to rangelands, water and markets, the risk of renewed displacement or movement restrictions, and the erosion of already weakened coping capacity (especially among poor and very poor households) increased vulnerability. Although major population displacements caused solely by conflict were limited, localized displacement, asset losses and market disruptions continued to raise acute food insecurity risks.

Resource-based conflict and banditry are expected to intensify during the August–October dry season as pasture and water decline further, while Al-Shabaab-related threats are likely to remain persistent but contained by ongoing security operations. Strengthened peacebuilding, better natural resource governance, market security and cross-border coordination remain critical to protecting food and nutrition security.

2.3 Hazards

2.3.1 Disease epidemics – human and livestock

Several human disease outbreaks were recorded during the assessment period. In Garissa a polio outbreak was reported with 14 acute flaccid paralysis cases and six environmental samples; Lagdera Sub-County also recorded a measles outbreak with six confirmed cases. Response measures included contact tracing, stocking of measles-rubella vaccines and ongoing Vitamin A supplementation. In Wajir a dengue fever outbreak affected Wajir East and Khorof-Harar, with 146 cases and one suspected death reported as of 20 July 2026; one confirmed case of Chikungunya was also recorded. Containment focused on surveillance, risk communication, case management and vector control. A confirmed measles outbreak occurred in Dabel Ward, Moyale (Marsabit). In Tana River, flooding increased the risk of water- and vector-borne diseases, with cases of cholera, acute watery diarrhoea, malaria and skin infections reported, particularly among displaced and vulnerable households. Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections were common across several counties and reduced household productivity while increasing treatment costs.

In addition, Dadaab experienced several outbreaks, including measles (including one death in Dagahaley), cholera in Dagahaley (one confirmed and six suspected cases), and widespread dengue fever transmission (245 reported cases and two deaths across the camps)

Livestock disease pressure remained significant across pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Endemic and transboundary diseases including Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR),

Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), sheep and goat pox, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), trypanosomiasis and others were widespread. Wajir experienced an upsurge of several of these diseases, largely contained through surveillance, pastoralist sensitization, ring vaccination and treatment. Garissa reported suspected cases of Sudden Death Syndrome in camels with some fatalities. In Marsabit, mortality rates were cattle 0.1% (474 deaths), camels 0.6% (2,554 deaths), sheep 0.3% (1,452 deaths) and goats 1.5% (11,587 deaths – elevated but within normal range). Samburu, Turkana, Isiolo, Tana River and parts of the Agropastoral and SEMA clusters also recorded endemic diseases that caused isolated losses, reduced productivity and increased household expenditure on treatment. Control measures included vaccination, deworming, vector control, prophylactic treatment and real-time surveillance through the Kenya Animal Bio-surveillance System (KABS). Overall livestock mortality remained within or near normal seasonal levels in most counties but still affected household incomes and food access.

2.3.2 Crop and livestock pests

Fall Armyworm (FAW) was the most widely reported crop pest and affected maize as well as sorghum performance across multiple clusters, including Isiolo, West Pokot, Kajiado, Embu, Kitui, Makueni, Nyeri and other areas. Other pests that affected maize were maize lethal necrosis disease in Kajiado and stalk borer in Turkana. In addition, *Tuta absoluta* on tomatoes, thrips and rust on onions, aphids on legumes and kales, leaf rust on green grams, and *Quelea quelea* birds that damaged small grain cereals in parts of Tana River were also reported.

Livestock pests such as ticks and tsetse flies were reported in several areas, particularly where tall grass or riverine conditions favored them (for example along the Ewaso Nyiro flood plain). These pests increased production costs, reduced yields and further constrained household food availability from crop and livestock sources.

2.3.3 Floods

Localized flooding was a notable hazard, particularly in Tana River. According to the Tana River County Flood Rapid Assessment Report (May 2026), approximately 40,420 households were affected and 9,012 households were displaced. Impacts included damage to settlements, agricultural land, infrastructure and access routes. The effects on food security were mixed: crop losses, temporary displacement and disrupted market access negatively affected vulnerable households, while the floods also recharged rivers, water pans and dams, improved soil moisture and supported some pasture regeneration and flood-recession farming. Smaller-scale flooding and waterlogging occurred in parts of SEMA (including Embu and Kitui). Rising water levels of Lake Turkana continued to inundate settlements, roads, schools and markets in parts of Marsabit (Loiyangalani and North Horr) and Turkana (Lakezone, Kalokol, Kangatotha and Kerio Delta), causing

displacement, disruption of transport and services, and impacts on fishing and tourism livelihoods. Localized flooding and flash floods were reported in Machakos, Siaya County, Nakuru and Kiambu County following persistent heavy rainfall, saturated soils, overflowing rivers and inadequate drainage systems. In Machakos, the worst-affected areas were within Mavoko Sub-county along the Athi River basin, where floods displaced over 2,000 residents, destroyed homes, businesses and infrastructure, caused human fatalities and disrupted transport, trade and service delivery. The floods also damaged ECDE classrooms, contributed to waterlogging and reduced maize production despite expanded cultivation, while livestock production was temporarily affected in some areas due to constrained grazing access. In Nakuru, flash floods in Naivasha displaced livestock, damaged grazing areas, hay stores and infrastructure, and destroyed a significant portion of Teret livestock market, disrupting market access and livelihoods. In Kiambu, heavy rainfall and flash floods triggered severe landslides, overwhelmed drainage systems and submerged key agricultural areas. However, the rains also enhanced recharge of rivers, dams, boreholes and water pans across the affected counties, improving water availability for domestic and livestock use and supporting pasture and browse regeneration in most livelihood zones.

2.3.4 Invasive species

Invasive plant species continued to pose a significant threat to rangelands, agricultural land and pastoral livelihoods in several arid and semi-arid areas. *Prosopis juliflora* (commonly known as Mathenge) overran extensive areas of agricultural and grazing land, particularly in Turkana irrigation schemes (Katilu, Turkwel and Morulem) and parts of Kajiado and Makueni. The species reduced cultivable land, suppressed native vegetation and hindered pasture regeneration. In Kajiado, *Ipomea* was declared a county disaster in June 2024 because of its rapid expansion across rangelands. The weed significantly reduced pasture availability by outcompeting native plants, thereby affecting livestock productivity, household incomes and food security among pastoral communities. Other invasive species recorded in Kajiado included *Parthenium hysterophorus* (Ormintoli) and Mexican poppy, mainly in the eastern and southern parts of the county. In Makueni, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Opuntia stricta*, *Cuscuta* species (dodder), *Ipomea* and *Lantana camara* continued to invade grazing lands, especially in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone, further limiting pasture and livestock productivity. Along the Coast, the rapid spread of *Prosopis juliflora* and dodder degraded pasture and rangelands in some areas.

These invasive species increased pressure on already limited grazing resources, reduced the quality and quantity of forage, raised the cost of land management and contributed to lower livestock and crops productivity as well as household resilience.

2.4 Shocks

2.4.1 Crop failure

Rain-fed crop production across large parts of the country experienced moderate to significant failure or below-average yields during the March–May 2026 long rains season

and into the subsequent months. The main contributing factors were early cessation of rainfall, prolonged dry spells within the season, poor temporal distribution, below-average rainfall during critical crop growth stages, pest infestations (particularly Fall Armyworm), waterlogging and flooding particularly in agro-pastoral and south east marginal agriculture clusters. Late-planted crops were especially affected. As a result, many households recorded reduced harvests, lower income, and increased reliance on markets at a time when purchasing power was already constrained.

In western Kenya, crop failure and below-average production were linked to early cessation of the long rains and below-average rainfall during the critical crop growth stages in June and July. These dry conditions coincided with the grain-filling and maturation period for maize and other key crops, leading to reduced yields and, in some areas, significant crop failure. The timing of the rainfall deficit limited the full development of crops that had been established during the earlier part of the season. In the Pastoral Northwest, the shortfalls were particularly severe. In Samburu, projected maize production stood at only 1% of the long-term average (2,700 bags against an LTA of 240,000 bags), while bean production reached just 18% of the LTA (1,800 bags against an LTA of 10,000 bags). Early onset caught many farmers unprepared for land preparation, and early cessation caused widespread wilting. In Turkana, maize production declined by 40.5%, sorghum by 52.7% and cowpeas by 33% relative to the long-term average. Irrigated schemes in the county faced additional constraints from low river water levels, siltation of canals and dilapidated infrastructure, further limiting output. In Marsabit, performance was mixed. Better-performing agro-pastoral zones recorded increases above the long-term average — maize (+60%), beans (+37%) and green grams (+16%). However, actual yields remained approximately 40% below optimal potential, and localized total crop failure occurred in Golbo Ward. The combination of uneven rainfall distribution and early cessation prevented full realization of the potential production gains. In the SEMA counties, Makueni recorded a 7% decline in the area planted to maize. Production fell by 41% for maize, 28% for pigeon peas and 18% for green grams, mainly due to uneven rainfall and early cessation. Embu experienced notable crop losses linked to waterlogging and Fall Armyworm infestations. In Kitui, localized Fall Armyworm outbreaks forced maize replanting in several areas, delaying maturity and reducing overall yields. Tharaka Nithi recorded only minor pest pressure with limited impact on production. In the Pastoral Northeast, rain-fed cereals and pulses in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones of Isiolo and parts of Mandera suffered moderate failure. Early cessation particularly affected late-planted crops, resulting in low to moderate yields. Farmers who depended solely on seasonal rainfall experienced reduced harvests, limiting household food availability from own production. Across the Agropastoral cluster. Frostbite in parts of Nyeri, Laikipia and West Pokot caused significant damage to maize and Irish potatoes. In Kajiado and Laikipia, human–wildlife conflict compounded production losses, with crop damage of up to 40% reported in several Laikipia wards (including Muramati, Marura, Mutara, Salama, Ngobit and Rumuruti). Maize, beans, Irish potatoes and other food crops were affected at various growth stages. Along the Coast, agricultural production continued to be constrained by

high input and land preparation costs, limited access to certified seeds, and the lingering effects of previous poor seasons that had already reduced household food stocks. Speculative grain hoarding by traders further influenced market dynamics. Irrigated production systems in several counties faced common challenges of low river levels, siltation of canals and ageing infrastructure, which limited their ability to compensate for rain-fed shortfalls.

Overall, the combination of outright crop failure in the worst-affected areas (including parts of western Kenya, Samburu, Turkana, Golbo in Marsabit and some agro-pastoral pockets) and below-average production across many other zones significantly reduced household food stocks. This increased market dependence at a time when staple food prices and other commodity costs remained elevated, thereby heightening food access challenges for poor and very poor households in pastoral, agro-pastoral, marginal farming and western Kenya livelihood zones.

2.4.2 High commodity prices

High prices of key commodities extended well beyond food staples and placed additional strain on household budgets and agricultural production. Fuel prices remained elevated throughout the review period, driven in part by supply-chain disruptions linked to the Middle East between April and July 2026. Higher fuel costs directly increased the price of transport, land preparation, pumping for irrigation and the delivery of agricultural inputs. Farmers faced high costs of certified seeds, fertilizers and other production inputs. These costs, combined with the lingering effects of previous poor seasons, constrained the area planted and overall production, especially in rain-fed systems. Conflict-related disruptions to major transport corridors further pushed up prices. The temporary closure of the Moyale–Marsabit corridor, for example, caused the price of a 2 kg packet of maize flour to rise from KES 180 to KES 300. Similar increases affected other non-food goods moved along the same routes.

Non-food expenditures, particularly school fees, remained high. Many households were forced to sell food stocks or livestock earlier than planned in order to meet these costs, thereby weakening their food security position. In some coastal assessments, speculative grain hoarding by traders was also noted, with trader-held stocks standing at 115% compared with only 58% held by farmers; this contributed to higher market prices for both food and related commodities. Taken together, elevated fuel, input, transport and non-food costs reduced household disposable income, limited investment in crop and livestock production, and increased the vulnerability of poor and very poor households across pastoral, agro-pastoral and marginal farming zones.

2.4.3 Striga Weed Infestation

Widespread Striga weed (witch-weed) infestation was reported in Siaya and Homa Bay Counties during the reporting period, primarily affecting maize and sorghum crops. The

infestation was aggravated by prolonged heavy rains during the 2026 long rains season, which caused weakened soil fertility, creating favorable conditions for rapid Striga spread. The parasitic weed attached to crop roots and competed for water and nutrients, leading to stunted crop growth, yellowing, poor cob development in maize and inadequate grain filling in sorghum and millet. Estimated yield losses ranged between 20–35 percent in maize and 15–28 percent in sorghum and millet, with some severely affected farms recording even higher losses due to excess moisture stress and pest infestations. In Homa Bay County, the most affected areas included Central Kasipul, East Kamagak, West Kamagak and West Kasipul wards in Rachuonyo South, as well as Kanyaluo, Kibiri and Wang'chieng' wards in Rachuonyo North, where thousands of acres of maize were affected, significantly threatening household food production and increasing farm management costs.

2.4.4 Nutrient leaching across cultivated fields

Excessive and persistent rainfall during the 2026 long rains season led to widespread nutrient leaching across cultivated fields in Homa Bay County and Siaya County. The prolonged and intense rains significantly reduced soil fertility and constrained crop uptake of essential nutrients, particularly nitrogen, resulting in poor crop vigour, yellowing, stunted growth and uneven crop development. Maize and beans were the most affected crops, with estimated yield losses ranging from 5–10 percent for maize and 15–30 percent for beans in the affected areas. The impacts were more severe in areas with sandy soils, steep slopes and poor soil conservation practices, where runoff and nutrient wash-off were pronounced. In Homa Bay County, the most affected areas were within the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones of Rachuonyo East and Rachuonyo South sub-counties. Kokwanyo Kakelo and Kabondo West wards in Rachuonyo East each recorded approximately 500 acres affected, impacting about 1,000 households per ward, while Central Kasipul and West Kasipul wards in Rachuonyo South recorded significant crop losses affecting hundreds of households.

2.5 Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance remains the primary source of support for refugees and asylum seekers in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei, where most households depend on aid to meet basic needs, including food, water, sanitation, health, nutrition, education, shelter and protection. Since August 2025, food assistance has been delivered through the Differentiated Assistance (DA) approach, with support levels determined by household vulnerability. Since March 2026, Category 1 households have received 80 percent of the food basket, Category 2 households 60 percent, and Category 3 households 20 percent, while Category 4 households do not receive routine food assistance but remain eligible for targeted sector-specific support. Additional assistance includes nutrition programmes for children under five and pregnant and lactating women, as well as targeted cash support for vulnerable households. In Kakuma and Kalobeyei, reception centres also provide new arrivals with wet feeding, temporary accommodation, hygiene items, regis

Despite continued assistance, households across all three locations face significant food security challenges due to limited livelihood opportunities and rising food prices. Consequently, more than two-thirds of households in Kakuma and Kalobeyi and about two-thirds in Dadaab experienced substantial food consumption gaps and resorted to coping strategies such as purchasing food on credit, borrowing, reducing meal sizes and frequency, and consuming less preferred foods. Overall, humanitarian assistance continues to play a critical role in preventing a further deterioration in food security and protecting vulnerable refugee and asylum seekers although current support levels are insufficient to fully meet household needs.

3.0 | SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

3.1 Trends on Population in Need

Currently, **Baringo, Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir** are classified in **IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)**. Across the 23 ASAL counties, an estimated **2.74 million people** are facing **IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse)**, down from **3.27 million** in February 2026. Of these, about **350,000 people** are classified in **IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)**, mainly in Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir. The improvement in food security outcomes in ASALs is largely attributed to the near-average to above-average March-May 2026 long rains, which enhanced crop production, pasture and browse availability, and water resources across most ASAL areas.

Food security conditions are expected to improve through **January 2027** due to forecasted above-average OND 2026 rainfall. However, **2.12 million people** will remain in **IPC Phase 3 or above**, including **220,000 people** in **IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)**. Garissa, Mandera, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir are projected to remain in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)**, while Lamu is expected to deteriorate to **IPC Phase 3** from **IPC Phase 2 (Stressed)**, with localized flooding likely to limit improvements in affected areas.

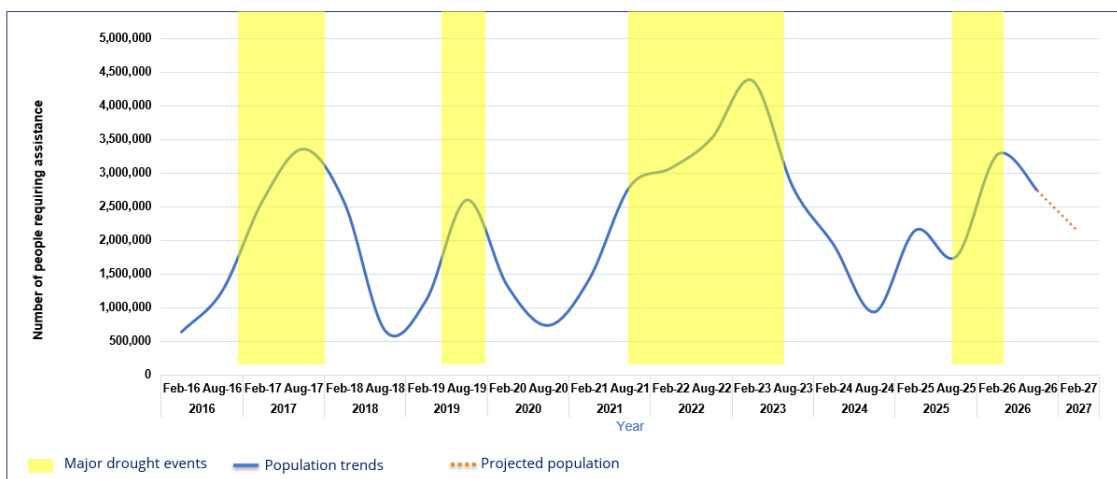


Figure 3 Trends of populations in need of immediate humanitarian assistance

In Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei integrated settlements, approximately **351,000 people** (about half of the population) are currently facing **IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse)** acute food insecurity, down from **430,000 people** in February 2026. All three settlements are classified in **IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)**, with the improvement largely driven by increased humanitarian food assistance, including a 20 percent increase in the minimum food basket for Categories 1 and 2 households. However, the forecasted OND 2026 El Niño may worsen food security through flooding, disease outbreaks, deteriorating WASH conditions and rising commodity prices. Consequently, **Kakuma and Kalobeyei are**

projected to remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), while Dadaab is expected to deteriorate to IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Sustained humanitarian assistance and strengthened flood preparedness will be critical to prevent further deterioration.

3.2 Food Consumption and Coping Strategies

Food consumption outcomes in July 2026 remained mixed across Kenya.

- **Pastoral Areas** remained the most food insecure, with the highest poor FCS in Mandera (40%), Wajir (23%), and Tana River (21%), driven by poor dietary diversity, market dependence, and localized flood and drought impacts.
- **Agro-pastoral Areas** recorded relatively better food consumption, led by Narok (100% acceptable FCS), although West Pokot (16%) and Kajiado (14%) had the highest poor FCS, while high borderline FCS in Nyeri (58%), West Pokot (54%), and Laikipia (49%) reflected continued market dependence and declining food stocks.
- **Marginal Agricultural Areas** had the most favorable food consumption overall, with acceptable FCS reaching 88% in Tharaka Nithi, but localized hotspots persisted in Lamu (32% poor FCS) and Meru (24%) due to localized crop losses, depleted food stocks, and limited dietary diversity.
- **Refugee Camps** continued to experience poor food consumption despite improved humanitarian assistance. Dadaab recorded the highest poor FCS (27%), while Kalobeyei and Kakuma each recorded 15% poor FCS. Unacceptable food consumption remained high (61–68%) due to continued dependence on humanitarian assistance, limited livelihood opportunities, and low purchasing power.

Coping strategies closely mirrored food consumption outcomes, with households across the ASAL counties and refugee camps continuing to rely on both consumption and livelihood-based coping measures.

- **Pastoral Areas:** Recorded the most severe coping, with crisis consumption highest in Turkana (38%), Marsabit (31%), Samburu (27%), Wajir (17%), and Garissa (16%), while stressed coping remained widespread in Mandera (94%), Tana River (75%), and Isiolo (75%). Households engaging in combined livelihood crisis and emergency (severe) coping was greatest in Marsabit (40%), Tana River (26%), Wajir (15%), Mandera (14%), and Turkana (13%), reflecting continued erosion of household resilience.
- **Agro-pastoral Areas:** Coping remained predominantly at the stressed level, with crisis consumption highest in Baringo (18%) and Laikipia (10%), while severe livelihood coping remained limited, except in West Pokot (13%), indicating that most households were still protecting productive assets.

- **Marginal Agricultural Areas:** Improved harvests reduced coping in most counties, although crisis consumption coping remained notable in Meru (36%), Lamu (34%), Kwale (17%), and Makueni (13%). Severe livelihood coping was highest in Kwale (22%), Meru (21%), Kilifi (16%), and Makueni (12%) due to localized crop failures, depleted food stocks, and market dependence.

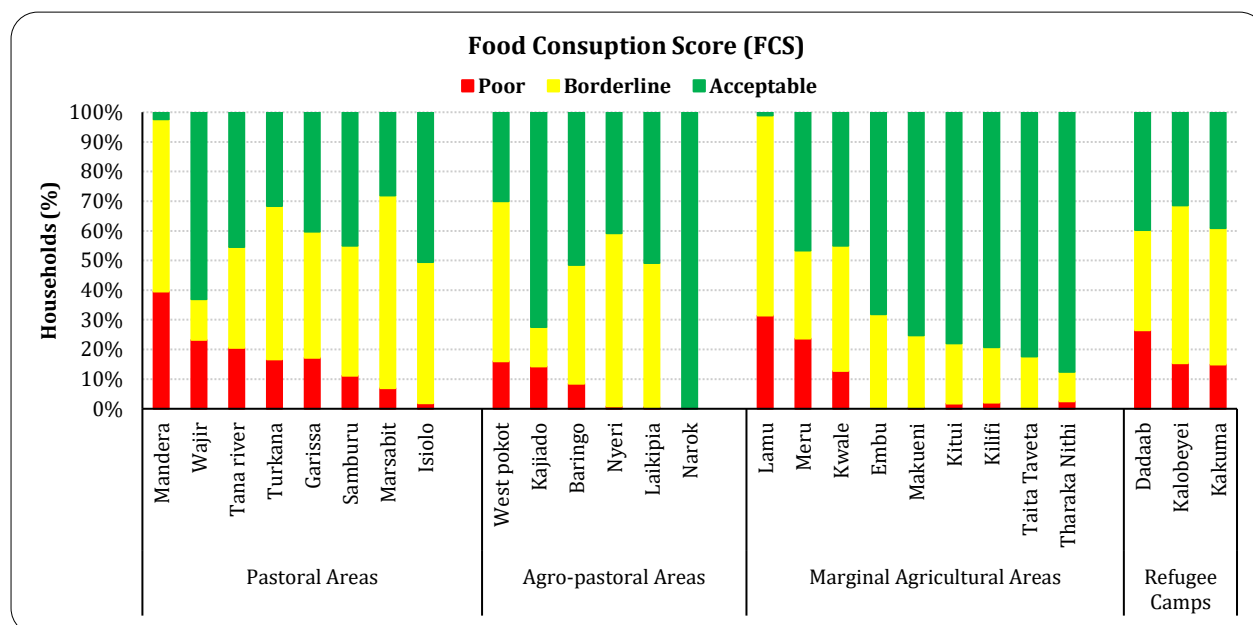


Figure 4 Food Consumption score by livelihood clusters

- **Refugee Camps:** Coping remained high despite increased humanitarian assistance. Dadaab recorded the highest crisis consumption coping (32%), followed by Kakuma (19%) and Kalobeyei (18%), while severe livelihood coping affected 25% of households in Kakuma, 24% in Kalobeyei, and 21% in Dadaab, reflecting continued dependence on humanitarian assistance, limited livelihood opportunities, and low purchasing power.

Across all clusters, households mainly relied on consuming less preferred foods, reducing meal size and frequency, borrowing food or money, and reducing non-food expenditure, while the persistence of crisis and emergency livelihood coping indicated continued erosion of household resilience.

3.3 Categories of Food Insecure Population

3.3.1 Current Population (August – October 2026)

Arid and Semi-Arid Counties (ASALs)

During March-April-May (MAM) season, majority of ASAL counties received enhanced rainfall with early onset in February and with normal cessation. However, the temporal

distribution in many of those counties was poor with the month of April largely remaining dry, which is the critical period for crop development. Despite the challenges associated with poor temporal distribution, especially on crop production, the net effect was the improvement of food security situations across ASAL counties especially for the rangeland conditions.

The Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) that was conducted after the season and Currently, Baringo, Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir were classified in IPC phase 3 (crisis), while the remaining 16 counties of the 23 where the IPC analysis was done, were classified in IPC Phase 2 (stressed). Overall, 2.74 million people (15%) from the 23 ASAL counties were classified as food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above). Out of these, about 350,000 people (2%) mainly in Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River, Turkana and Wajir were in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). This was an improvement from 3.27 million people who were food insecure in February 2026.

Refugees (Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei)

The Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) was also conducted in the three refugee settlements of Kakuma, Dadaab and Kalobeyei, and established that about 351,500 refugees (48%) in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 or worse). Of these, about 77,900 11% were in IPC 4 (Emergency).

3.3.2 Projected Population (November – January 2027)

Projection for November 2026 – January 2027 indicate that the food insecure population in ASAL counties will reduce from the current 2.74 million to about 2.11 million if the forecasted enhanced rainfall is realized. Counties that are likely to remain in IPC phase 3 (Crisis) during the projected period include; Turkana, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera and Tana River. Lamu county is likely to deteriorate from current IPC 2 (stressed) to IPC phase 3 (Crisis) during the projected period largely attributed to likely negative impacts of flooding.

The food security situation in all the three refugee camps is likely to deteriorate with about 430,300 refugees likely to fall into IPC 3 (crisis) or worse. Dadaab settlement is likely to deteriorate from current IPC 3 (crisis) to IPC 4 (emergency) during the projected period. The worsening in the refugee situation is mainly attributed to likelihood of change in assistance modality from cash to in-kind that is likely to affect the dietary diversity of the vulnerable household due to limited food options. Further The anticipated above normal rains are likely to lead to disruptions of market due to broken down infrastructure further leading to increase in commodity prices in the markets hence poor access by households.

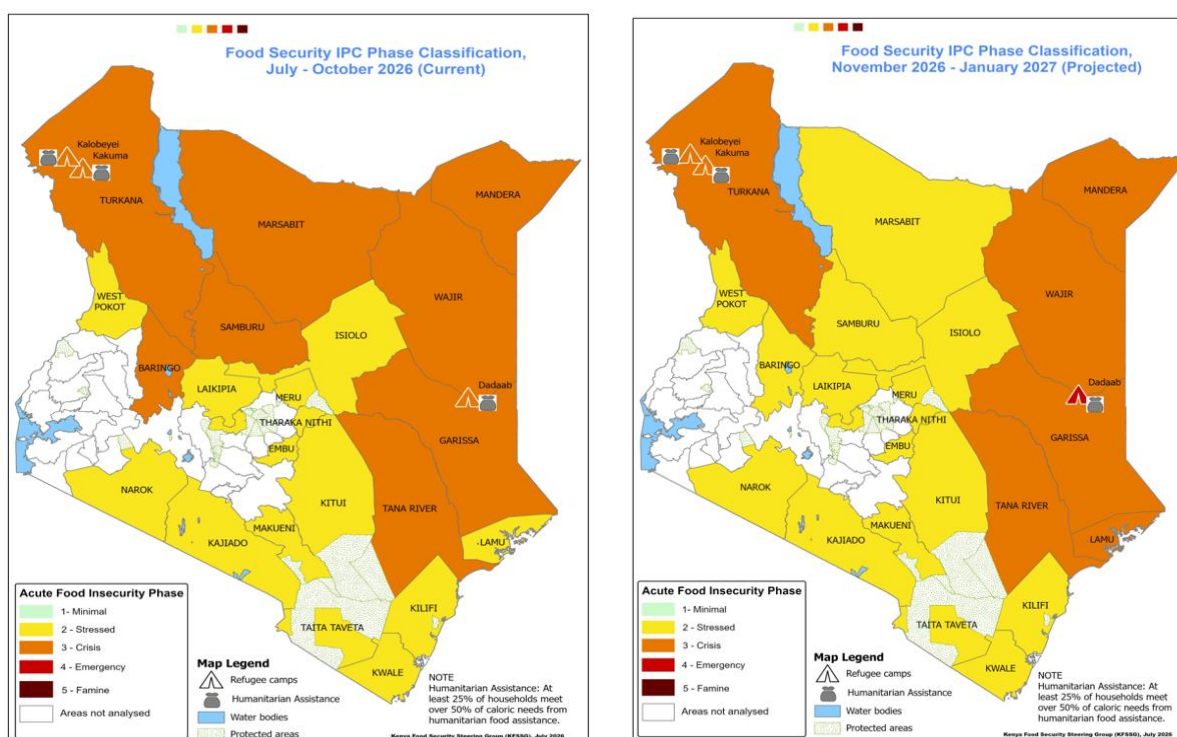


Figure 5 Current and Projected IPC phase classification

3.3.3 Population in Need -Distribution by Counties

County	Total population analyzed	Population in need of immediate food assistance (IPC 3 or above)	
		February 2025 (SRA)	July – October 2026 (LRA Current)
Mandera	1,007,000	503,500	402,800
Turkana	1,074,000	322,200	375,900
Wajir	915,000	274,500	274,500
Garissa	971,000	242,750	194,200
Kilifi	1,637,000	245,550	163,700
Baringo	764,000	114,600	152,800
Meru	994,000	198,800	149,100
Tana River	370,000	203,500	148,000
Marsabit	539,000	134,750	134,750
Makueni	1,065,000	159,750	106,500

County	Total population analyzed	Population in need of immediate food assistance (IPC 3 or above)	
		February 2025 (SRA)	July – October 2026 (LRA Current)
Kwale	988,000	197,600	98,800
Samburu	367,000	73,400	73,400
West Pokot	706,000	70,600	70,600
Narok	1,355,000	67,750	67,750
Kajiado	1,328,000	66,400	66,400
Kitui	1,259,000	188,850	62,950
Laikipia	583,000	29,150	58,300
Isiolo	330,000	82,500	49,500
Lamu	176,000	26,400	26,400
Taita Taveta	373,000	18,650	18,650
Embu	296,000	14,800	14,800
Tharaka Nithi	284,700	28,470	14,235
Nyeri	223,500	11,175	11,175
Grand Totals	17,605,200	3,275,645	2,735,210

Population requiring immediate food assistance in refugee camps

In the Refugee camps the observed food security situation is unlikely to change between February and June 2026 with main factors to monitor including the humanitarian assistance consistency, and inflow of new arrivals that may lead to a worsened situation.

Refugee camp	Population in need of urgent food assistance
Kakuma	115,722
Kalobeyi	46,701
Dadaab	189,026
Total	351,449

Population requiring immediate food assistance in hot spots of nine non ASAL counties

A total of 324,188 people are estimated to need urgent food assistance across the nine counties during May–August 2026 and a projection of 739,159 between October 2026 to January 2027 based on IPC compatible analysis. The increase in projection is as a result of the projected above normal short rains that could lead to flooding and mud slides across the counties.

County	County Population KNBS 2025 Projections	Population in need of urgent food assistance	Projected population in need of urgent food assistance
		May – June 2026	July 2026–January 2027
Migori	1,292,006	43,824	129,000
Homa Bay	1,131,950	51,013	113,195
Murang'a	1,056,640	25,000	105,664
Kirinyaga	664,000	18,000	66,400
Elgeyo Marakwet	509,000	45,862	50,900
Nakuru	2,445,196	43,000	88,000
Siaya	1,097,616	32,000	65,000
Kiambu	2,754,140	27,000	72,000
Machakos	1,520,000	38,489	49,000
Total	12,470,548	324,188	739,159

3.4 Nutrition Situation Overview

The IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) analysis conducted in July 2026 shows that the nutrition situation is of great concern, with variation in severity across areas analysis. Fourteen areas have high levels of acute malnutrition in critical phase 4. The areas classified in Phase 4 (Critical) include Baringo East–Tiaty, Garissa, Tana River, Wajir, Isiolo, Mandera, North Horr/Chalbi, Laisamis/Loyangalani, Samburu, Turkana North/Kibish, Turkana West, Turkana South/East, Turkana Central/Loima and Dadaab refugee camp. The areas classified in Phase 3 (Serious) include West Pokot, Saku, Moyale, Kalobeyei, Kakuma refugee camp while areas classified in Phase 2 (Alert) we have Baringo North and South, Kajiado, Laikipia, Narok, Kwale, Kitui and Makueni. Areas in phase 1 (Acceptable) include Kilifi, Lamu, Taita Taveta and Meru North. Compared with the SRA conducted in February 2026 the analysis indicates marginal improvements(phases) but a deterioration compared to the same season of LRA 2026. However, very high levels of acute malnutrition persist above emergency thresholds. In the projection period deterioration is expected due to scale down of interventions as a result the support (Emergency Nutrition Response Fund) ending in August, high disease burdens, deteriorating food insecurity with likely improvements in November; diminish, high food market prices and during the lean season; The effects of el nino expected (October) will likely deteriorate access to health services access and food accessibility, increase risk of flooding which will deteriorate suboptimal WASH conditions, in addition to cumulative effects from previous seasons

Major contributing factors to acute malnutrition during the period include limited access to adequate and diverse diets for young children, persistent disease burden, and uneven access to essential health and nutrition services. Constraints on food availability and diet quality reduce children’s ability to meet minimum nutritional requirements, while frequent

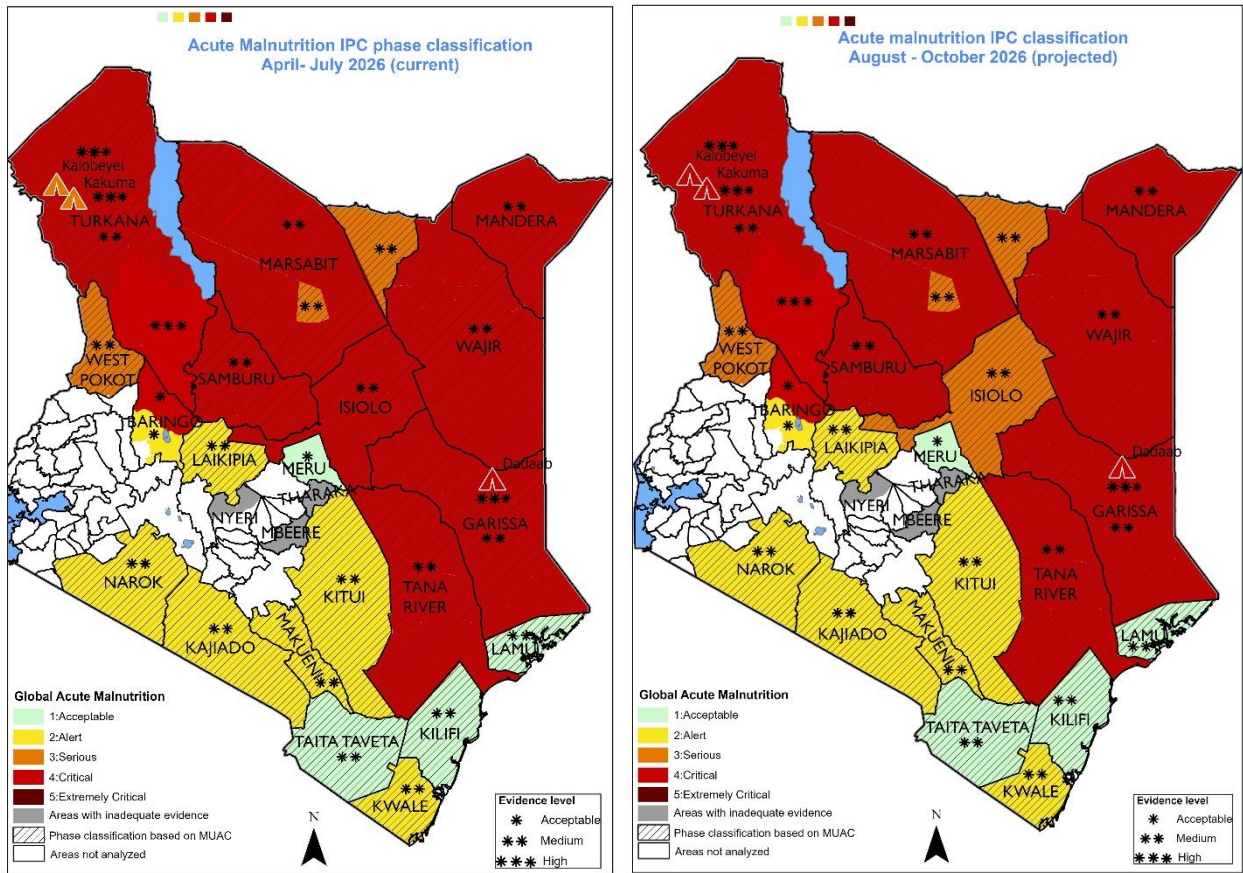


Figure 6 : Current and projected Nutrition situation

illness particularly diarrheal disease, upper respiratory tract Infections and malaria in endemic zones continue to compromise nutritional status. Sub optimal access and utilization of preventive and curative services further limited early identification, prevention of common illnesses and management of malnutrition. These factors interact and reinforce one another, contributing to sustained acute malnutrition among children under five years of age.

Morbidity and disease outbreaks are a major driver of acute malnutrition. Elevated levels of Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI), diarrhea and malaria, together with localized outbreaks increased infection-related nutrient losses among children. URTI remained above LTA in Garissa Isiolo, Kitui, Kajiado, Narok and Marsabit. Malaria incidence remains elevated in high burden zones, including parts of Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera,

Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir. In addition, various outbreaks were reported during the season; measles was reported in Measles: Moyale (94), Kilifi (4), Mandera (10), Wajir (28) Garissa (22), Tana river (4); Dengue fever was reported in Wajir (146); Cholera: Garissa (39); Kala-azar: Marsabit (16) Turkana (241) and West Pokot (180); while Mpox: Embu (11), Lamu, Narok (1), Laikipia (3) and Kajiado further increased nutrition vulnerability.

During the season Low coverage of preventive health and nutrition services also contributed to acute malnutrition by reducing children's protection against vaccine-preventable diseases, micronutrient deficiencies and parasite-related nutrient losses. Fully immunized child (FIC) coverage remains below the 90% national target except for Kitui and Makueni counties, while Vitamin A supplementation of 6-59 months children and deworming among children aged 12–59 months coverage was below the national target of 80% in many counties with low coverage reported in parts of Lamu, Tana River and Mandera where health access constraints and outreach scale-downs have been reported.

Integrated management of Acute Malnutrition program coverage recorded an increase in admissions in 2026 compared to 2025 for both Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition due to outreach support from Emergency Nutrition Response funding (ERF) in the month of May that screened more children in seven counties (Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, Garissa, Tana river, Isiolo, Wajir and Samburu counties, Stock out of Moderate Acute Malnutrition commodities has persisted across the analysis areas however in the month of May there was support (ERF)for limited period for the priority counties. Limited IMAM and outreach coverage delays the identification and treatment of acutely malnourished children, especially in hard-to-reach and hotspot areas. This is linked to MAM commodity stock-outs, reduced active case finding due scale-down of outreach services. Outreach coverage remains 30% and below in Garissa, Tana River, West Pokot and Isiolo.

Poor childcare and dietary practices are important pathway through which acute malnutrition risk increases, as they limit children's access to adequate, diverse and nutritious diets. Severe child food poverty was highest in Turkana, Garissa, and Samburu, indicating that nearly half of children are unable to access a minimally diverse diet (less than 2 food groups). Isiolo and Meru severe child food poverty remains lower but has higher moderate food poverty affects nearly half of children (3-5 food groups). Child poverty heightens risk of deterioration in acute malnutrition outcomes as many households lack means to access, afford, prepare and feed nutritious foods to young children reflecting sustained dietary vulnerability. (Smart survey 2024).

Hygiene and sanitation are major contributing factors to acute malnutrition and worsen acute malnutrition by sustaining and increasing the risk of waterborne disease transmission and repeated infection-malnutrition cycles. WASH practices remain sub optimal across the clusters and are high-risk factor (< 70%) to acute malnutrition. Open defecation persists, sustaining diarrheal risk – Baringo East (91.3%) and lowest (Moyale

and Saku (10.8%). Handwashing practices – highest in Turkana Central (91%) and lowest in Laisamis (15.5%) and Garissa (15.9) (Smart survey 2024).

Table 1: Estimated Caseloads and Targets of Children 6-59 months and Pregnant & Breastfeeding Women Requiring Treatment for Acute Malnutrition

	Global Acute Malnutrition		Moderate Acute Malnutrition		Severe Acute Malnutrition		Pregnant and breastfeeding women/girls	
	6 to 59 months		6 to 59 months		6 to 59 months			
Area	Total Caseload	Target	Total Caseload	Target	Total Caseload	Target	Total Caseload	Target
ASAL	522,548	292,238	398,692	199,347	123,856	92,892	108,490	108,490
URBAN	85095	51686	48538	24269	36557	27418	1296	1296
Non-ASAL	225100	125551	173095	86547	52005	39004	1068	1068
TOTAL	832,743	469,475	620,325	310,163	212,418	159,314	110,854	110,854
Refugee	50,517	45,465	38,670	34,803	11,846	10,662	5,992	5,992
TOTAL	883,260	514,940	658,995	344,966	224,264	169,976	116,846	116,846

LRA people in need has increased from 810,871 in February 2026 to 832,743 in July/August 2026 while the number of pregnant and breastfeeding women has reduced slightly from 116,796 to 110,854. The comparison reflects an increase in the acute malnutrition caseload compared to the previous assessment period. In Refugee settlement, the number of children aged 6-59 months expected to be acutely malnourished is 50,517. Of these, moderately malnourished are 38,670 and severe acute malnourished are 11,846 while pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls are 5,992.

3.4.1 Key proposed response actions

- Procurement commodity for management of acute malnutrition, to ensure consistency of supplies for treatment sustainability
- Sustain disease Surveillance and response to outbreaks
- Heightened Nutrition surveillance, situation monitoring and coordination
- Nutrition response planning and enhance resource mobilization.
- Hotspot mapping and prioritization of outreach sites
- Scale up of integrated health and nutrition outreaches and mass screening.

- Invest in Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategies to improve infant & young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition & WASH practices
- Initiate and scale up community-based approaches to address poor dietary intake among children 6 to 23 months
- Advocate for counties to finance data and surveillance activities to allow for comprehensive nutrition situation analysis.
- Implement multisectoral responses and interventions to address immediate needs with complementary actions to build resilience of communities.
- Enhance community-based programs to improve coverage or early detection & treatment of acute malnutrition.

3.4.2 Factors to monitor

- Nutrition situation across the country given the high levels of acute malnutrition in arid counties
- Morbidities and disease outbreaks
- Emergency response funding situation
- Sanitation and Hygiene situations
- Effects of commodity stock outs on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program coverage and treatment outcomes.
- Effects of el nino on health and Nutrition, Sanitation and Hygiene situation
- Coverage of integrated Health and Nutrition outreaches.
- Social protection program coverage for the most vulnerable population.

3.5 Crop Production

Crop Production Prospects and Food security outlook– 2026 Long Rains Season (LRA)

Crop production prospects for the 2026 Long Rains Season (LRA) indicate a substantial decline following below-average rainfall and prolonged moisture stress in the country's major maize-producing areas. Baseline maize yields are projected to decline by approximately 60 percent in the key maize producing counties of Nandi, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, and other parts of the North Rift, while the approximate decline in other areas is projected at 20 percent. Consequently, national maize production for the long rains season is projected at approximately 27.1 million (90 kg) bags, representing a decline of about 21.6 percent compared to the five-year average of approximately 34.6 million (90 kg) bags.

The estimated annual domestic maize requirement is about 46 million 90-kg bags; hence, the projected long rains harvest will result in a production shortfall of approximately 18.9 million (90-kg) bags. Additionally, the projected long rains bean production is about 5.7

million Bags (90kg) bags which is about 18.6 percent below the LTA of 7.0 million bags. The deficit could widen further if the 2026 short rains season also performs below average.

Overall Crop Performance in ASAL Areas

The South Eastern Marginal Cluster recorded the strongest performance in rain-fed agriculture, with the widest positive variation in crop production. Area planted ranged from a 13 percent decline to a 118 percent increase, while production varied from a 39 percent decline to a 231 percent increase. Maize recorded a 12 percent decline in area planted and a 17 percent decline in production, while green grams and cowpeas were the best-performing crops, recording production increases of 82 percent and 231 percent, respectively. However, beans and pigeon peas remained below their long-term averages.

The Agro-pastoral Cluster recorded the best irrigated crop performance among all clusters. Area planted increased by between two and 55 percent, while production increased by 20 to 70 percent compared to the long-term average. Maize, onions, cabbages, carrots, beans, and tomatoes all recorded above-average production, with irrigated maize posting the highest increase of 70 percent, while only seed maize declined by 10 percent. Under rain-fed production, maize recorded a 10 percent increase in area planted, although production declined by 25 percent.

The Coastal Agriculture Marginal Cluster recorded mixed performance in both rain-fed and irrigated production. Rain-fed crop area varied from a 15 percent decline to an eight percent increase, while production ranged from a 12 percent decline to a 21 percent increase. Rain-fed maize recorded an 11 percent decline in area planted and a 12 percent decline in production. Under irrigation, area ranged from a five percent decline to a 23 percent increase, and production ranged from a seven percent decline to a 23 percent increase, reflecting generally stable performance with improvements in beans but modest declines in irrigated maize.

The Pastoral North West Cluster exhibited the highest variability in rain-fed agriculture. Area planted ranged from an eight percent decline to a 998 percent increase, while production ranged from an 89 percent decline to a 25 percent increase. Rain-fed maize recorded the largest expansion in area planted, increasing by 998 percent, but production declined sharply by 89 percent. Irrigated agriculture performed considerably better, with production ranging from an 11 percent decline to a 96 percent increase, driven mainly by tomatoes, maize, and sorghum.

The Pastoral North East Cluster recorded the weakest overall rain-fed crop performance. Area planted ranged from a 52 percent decline to a 24 percent increase, while production declined across all major crops, ranging from 17 to 55 percent below the long-term average. Rain-fed maize was the only major cereal to record an increase in area planted (24 percent), although production still declined by 24 percent. Irrigated production

performed relatively better, with irrigated maize production increasing by 45 percent, although most other irrigated crops remained below average.

Rain-Fed Crop Production

The major crops grown in the 23 ASAL counties were maize, green grams, beans and cow peas. The hectareage under maize, green grams, beans and cow peas was 106, 190, 98 and 172 percent of the long-term average (LTA) respectively. The production of maize, beans and pigeon peas were 23, 44 and 28 percent below LTA respectively while the production for green grams and cow peas was 60 and 100 percent above their respective LTA.

Overall, the increase in acreage was attributed to the early onset of the rains, which encouraged small-scale farmers to cultivate more land based on the expectation that rainfall would continue until the end of the season. Additionally, the provision of agricultural inputs by county governments and development partners in some counties, a strategic shift by farmers toward drought tolerant crops, land subdivision and ownership in Samburu County were other contributing factors. Furthermore, a behavioral shift among pastoral communities toward crop cultivation as a fallback livelihood strategy; driven by recurrent livestock losses due to drought and insecurity; also contributed to the expansion of the cultivated area.

The decline in maize and beans production was attributed to the early cessation of rainfall, poor temporal and spatial distribution of precipitation, inadequate rainfall during the critical maize growth stages, inadequate farm inputs, frost damage, poor crop husbandry practices, pests and diseases infestation, late planting, flooding and water logging. However, six counties; Narok, Marsabit, Tharaka Nithi, Kajiado, Lamu and Kitui; recorded maize yields above their respective long-term averages, with Kitui achieving the highest at 257 percent. This performance was largely attributed to early planting and adequate rainfall received in specific areas within these counties. In contrast, Samburu, Baringo, West Pokot, Wajir and Mandera recorded significantly lower maize yields, achieving only 99, 89, 84, 71 and 54 percent below their respective LTA due to wilting. Marsabit was the only county that record bean production above its long-term average, achieving 37 percent above normal. Taita Taveta and Kajiado counties recorded production within their LTA. In contrast, Baringo, Samburu and Embu had the highest bean yield decline at 92, 82 and 61 percent below LTA respectively.

Cowpeas and green grams are drought-tolerant, short-maturing crops that require relatively low amounts of rainfall to achieve optimum production. The rainfall received during the season was sufficient to support their growth, and by the time the rains ceased, most of the crops had already reached physiological maturity. Of the total 198,073 hectares planted under green grams, Kitui County accounted for the largest share, contributing 70 percent of the total area cultivated. In addition, Kitui and Kwale counties

accounted for 90 percent, contributing 74 and 16 percent, respectively the total area under cowpeas. The expansion in acreage was driven by favorable market prospects and attractive farm-gate prices. The increase in production was further attributed to use of certified seed, and improved crop husbandry practices adopted by small-scale farmers. All the 55,137 hectares of Pigeon peas was achieved in Makueni County. Although the acreage planted was within the LTA, production was 28 percent below LTA due to inadequate precipitation at critical crop development stage.

Irish potatoes are the third most important crop in the agropastoral counties. Although the area planted was 24 percent above the long-term average (LTA), production was within the LTA. The expansion in acreage did not result in higher production, mainly due to a high incidence of late blight and bacterial wilt, which significantly reduced yields. Additionally, despite a 37 percent increase in the area under cultivation for Irish potatoes in Baringo County, crop yields significantly declined by 97 percent as a result of drought.

Rain Fed Crop Production

Crop	Area planted during 2026 long rains season (Ha)	Long term average (5 year) area planted during the long rains season (Ha)	2026 Long rains production (90Kg Bag), Projected /Actual	Long term average production (5 year) during the Long rains season (90 Kg Bags)
Maize	543,146	514,210	5,343,388	6,971,668
Green grams	212,670	111,790	728,910	456,233
Beans	156,082	158,741	656,606	1,164,674
Cowpeas	101,616	59,097	427,588	214,221
Pigeon Peas	55,137	52,450	325,685	451,370
Irish Potatoes	33,318	26,809	876,428	959,027
Sorghum	17,445	17,455	175,541	134,090

Irrigated Crops Production

The irrigated crop production showed mixed performance compared to the five-year long-term average (LTA). Maize recorded the most significant improvement, with the area planted increasing by 54 percent and production by 24 percent compared to LTA. The area was 128, 109 and 54 percent above LTA in Baringo, Mandera and Kajiado respectively. In Baringo the increase was due to a shift by farmers from seed maize to ordinary maize cultivation. This was attributed to delayed payments for seed maize delivered to Kenya Seed during the previous season, making ordinary maize production a more attractive option. In Mandera, the increase resulted from the distribution of certified maize seed by

IOM and the expansion of cultivated land through County Government support. Consequently, the production was significantly above the long-term average in Baringo, Kajiado, and Mandera by 183, 78 and 76 percent respectively. In contrast, there was a significant decline in Makueni and Kilifi where the production was 42 and 83 percent below long-term average respectively due farmers preference to green grams and cow peas cultivation.

Tomato acreage declined slightly by five percent but production increased marginally by five percent compared to LTA. Samburu, Baringo, and Isiolo counties recorded substantial increases in tomato acreage at; 160, 149, and 39 percent above the long-term average, respectively. Although Marsabit recorded a 40 percent increase in area above the LTA, this represented only a modest numerical increase from five to seven hectares. The increase in tomato production was primarily driven by good market prices and ready market. Additionally, the acreage increase in Samburu County was largely driven by non-local farmers leasing farm for tomatoes cultivation. In contrast, tomato production was particularly low in Makueni and Narok counties, recorded at 52 and 54 percent below their respective long-term average (LTA). The decline corresponded with a reduction in the area under cultivation in these two counties. This was primarily driven by persistent pest infestations, particularly *Tuta absoluta* and bacterial wilt disease as well as competition from tomatoes supplied by neighboring counties, which reduced the profitability of tomato production. In response, a number of farmers, notably in Makueni County, have switched to pulses, which require less investment in inputs.

Watermelon acreage decreased by nine percent, however, production remained relatively stable, increasing slightly by one percent compared to LTA. Banana production registered a slight decline, with the planted area reducing by two percent, while production decreased by three percent compared to LTA.

Irrigated Crops area and production

Crop	Area planted during 2026 long rains season (Ha)	Long term average (5 year) area planted during the long rains season (Ha)	2026 Long rains production (90Kg Bag), Projected /Actual	Long term average production (5 year) during the Long rains season (90 Kg Bags)
Maize	14,395	9,400	296,193	239,439
Tomatoes	4,699	4,931	89,013	83,525
Watermelon	3,506	3,830	78,420	77,417

Bananas	3414	3491	93018	95603
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Food Stocks

The total maize stocks increased slightly by six percent compared to the long-term average (LTA). At the time of reporting, the stocks held by farmers were 12 percent above the LTA and were projected to increase further, due to the ongoing maize harvest. Remarkably, the farmers in Baringo, Kwale, Narok and Kitui Counties held the largest amount of maize totaling 1,236,594 ninety Kg bags which is 82 percent of total stocks held by farmers in ASALs. The stocks in the four counties were above their respective long-term averages by 161, 64, 14, and four percent for Kwale, Baringo, Kitui and Narok. However, the maize stocks in Baringo County were primarily held by non-local commercial farmers engaged in irrigated maize production and stored in commercial warehouses within the county.

Trader stocks declined by seven percent while miller stocks increased by 31 percent, reflecting increased demand for maize flour. Total green gram stocks declined by 22 percent compared to the LTA. However, farmer stocks increased by 40 percent, while trader stocks decreased by 56 percent. Total sorghum stocks increased by five percent above the LTA, supported by a 24 percent increase in farmer stocks. However, trader stocks declined by 11 percent, while miller stocks fell by 52 percent. Total bean stocks decreased by 11 percent compared to the LTA. Farmer stocks declined by 15 percent, while trader stocks decreased by seven percent. In the coastal areas, traders were sourcing for maize from the neighbouring Republic of Tanzania to supplement the stocks they get internally.

Stocks

	Maize		Green gram		Sorghum		Beans	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Farmers	1,512,641	1,349,761	258,128	183,981	132,676	107,240	230,258	269,780
Traders	818,214	877,592	156,334	351,959	52,176	58,913	201,862	216,756
Millers	230,586	175,751	0	0	151	314	0	0
Food Assistance	1,388	2,304	2,287	964	0	6,560	260	500
NCPB	5	19,821	468	1,519	0	2,900	0	0
Total	2,562,834	2,425,229	417,217	538,422	185,003	175,927	432,380	487,036

Maize Balance Sheet projected to End of September 2026

The Maize Balance Sheet projected to end September 2026 shows a deficit of about 3 million (90 Kg) bags based on carryover stocks of -3.25 million (90 kg) bags and estimated 1,400,000 (90 Kg) bags LTA forecast imports over the next 3 months. The harvest

between July to September 2026 is estimated at 14.8 million. The primary assumption based on long rains crop performance in major producing counties is that projected production will be below normal in the North Rift and parts of the Western region of the country due to drought.

Maize balance sheet as at end of September 2026

MAIZE (Version 1 @ 84.1kg/caput)	
Stocks as at June in 90kg bags	-3,254,398
Estimated Imports between July to September 2026	
i) Private sector/ Relief agencies estimated imports (from the region)	1,402,773
ii) Government imports (SFR)	0
Estimated Harvests between July to September 2026	0
i) Estimated L.R Harvests	14,778,206
ii) Estimated S.R Harvests	0
Total available stocks by September 2026	12,926,581
Expected total exports to East Africa Community region	0
Expected exports outside the EAC region	0
Post – harvest storage losses estimated at 10%	1,292,658
Amount used for Manufacture of livestock feeds (About 750,000 Monthly)	2,250,000
Amount retained as seed (1%)	129,266
Amount used for manufacture of other products (1%)	129,266
Net available stocks by September 2026	9,125,391
Consumption @4,222,678 bags/Month for 54.22 million people for 3 months	12,668,033
Forecast Balance as at September 2026 (surplus)	-3,542,642

Conclusion

The projected decline in long rains maize production across the country's major growing counties is expected to cause a deficit of 18.9 million (90 kg) bags relative to annual domestic consumption. Long-rains bean production is also projected to decline by approximately 18.6 percent relative to the Long-Term Average (LTA). This shortfall significantly undermines food availability and access across the country. Furthermore, food balance sheet indicates a maize deficit as at the end of September 2026.

Crop production across the ASAL livelihood clusters showed mixed performance during the 2026 long rains season. Drought-tolerant pulses (green grams and cowpeas) generally performed well with significant expansion in area planted and production in several clusters. Maize production remained below the long-term average in most clusters despite

expanded acreage, largely due to erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, flooding and waterlogging in some areas, pests and diseases, and wildlife damage.

Irrigated crop production was above-average for horticultural crops and maize in counties with adequate and expanded irrigation infrastructure. However, productivity was constrained by high production costs, pests and diseases, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, and localized water shortages.

Despite localized production improvement and above-average overall stocks, household food stocks remained below normal across most ASAL clusters, resulting in increased dependence on markets. Trader stocks and inter-county imports continued to play a critical role in maintaining food availability.

Food Security Implications

- The anticipated reduction in maize production is expected to tighten domestic grain supplies, increase dependence on carry-over stocks and imports, and place upward pressure on maize prices.
- The combined effects of prolonged dry spells followed by flooding during the same production season are expected to substantially reduce crop yields and limit household food availability. These successive climate shocks have also shortened the recovery period between the long rains and short rains seasons, increasing the risk of prolonged food insecurity.
- Households already affected by repeated drought and flood events are likely to experience increased dependence on food assistance and market purchases.
- The anticipated El Niño rains are expected to exacerbate the situation due to increased flooding, crop and post-harvest losses, thereby further restricting both food availability and access.

Key Recommendations

1. Climate-Resilient Crop Production

- Scale up timely provision of certified, drought-tolerant and early-maturing seeds
- Promote horticulture, crop diversification and climate-smart resilient technologies
- Promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture through farmer training and extension services

2. Sustainable Land and Water Management

- Rehabilitate and expand water harvesting technologies, irrigation schemes and related infrastructure

- Rehabilitation of drainage and enhanced flood-control infrastructure, particularly in flood-prone areas
- Promote soil and water conservation technologies

3. Crop Health and Productivity Enhancement

- Enhance fertilizer subsidies and improve access to agricultural inputs and mechanization
- Strengthen crop pest and disease surveillance, prevention, and management.
- Improve early warning and prediction of pests' outbreaks
- Strengthening farmer advisory services through digital platforms and extension systems

4. Post-Harvest Management and Market Systems

- Strengthen post-harvest management; drying, handling, storage, and value addition to reduce food losses.
- Strengthen market linkages, commodity distribution, and supply management monitoring to improve food access and price stability, cushioning vulnerable populations.
- Replenish the National Strategic Food Reserve

5. Agricultural Risk Management

- Improve crop insurance coverage and accessibility as well as other risk-financing mechanisms, to protect farmers against drought, floods, pests and other production shocks.
- Provide targeted agricultural recovery support for vulnerable farming households to restore production and productivity

3.6 Livestock Productivity

Livestock production contributes about 80 percent and 50 percent to cash income among pastoral and agro-pastoral households, respectively. The 2026 Long Rains Assessment reveals a livestock sector under significant stress across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), characterized by deteriorating pasture conditions, inadequate feed conservation, persistent disease burdens, and below-normal livestock productivity. While the March–May 2026 rains brought some recovery, the benefits were unevenly distributed, with pastoral clusters facing the most severe challenges and marginal agricultural areas showing relative resilience. Across all clusters, livestock remains the primary livelihood pillar, contributing 25-91% of household income, with camels, cattle, goats, sheep, and poultry as the main species. However, below-normal livestock holdings, declining body conditions, and rising milk prices continue to threaten household food security and resilience across the region.

Pasture and Browse Conditions

Pasture and browse conditions varied significantly across clusters, reflecting uneven rainfall distribution. The Pastoral North West cluster experienced the most severe

conditions, with pasture expected to last only 1-3 months (below normal 2-4 months), while Pastoral North East reported fair to good conditions lasting 1-3 months. The Agro Pastoral cluster showed mixed results, with pasture lasting 0.5-5 months, and Baringo and West Pokot facing critical shortages (<2 weeks in some areas). Coastal Marginal and South Eastern Marginal clusters reported fair to good conditions lasting 1-4 months. Across all clusters, access to pasture and browse was constrained by insecurity/conflicts, invasive species (*Prosopis juliflora*, *Opuntia*, *Ipomoea*), water scarcity, and land fragmentation.

Pasture Conservation and Feed Security

Pasture conservation remains critically inadequate across all clusters, with current hay stocks meeting only a fraction of estimated demand. Pastoral North West holds 289,275 bales (13% of 2,185,000 demand), Pastoral North East holds 16,320 bales (<0.5% of 3,596,000 demand), Agro Pastoral holds 376,800 bales (11% of 3,316,000 demand), South Eastern Marginal holds 345,930 bales (28% of 1,249,200 demand), and Coastal Marginal holds minimal stocks (<3% of demand). Factors limiting conservation include inadequate storage and baling equipment, high costs, limited technical knowledge, negative attitudes, and unreliable rainfall. Supplementary feeding remains costly and largely inaccessible to most livestock keepers.

Livestock Body Condition and Productivity

Livestock body condition ranged from poor to good (BCS 2-5), generally below normal levels (BCS 3-5). Pastoral North West showed the most concerning trends (BCS 2-4), with Turkana and Samburu deteriorating while Marsabit maintained fair to good condition. Pastoral North East reported fair to good condition (BCS 2-5), with camels demonstrating greatest resilience. Agro Pastoral ranged from poor to good (BCS 2-4), with Baringo reporting the worst conditions (cattle at BCS 2) and Kajiado the best (75% at BCS 4). South Eastern Marginal reported fair to very good (BCS 3-5), with Tharaka-Nithi showing excellent condition while Meru's Agropastoral zones face impending decline. Coastal Marginal reported generally good condition (BCS 4), except for Kwale's livestock farming zone (cattle at BCS 3).

Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) and Birth Rates

Tropical Livestock Units remain below normal across most clusters, with varying recovery trajectories. Pastoral North West: Turkana and Samburu at 2-3 TLUs (normal 4-6), while Marsabit shows recovery at 5 TLUs (normal). Pastoral North East: TLUs 40-60% below normal, with poor households at 1-4 TLUs (normal 2-6). Agro Pastoral: West Pokot, Baringo, and Laikipia at 1-8 TLUs (normal 2-15), while Nyeri shows slightly above-normal TLUs. South Eastern Marginal: 20-60% below normal, poor households at 1-4 TLUs (normal 2-8). Coastal Marginal: below normal in most counties. Birth rates are below normal in Turkana, Samburu, Baringo, and parts of Laikipia, while Marsabit, Garissa, Isiolo, Narok, and Kajiado report normal to above-normal reproduction.

Milk Production, Consumption, and Prices

Milk production remains below long-term averages across most clusters, with rising prices constraining household access. Pastoral North West: 0.5-2 litres/day (normal 1-4 litres), prices KSh 80-200/litre. Pastoral North East: 0.5-6 litres/day (normal 1-4 litres), prices KSh 60-120/litre, with Garissa showing above-normal production. Agro Pastoral: 0.5-5 litres/day (normal 1.5-8 litres), prices KSh 42-90/litre. South Eastern Marginal: 0.75-7 litres/day (normal 1-6 litres), prices KSh 50-80/litre, with Makueni showing 40-50% above LTA. Coastal Marginal: 0.5-7 litres/day (normal 1-8 litres), prices KSh 60-100/litre. Households cope by reducing consumption, prioritizing children, purchasing packaged milk (KSh 120-160/litre), or substituting with porridge/black tea.

Water Availability and Access

Water access is increasingly constrained across all clusters as the dry season progresses. Pastoral North West: return distances 2-10 km, sources expected to last 1-4 months. Pastoral North East: 1-13 km, sources lasting 1-3 months. Agro Pastoral: most concerning in Baringo (4-10 km, sources <2 weeks in pastoral zones) and West Pokot, while Kajiado and Narok maintain better access. South Eastern Marginal: generally adequate but emerging constraints in Meru (7 km trekking, sources lasting 1 month in Agropastoral zones). Coastal Marginal: 2-10 km, sources lasting 2-5 months, with elephant invasion and siltation constraining access. Insecurity remains the main limiting factor across all clusters, particularly in conflict-prone border areas.

Livestock Migration Patterns

Livestock migration is extensive in pastoral clusters, driven by pasture depletion, water scarcity, and insecurity. Pastoral North West: Samburu (up to 90% of cattle) and Turkana show extensive migration, moderate in Marsabit (30-50%). Pastoral North East: 60-80% of herds in some areas. Agro Pastoral: West Pokot (up to 77%) and Baringo show extensive migration, moderate in Laikipia, absent in Nyeri and Narok. South Eastern Marginal and Coastal Marginal: limited migration, except Meru and parts of Kitui, though Lamu and Kwale experience in-migration from neighboring counties. Migration has negative impacts including reduced milk availability, increased disease transmission, resource-based conflicts, and environmental degradation.

Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

Endemic diseases remain prevalent across all clusters, with PPR, CCPP, FMD, LSD, and tick-borne diseases being most common. Pastoral North West: West Pokot reported 7,211 cases (PPR accounting for 61%), mortality rates 0.3-0.8%. Pastoral North East: Garissa vaccinated 894,009 animals, mortality 0.01-0.5%. Agro Pastoral: mortality 0.01-0.2% (Nyeri, Laikipia) to <2% (Narok). South Eastern Marginal: mortality 0.01-1.6%, with Makueni reporting highest poultry mortality (2.7%, 51,346 deaths). Coastal Marginal: mortality 0.06-4.0%, within normal ranges. Disease control measures include vaccination

campaigns, surveillance, treatment, deworming, and vector control, though coverage remains inadequate in remote and cross-border areas.

Key Recommendations

1. Strengthen pasture conservation: Invest in hay storage facilities, baling equipment, and farmer training on fodder production and conservation technologies.
2. Control invasive species: Scale up mechanical removal, promote utilization for charcoal and livestock feed, and implement integrated invasive species management approaches.
3. Improve water access: Develop and rehabilitate water infrastructure (boreholes, water pans, dams) and promote water harvesting technologies.
4. Enhance disease surveillance and vaccination: Increase vaccination coverage, strengthen community disease reporting systems, and improve cold-chain infrastructure.
5. Support livestock restocking and breed improvement: Provide superior breeding stock, promote artificial insemination, and strengthen livestock extension services.
6. Address insecurity and conflict: Strengthen peace-building initiatives, improve security along borders and migration corridors, and promote conflict resolution mechanisms.
7. Promote livelihood diversification: Support alternative income-generating activities including poultry, beekeeping, and small-scale trade to reduce over-reliance on livestock.
8. Strengthen early warning systems: Improve drought monitoring, disseminate timely advisories, and support timely response interventions.

Conclusion: The 2026 livestock sector assessment reveals a region at a critical juncture, where seasonal improvements offer temporary relief but underlying structural challenges—inadequate conservation, invasive species, insecurity, and climate variability—continue to undermine long-term resilience. Sustained investment in rangeland management, water infrastructure, disease control, and livelihood diversification is essential to protect livestock-based livelihoods and household food security across Kenya's ASALs

3.7 Water Situation

Availability and access to water for domestic use has significantly improved due to favourable March–May (MAM) 2026 long rains season that resulted in substantial recharge of various water sources. Most households are relying on the normal water sources, which are mainly boreholes, water pans, shallow wells, rivers and springs.

As a result, congestion at water points and water vending have reduced during the season. Open water sources were significantly recharged with the majority receiving 60-80 percent of their capacities in most areas. However, open water sources in isolated areas such as Samburu East, Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas of Laikipia, Baringo and West Pokot, Nyeri,

marginal mixed farming zones of Kitui were poorly recharged between 30 and 50 percent. Current water levels remain good at 70-80 percent in Kwale, Lamu, Mixed farming zones of Laikipia, Baringo, West Pokot and Nyeri and are expected to last for 3-4 months. However, reservoirs water levels in other counties have reduced to 40-60% and are expected to last for 1-2 months. However, most water pans/dams are silted and others breached thereby compromising their ability to harvest adequate water in counties in Wajir and counties within the Agro-pastoral, South Eastern Marginal and Pastoral North West clusters.

About 70 percent of the water pans in Samburu East and selected areas of West Pokot, Marsabit (pastoral livelihood zones of North Horr and Laikipia have dried up with less than 10 percent now supporting both people and their livestock) , Narok (Narok South, Narok East, Narok West, Transmara East and parts of Transmara west) and Baringo (20-20% in Saimo Soi, Emining, Kisanana, Bartabwa, Tiaty East, Central and West wards have dried up due to high prevailing day time temperatures hence, accelerated evapotranspiration rates and minimal recharge leading to congestion of nearby seasonal water sources and increased competition between domestic and livestock. Though water levels for perennial rivers are moderate, average flows are likely to be sustained for the next 2-3 months. Boreholes in Pastoral North East cluster are pumping exceedingly more than the recommended durations leading to frequent breakdowns and over abstraction. About 90-100% of households in refugee camps are accessing water from improved sources.

Return distances have remained within the normal range of 1-2 Km in Nyeri and Mixed Farming / Horticulture, Dairy zone, Irrigated Cropping zones of Baringo, Laikipia, Kajiado and West Pokot, Kwale, Kilifi and Taita Taveta Counties. Return distances are within the normal 2-5Km in the livestock zone of Kilifi, Kwale and Taita Taveta, Agro-pastoral areas of Narok and Kajiado, Pastoral areas of Laikipia, West Pokot and counties in the South Eastern Marginal and Pastoral North East and West cluster. Return distances increased from the normal 3-5Km to the current 5-10Km in the pastoral livelihood zone of Samburu, Garissa, Wajir, Baringo, Narok and Kajiado. Exceptionally longer distances of up to 15-20Km were recorded in isolated areas of Turkana, Marsabit, Embu (Mwea, Kiambere and Mavuria wards) and was attributed to breakdown of boreholes forcing households to trek further to alternative water sources. Extreme return distances were noted in Lorui in Turkana County where households are covering 50Km. Most households in refugee camps are accessing water within a distance of 200 Metres.

Most households in West Pokot, Taita Taveta, Isiolo, Mandera and Mixed farming zones of Agro-pastoral areas don't buy water. Cost of a 20 litre jerrycan is being sold at Ksh. 2-5 in Baringo, Isiolo, Mandera and most counties in the South Eastern Marginal cluster. While the cost of a 20 litre jerrycan was within the normal range of Ksh.5-10 across all the livelihood zones in Garissa, Wajir and Tana River and Counties in the North Western part of the County, cost of water doubled from the normal Ksh.2-5 to the current 5-10 in

Kajiado, Nyeri and Pastoral areas of Laikipia, agropastoral and rain fed cropping zones of Meru North attributed to increase in fuel prices, borehole maintenance costs and limited water sources. Cost of water at source remain high at Ksh. 10-20 in Narok and Pastoral areas of Kajiado, isolated areas of Laikipia (Kinamba and Sosian). Water vendors are charging a 20 litre jerrycan of water at Ksh.20-30 in most areas. Highest cost of water was recorded in the Pastoral areas of West Pokot where vendors are selling a 20 litre jerrycan at Ksh. 50-100.

Households are able to collect water within 15 mins in Kwale, Taita Taveta, Nyeri and Mixed farming zones of Laikipia, Baringo, Turkana, Marsabit and Samburu. Waiting time is within the normal 30 minutes in Kilifi, Lamu, the Pastoral areas of Laikipia, Baringo, Narok and Kajiado and Counties in the South Eastern and Pastoral North East clusters. 30-60 mins in pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones of Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera and Mandera and Livestock Livelihood zones of Kilifi. Households in the Agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones of West Pokot continue to experience a high waiting time of 1-2 Hrs. Households in Magadi (Kajiado) are waiting for 6-8 hours to collect water while those in isolated areas in pastoral zones of Samburu are waiting upto 12 hours to fetch water occasioned by congestion at the available waterpoints as humans and livestock share the same waterpoint. Kalobeyei refugee camp continues to experience a high waiting time of 1-2 Hrs.

Water consumption remained within the normal 15-20 litres per person per day (lppd) in Kajiado, West Pokot and Pastoral areas of Laikipia, Baringo, most counties in the South Eastern and Pastoral North East and West clusters. Water consumption has remained normal at 20-40Lppd in Laikipia, Narok, Nyeri, Kitui and Tharaka Nithi Counties along the Coastal areas. Reduced consumption by 5Lppd was recorded in Kajiado, West Pokot (MF & Agro-p) and Pastoral areas of Laikipia, Baringo, Tana River and Turkana where households are currently consuming 10-15Lppd. Lowest water consumption of about 10Lppd was recorded in the pastoral zones in Turkana, Samburu, Tana River and West Pokot Counties, and was attributed to longer distances and increased waiting times at the water sources. Water consumption within refugee camps average 11-16Lppd with 50 percent & 71 percent of households consuming less than 15Lppd in Dadaab & Kakuma camps respectively.

3.8 Education

The overall enrollment declined across all the counties. At Pre-Primary enrolment increased by 27,724 learners (4.7 percent), with Meru County recording the highest increase of 10,692 learners in Pre-Primary enrolment with 10,692 learners, At primary Level Wajir County recorded the highest decline in Primary enrolment (22,505 learners), while Mandera recorded the largest decline in Junior School enrolment (14,319 learners). West Pokot County reported 21,947 learners (10,322 boys and 11,940 girls) have dropped out

of school due to insecurity, household socio-economic challenges, delayed delivery of commodities and inadequate funding for school meal programmes.

School Meal programme continued to support learner retention, attendance and participation across the counties. Overall, 3,101,168 learners (2.64 million learners in public Pre-Primary, Primary, Junior Schools and 460,500 in senior schools) benefited from school meals across all education levels, while approximately 1.13 million learners remained without access to school feeding programmes. In Kajiado County, 85,369 learners benefited from school meals supported by the Light Up Hope and Tap2Eat/Food for Education, while all refugee primary schools and Special Needs Education institutions continued to receive school meals. However, more than 300,000 learners in Kilifi County remained without access to any form of school meal support.

Seasonal hazards affected education service delivery in several counties. In Baringo County, flooding submerged some schools, while damaged classrooms in Pokot North Sub-County necessitated relocation of learners to temporary learning spaces, including tents and under trees. In Makueni County, localized flooding affected 3,027 learners across 39 schools, while heavy rainfall damaged classrooms and sanitation facilities affecting over 4,600 learners in Kitui County and more than 2,200 learners in Tana River County. In Marsabit County, flooding and collapsed sanitation facilities affected 3,377 learners, while rising Lake Turkana water levels and strong winds disrupted learning in both Marsabit and Turkana counties. Strong winds also damaged classroom roofs in seven schools across Wajir West, Eldas and Buna sub-counties. Extreme weather events in Kwale, Marsabit and Wajir counties disrupted normal learning activities, while three learners sustained injuries following the collapse of sanitation facilities in Kwale County. In Isiolo County, insecurity resulted in the death of one teacher and three non-teaching staff and contributed to the loss of 15 learning days at Leparua Secondary School and 14 learning days at Surumben and Akulo Peace Border Primary Schools in West Pokot County. In Turkana County, increased incidences of malaria, pneumonia, snake bites and water-related diseases were reported. negatively affected learner attendance and participation.

Access to safe and reliable water remained a challenge across the all schools. Schools in Kitui, Kwale, West Pokot, Isiolo, Laikipia and Garissa Counties continued to report inadequate access to safe water sources, while most schools lacked adequate water harvesting and storage facilities. In Garissa County, schools in Lagdera and Balambala sub-counties continued to rely on water trucking to meet operational water requirements.

Sanitation and hygiene conditions remained below the recommended standards in most schools. Handwashing facilities remained inadequate across most schools, largely due to persistent water shortages. Menstrual hygiene management remained a challenge, contributing to absenteeism and reduced participation among girls, particularly in vulnerable and resource-constrained areas.

Child protection concerns, including child labour, family separation, teenage pregnancies, child marriages, substance abuse, and gender-based violence, continued to affect learners' safety, attendance, retention, and academic performance. Strengthening multi-sectoral interventions, community engagement, and targeted support for vulnerable learners remains essential.

3.9 Child Protection

Food insecurity continued to heighten child protection risks across the assessed livelihood clusters, with economic hardship, displacement, drought, floods and migration increasing children's exposure to abuse, neglect, exploitation and psychosocial distress. The 2026 Long Rains Food and Nutrition Security Assessment identified child protection concerns across all five livelihood clusters, although the nature and magnitude of cases varied by county.

Family separation was the most consistently reported concern in the pastoral clusters, largely associated with livestock migration, flooding and displacement. Tana River reported 112 separated children following floods, while Narok recorded 44 children separated from caregivers due to flooding. Taita Taveta documented 35 affected children and West Pokot reported that most separated or migrating children were boys

Neglect emerged as one of the most significant child protection concerns. Taita Taveta recorded the highest number of neglect cases (136), while Kajiado reported that neglect accounted for 95% of 523 violence-against-children cases. Tana River documented 267 neglect cases and Kitui also reported neglect across several sub-counties. Although no confirmed cases were reported in the Pastoral North West cluster, deteriorating food security was considered to be increasing the risk of neglect.

Sexual abuse, child labour, teenage pregnancy and child marriage were reported across multiple clusters. Sexual abuse was concentrated mainly in the Agro-Pastoral and Coastal clusters, while child labour was documented in all five livelihood clusters, with Kajiado, Narok, Taita Taveta and Tana River reporting confirmed cases. Teenage pregnancy was most evident in the Agro-Pastoral and Coastal clusters and was also reported across school levels in Kitui. Child marriage was reported primarily in the Agro-Pastoral cluster, with additional cases identified in Kwale and Kitui, while Marsabit reported the successful prevention of two early marriages.

Psychological wellbeing concerns were documented in several counties. Tana River recorded anxiety, depression and behavioral changes among children and caregivers, while Narok reported emotional distress, sleep difficulties, poor appetite and three cases of self-harm ideation among girls. Taita Taveta and Kilifi documented anxiety, trauma and emotional distress linked to food insecurity, while Kitui and Makueni strengthened psychosocial support and guidance and counselling services for learners and teachers.

Marginalized children were most clearly identified in Tana River and Taita Taveta, with vulnerability linked to poverty, disability, orphanhood, neglect and psychosocial distress.

Overall, the assessment indicates that child protection concerns remain widespread across all livelihood clusters, with family separation, neglect and child labour being the most common issues. Food insecurity, poverty, migration and climatic shocks continue to be the primary drivers of child protection risks, highlighting the need for strengthened prevention, referral, psychosocial support and community-based protection interventions.

3.10 Staple Food and Livestock Prices

Across the livelihood clusters, market conditions remained generally stable, with maize prices exhibiting mixed trends while livestock prices remained above the long-term averages in most counties due to improved livestock body conditions following the long rains. Maize prices in the Pastoral North-East cluster ranged from KES 60 to KES 105 per kilogramme, with Garissa posting the highest prices because of supply constraints, while Tana River registered the lowest prices. Relatively lower maize prices were observed in the Coastal marginal agricultural cluster, where prices ranged between KES 55 and KES 65 per kilogramme, and Kwale recorded the lowest prices due to sufficient market supplies. The Pastoral North-West cluster recorded the widest variation, with maize prices ranging from KES. 65 to KES. 120 per kilogramme, particularly along the Lake Turkana belt where poor accessibility resulted to elevated market prices. In the South-Eastern marginal agricultural cluster, maize prices ranged from KES. 50 to KES. 55 per kilogramme, remaining relatively low following recent harvests, while in the Agro-pastoral cluster prices ranged from KES. 45 to KES. 80 per kilogramme, with Kajiado recording the highest prices and Laikipia the lowest.

Livestock prices remained above the long-term averages across most livelihood clusters, supported by fair to good livestock body conditions and improved pasture availability. Goat prices ranged from KES. 5,500–6,500 in the Pastoral North-East cluster, KES. 6,200–7,500 in the Coastal marginal agricultural cluster, KES. 6,800 to over KES. 10,000 in the Pastoral North-West cluster, and KES. 6,600–7,800 in the South-Eastern marginal agricultural cluster. Prices across the Agro-pastoral cluster were generally above average; however, West Pokot recorded below-average goat prices, largely attributed to increased distress sales.

Terms of Trade (ToT) remained favourable across most livelihood clusters, reflecting stronger livestock purchasing power despite relatively high cereal prices. The most favourable ToT was recorded in the South-Eastern marginal agricultural cluster, where households could purchase between 120 and 150 kilogrammes of maize from the sale of a medium-sized goat. Similarly, favourable ToT was observed in the Coastal marginal agricultural cluster (105–130 kg), the Agro-pastoral cluster (up to 145 kg in Laikipia), and parts of the Pastoral North-East cluster, particularly Tana River and Isiolo. However, purchasing power remained relatively weak in Garissa, Mandera, Turkana, West Pokot, and parts of Samburu, where households could purchase fewer than 80 kilogrammes of maize from the sale of a medium-sized goat, reflecting the combined effects of high maize prices and lower livestock values.

Overall, above-average livestock prices and generally favourable terms of trade are likely to sustain food access for livestock-owning households, although poor households in high-cereal-price and low-livestock-value areas may continue to face constrained purchasing power.

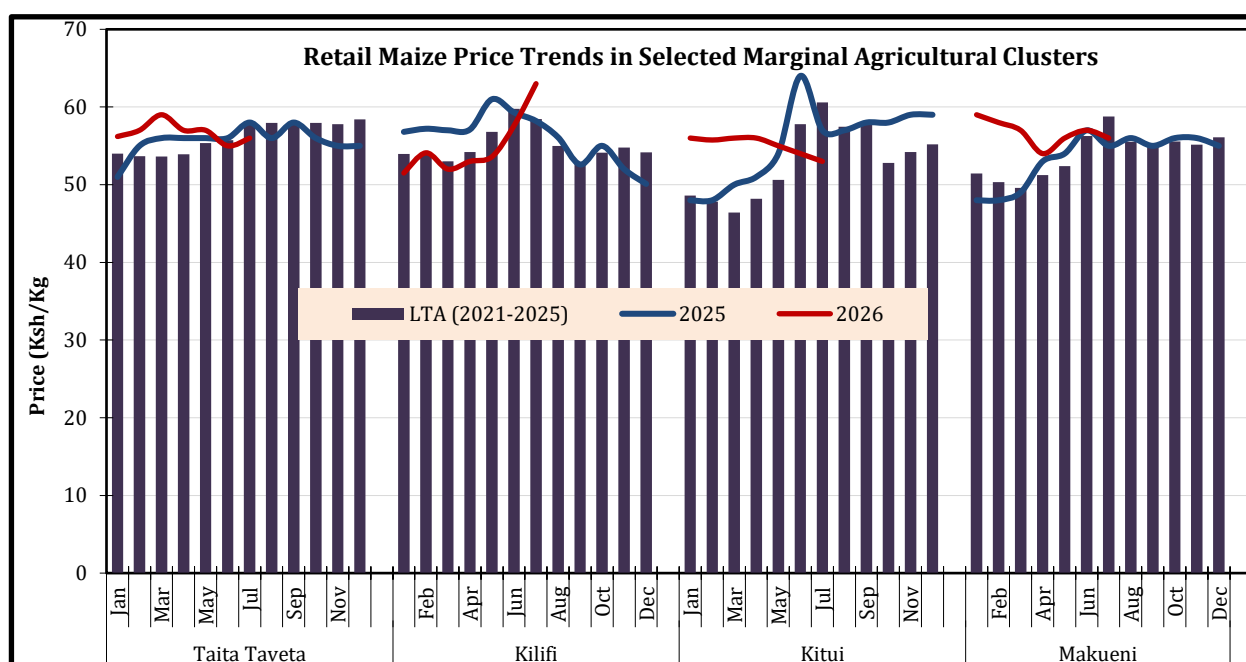


Figure 7 Retail Maize Prices in Selected Marginal Agricultural Markets

4.0 | FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

Prognosis Assumptions

- According to global ensemble forecasts, and based on July initial conditions, the present El Niño is forecast to strengthen from October through January 2027. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is forecast to transition into a positive phase from August through the early 2027, elevating the possibility of a strong El Niño to 81 percent.
- According to the preliminary KMSA forecast, in addition to global ensemble forecasts, and based on historical analogs of past El Niño events that have coupled with positive IOD, the 2026 October to December short rains are likely to be enhanced in most parts of the country.
- While the June to September period is typically dry across much of the county, the ongoing El Niño conditions are driving below-average rainfall across the medium and high potential western and southwestern parts of the country. Consequently, the remainder of the March to September long rains season is likely to be below average despite above average start of the season between February and March.
- Maize production in the unimodal medium and high potential western and southwestern parts of the country is expected to be below average following the anomalous El Niño driven dry spell from June, during the critical tasseling and grain filling.
- Based on the forecast of enhanced short rains and past experiences with similar forecasts, there is an elevated risk of flash flooding, from October, in urban areas

and in low lying areas across the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas in the coastal, northern and eastern parts of the country.

- Across the pastoral areas, the enhanced short rains will drive significant rejuvenation of pastures, browse, and water resources, triggering livestock migration into wet season grazing areas as early as September.
- Based on the forecast enhanced short rains, there is an elevated risk of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) across the pastoral areas, driven by a likely upsurge in Aedes and Culex mosquito populations, as widespread stagnant water will create favorable breeding grounds. At the same time, the wet conditions coupled with the upsurge of such vectors will elevate the prevalence of endemic diseases such as Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).
- Although livestock birth rates are likely to be near average due to favorable conception rates during the long rains, herd sizes are expected to remain below average given the typical slow recovery from previous-drought related losses. In addition, increased mortality among the young livestock during the wet season is expected to further constrain herd recovery.
- Across the marginal agricultural areas, households are expected to atypically increase crop sales to settle debts accrued from food and agricultural input purchases during successive below average production seasons. While this will temporarily support liquidity needs, it will result in a rapid depletion of household food stocks by late August and early September. Consequently, household dependence on market purchases is likely to increase to atypically high levels through December.
- Across the marginal agricultural areas, the demand for agricultural waged labor during land preparation, planting, and throughout the growing season due to higher labor requirements for weeding, pesticide application and other crop management activities. The income earned is expected to partially offset deficits and support household access to food.
- While overall crop production across the marginal agricultural areas is expected to be average to above average, the production of short cycle legumes, particularly beans, is expected to be below average. Excessive rainfall and localized water logging are expected to affect flowering, pod development and harvesting activities.
- According to FEWS NET price projections, staple food prices are expected to remain above the five-year average despite following seasonal trends. The anticipated below average production in the unimodal medium and high potential western and southwestern parts of the country, strong demand and elevated transport costs associated with high fuel prices will drive the elevated prices. Furthermore, flood-related disruption to trade routes and market supply chains may result in localized price spikes particularly in the pastoral areas. Nevertheless, increased cross-border imports from Tanzania are expected to partially improve market availability and moderate prices.
- According to FEWS NET price projections, livestock prices are expected to remain above average throughout the projection period, driven by low market supply due

to low herd sizes, and expected improvements in body conditions during the short rains that will attract better sale values.

- The planned elections in South Sudan in December 2026 and ongoing electoral processes in Somalia, including the anticipated presidential election later in 2026, may heighten political tensions and trigger localized violence, displacement, and cross-border movements into Kenya. Human–wildlife conflict is expected to persist during the August–October lean dry spell as water and pasture scarcity will push wildlife into farms and settlements. From November 2026 through January 2027; improved vegetation, increased cultivation, and possible damage to wildlife-control infrastructure from heavy rainfall could sustain or intensify localized conflicts. Nyeri, Makueni, Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia, Kajiado, Taita Taveta, and Kilifi are expected to remain the main human-wildlife conflict hotspots.

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Pastoral areas

The forecast enhanced October to December short rains are expected to support the rejuvenation of pasture and browse and the rapid recharge of open water sources, such as seasonal rivers, water pans, and dams. Improved rangeland and water resources will facilitate the return of livestock back to wet-season grazing areas closer to homesteads and support improvements in livestock body conditions and productivity. Although favorable conception rates during the preceding seasons are expected to result in near-average birth rates, herd sizes are likely to remain below average due to the typically slow pace of herd recovery following previous drought losses. In addition, elevated mortality among young livestock during the wet season is expected to further constrain herd growth. Improved livestock productivity is expected to increase household milk availability, consumption, and income to near-average levels. While favorable body conditions are likely to support above-average livestock prices, below average herd sizes, coupled with households' preference to rebuilding herd sizes during the wet season, will continue to constrain livestock sales and market supply relative to demand. Consequently, income from livestock sales is expected to remain below potential levels despite favorable prices. The heightened risk of livestock diseases, including Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), associated with increased vector populations and widespread standing water, may disrupt livestock movements and trading activities. Any resulting movement restrictions or market closures would reduce household access to livestock markets and associated income earning opportunities. At the same time, flooding in low lying areas such as in Wajir and along the Tana Basin, is likely to result in localized displacements, destruction of property and infrastructure, and disruptions to market access and humanitarian operations. Staple food prices are projected to remain elevated through January driven by constrained domestic supply following anticipated below average production in key surplus-producing areas, strong demand, and elevated transport costs associated with high fuel prices. In addition,

flood-related disruption to trade routes and market supply chains may result in localized price spikes. Despite elevated staple food prices, increased income from milk sales and herding labor opportunities, together with improved milk availability and consumption, are expected to enhance food availability and access among poor households. Consequently, reliance on negative consumption and livelihood-based coping strategies is expected to decline among most poor households. The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five years is expected to remain elevated at Critical (GAM 15-29.9%) across most pastoral areas except for Isiolo and West Pokot, where the prevalence is expected to be Serious (GAM 10-14.9%). In addition to poor dietary diversity and feeding frequencies, the high prevalence of acute malnutrition will also be driven by other non-food factors such as high disease burden, including diarrhea and Upper Respiratory Infections. Overall, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected in most pastoral areas as improvements in livestock productivity, milk availability, and incomes support household food availability and access. However, in Garissa, Mandera, Tana River, and Wajir, anticipated flooding will compound the effects of the previous poor seasons, slowing recovery among affected households, and sustaining Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes.

Marginal Agricultural areas

Beginning in November, demand for agricultural waged labor is expected to increase to above-average levels as the enhanced short rains support increased weeding, pesticide application, and other crop management activities associated with elevated soil moisture and humidity. In addition, water logging and localized flooding in low-lying areas are likely to increase labor requirements for the construction and maintenance of farm drainage structures. Households are expected to remain heavily dependent on market purchases following the earlier-than-normal depletion of food stocks from the below average long rains harvests. However, increased income from agricultural waged labor opportunities is expected to support household purchasing power and access to food despite elevated staple food prices. Across most areas, production of short-cycle legumes such as beans, cowpeas, dolichos lablab and green grams, is likely to be constrained by excessive soil moisture and localized waterlogging, increasing the likelihood of below average harvests. Nevertheless, the availability of green harvests from late December, followed by early harvests in January, is expected to gradually improve household food availability and reduce reliance on market purchases. The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five years is projected to be Alert (GAM 5-9.9%) across most areas. In addition to inadequate dietary quality and diversity, elevated disease prevalence and poor water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions during the wet weather are expected to continue contributing to acute malnutrition. In Meru, Taita Taveta, Kilifi and Lamu, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is expected to be Acceptable (GAM <5%). Overall, Stress (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected to persist across the marginal agricultural areas. While income from agricultural waged labor and the gradual availability of green and early harvests will enable most poor households to meet their minimum food needs, many households are

expected to remain unable to meet their essential non-food needs without engaging in stress-coping strategies.

Refugee Settlements (Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei)

Food consumption in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Kalobeyei is expected to remain under pressure between November 2026 and January 2027, as humanitarian assistance will continue to be the primary source of food for most households, with no significant increase in support levels anticipated. Households in Categories 1, 2, and 3 are expected to continue receiving 80 percent, 60 percent, and 20 percent of the food basket, respectively, while Category 4 and unverified households will not receive routine food assistance. Although some households, particularly in Kalobeyei, may benefit from seasonal vegetable production through irrigated farming and kitchen gardens, livelihood opportunities are expected to remain insufficient to significantly reduce dependence on aid. Potential refugee influxes from South Sudan and Somalia could further strain humanitarian resources and worsen food security outcomes. Food security conditions are expected to deteriorate slightly due to persistently high food prices, limited income-earning opportunities, and changes in assistance modalities. In Kakuma and Dadaab, the planned transition from partial cash-based assistance to fully in-kind food distributions from November 2026 is likely to reduce household purchasing flexibility, negatively affecting dietary diversity and local market activity. In Dadaab, additional risks from the anticipated OND 2026 El Niño event, including flooding, disease outbreaks, market disruptions, and reduced access to health and nutrition services, could further worsen food consumption and nutrition outcomes. While continued health, nutrition, and WASH services are expected to help maintain stable mortality rates, the overall food security situation is projected to remain fragile, with a risk of further deterioration if shocks intensify or humanitarian resources become overstretched. Kakuma and Kalobeyei is expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), with a slight deterioration in food security conditions, while Dadaab is expected to deteriorate toward Emergency (IPC Phase 4) should flooding, refugee influxes, and funding constraints intensify during the projection period.

5.0 | OPTIONS FOR RESPONSE

The 2026 Long Rains Assessment indicates that although the season improved food security outcomes in many areas, localized drought conditions, disease outbreaks, flooding risks, market disruptions, and persistent vulnerabilities continue to threaten livelihoods. The recommended response therefore emphasizes a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach that combines immediate humanitarian support with resilience-building interventions across agriculture, livestock, water, health, education, child protection, conflict management, and humanitarian assistance. Table 3 sets out response options by sector at a total cost of KSh. 66.73 billion. All immediate, medium and long-term interventions should be anchored in the Ending Drought Emergencies Common Programme Framework.

Table 2: Recommended Response Interventions – August to January 2027

Sector	Response Options	Cost	
		KES (Billio n)	USD (Millio n)
Water	• Develop/rehabilitate/improve water supply systems, harness green energy and integrating climate resilience. • Desilt water pans and dams to maximize storage for OND rains. • Enhance El Niño preparedness: Pre-position water treatment chemicals and strengthen flood protection infrastructure for critical water sources. • Implement interventions to support sustained water access and WASH services during acute shortages. • Point- of- use (POU) water treatment. Provision of water treatment chemicals especially during El Niño.	14.8	90.8
Agriculture	• Provide certified drought-tolerant and early maturing crop seeds, fertilizers, and seasonal credit for the OND 2026 season. • Accelerate food production through strategic provision of farm inputs, irrigation expansion, and flood-recession farming. • Release strategic grain reserves and monitor markets to discourage speculative trading and stabilize prices. • Improve post-harvest management (aggregation/storage).	3.5	27.1

	• Support provision of index-based crop insurance.		
Livestock	• Strengthen disease surveillance, vaccination, and vector control, specifically for El Nino-sensitive diseases like Rift Valley Fever. • Rehabilitate livestock water infrastructure and establish fodder/feed reserves. • Support livestock insurance schemes and commercial destocking during severe stress. • Restore degraded rangelands and control invasive species.	3.4	26.4
Education	• Maintain and expand school meal programs to support vulnerable learners. • Improve access through enrolment campaigns, bursaries, and support for boarding primary schools. • Strengthen school WASH: Construct toilets, provide dignity kits, and install rainwater harvesting systems. • Implement child protection awareness regarding teenage pregnancy, FGM, and child marriage.	6.6	50.1
Health & Nutrition	• Procurement of IMAM commodities • Heightened Nutrition surveillance, situation monitoring and coordination. • Scale up of integrated health and nutrition outreaches and mass screening. • Nutrition response planning and resource mobilization. • Hotspot mapping and prioritization of outreach sites • Invest in Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategies to improve infant & young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition & WASH practices • Initiate and Scale up community based approaches to address poor dietary intake among children 6 to 23 months • Sustain disease Surveillance and response to outbreaks	7.8	60.8

	• Advocate for counties to finance data and surveillance activities to allow for comprehensive nutrition situation analysis. • Implement multisectoral responses and interventions to address immediate needs with complementary actions to build resilience of communities. •		
Child Protection	• Shock-Responsive social protection: Expand cash transfer programs (CT-OVC) to cushion households against rising food prices. • Strengthen child protection referral pathways, rescue centers, and reintegration systems. • Provide emergency food assistance and dignity support to out-of-school children and adolescent girls. • Advocacy and support for children living with disabilities.	0.24	1.85
Conflict Management	• Strengthen community policing and security operations to prevent conflict. • Promote community dialogues and negotiated agreements for shared land, water, and grazing. • Manage human-wildlife conflicts and reduce competition over natural resources. • Rehabilitate critical infrastructure and develop livestock markets to support livelihoods.	0.34	2.61
Humanitarian assistance	• Deliver cash where markets work; provide in-kind food where routes or markets are disrupted. • Move essential food and supplies to vulnerable counties before floodwaters cut off road access. • Update emergency access routes, alternative transport options, and warehouse capacity ahead of El Niño rains. • Align national and county field hubs to streamline targeting, share real-time data, and fill operational gaps.	30	231.82