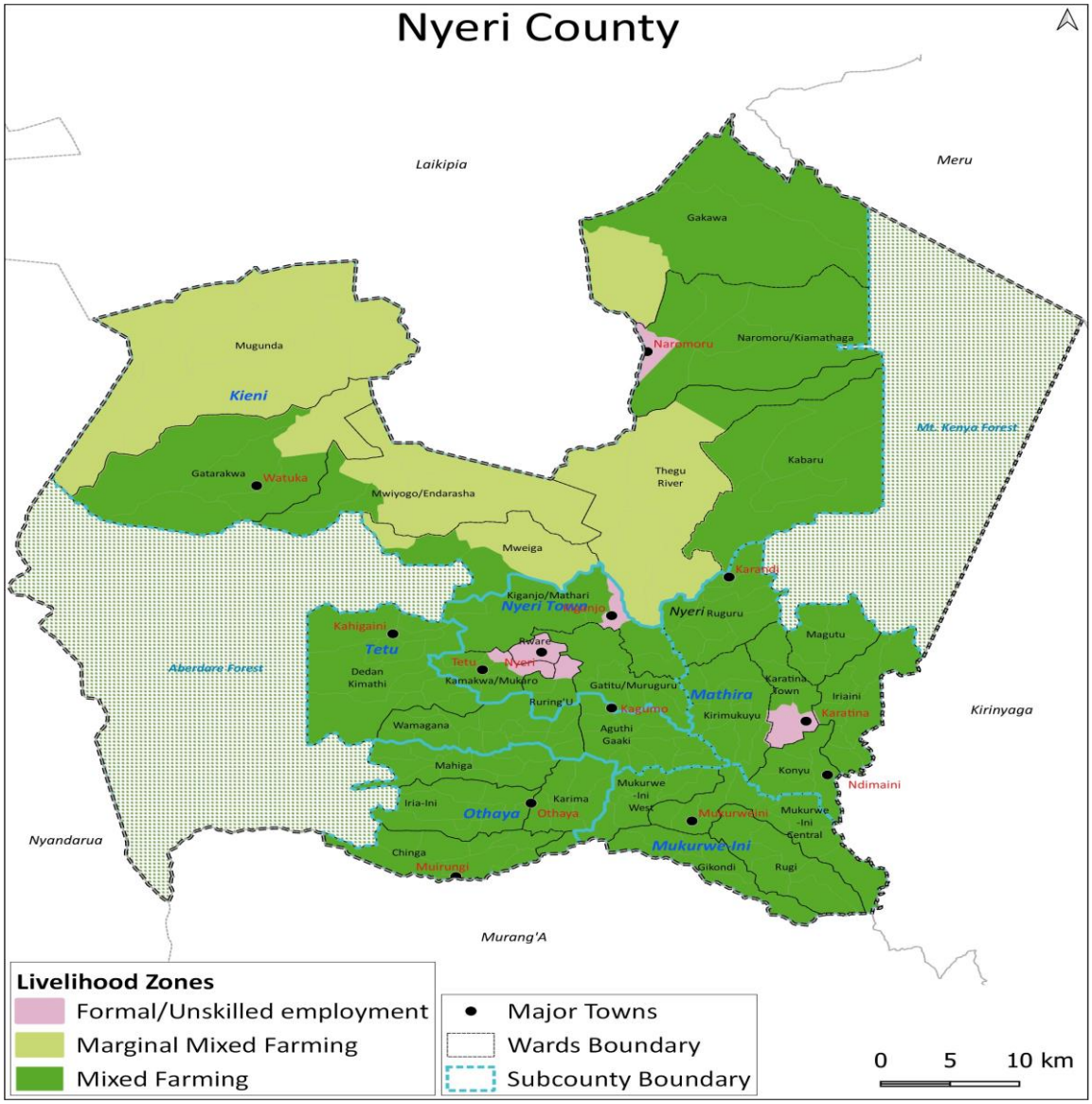
NYERI COUNTY (KIENI)

2025 LONG RAINS FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



A joint report by

The Technical County Steering Group, Nyeri (Kieni) County
and
Kenya Food Security Steering Group
July, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Multi-agency and multi-sectoral food security assessments are typically conducted bi-annually after the two main rainy seasons in Kieni; October-November-December (OND) short rains and March-April-May (MAM) long rains. The long rains assessment was coordinated by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and involved the departments of livestock, agriculture, water, education, health and nutrition at the county level. The geographical scope was confined to the two sub-counties in Kieni namely: Kieni East and Kieni West and delineated to the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones only. The assessment's main objective was to conduct an unbiased, transparent and evidence-based analysis of the current food security situation to determine the recent concluded long rains' impact on the five sectors mentioned above. It took into consideration the aggregate impacts of the previous seasons to inform food and non-food interventions for the next six months. The long rains season's performance was fair characterized by a timely onset, with rainfall amounts of over 91 percent of normal and well spatially distributed. Poor temporal distribution with timely cessation was observed in some parts of Kieni. This has led to the area under crop production for maize to decrease by a 27 percent margin, that of beans increased by 18 percent and that of Irish potato remained normal. In the areas that received above-normal rains, flooding caused crop destruction. Projected production for maize and Irish potatoes decreased by 57 and 68.6 percent respectively while that of beans was normal in comparison with their respective Long Term Averages (LTA). Farmers held 36.2 percent of normal maize stocks because there were minimal carry-over stocks from the previous season and harvesting of the current seasonal crop was yet to be done.

Pasture and browse were near-normal in both livelihood zones and were likely to be available until August. Livestock body condition was better than normal for this time of the year for cattle, sheep and goats. Trekking distances were within seasonal ranges between 0.5 – 3km and 1.0 – 4km in the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones respectively and expected to last approximately 1-2 months. Milk production was also within seasonal norms averaging 5.0 litres compared with 4.0-4.5 litres normally in both livelihood zones. Market functions were normal with regard to commodity flow and physical access. However, very few households were relying on carryover stocks from the last short rains season with most relying on markets. In addition, households had access to beans, Irish potatoes, cabbages, carrots and onions that were being harvested. Maize prices were recorded at Kshs 60; 20 percent higher than normal compared with Kshs 50 recorded in the 2020-2024 LTA. Sheep prices were also 39.2 percent higher than normal to stand at Kshs 5,318 in comparison with Kshs 3,820 recorded in the 2020-2024 LTA. Terms of trade (sheep to maize ratio) were 15.2 percent higher than normal to stand at 89 in comparison with 105 in the 2020-2024 LTA due to increase maize prices against increased sheep prices. The season had a positive impact on open water sources and recharged their water levels to a slight extent. Distances to water sources for household consumption were within normal ranges of approximately a kilometer. Waiting time at source was also within seasonal ranges at approximately five and ten minutes in the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones respectively. Water consumption per person per day had also slightly decreased from 40 litres per person per day (lpppd) normally to 30 lpppd currently in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone. In the mixed farming livelihood zone, it had also decreased from 50lpppd normally to 40lpppd currently. Male and female adults as well as children aged below five were consuming at least two to three meals daily. The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition as determined by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC)

was recorded at nil. This proportion was lower than 1.3 percent expected at this time of the year in the 2020-2024 LTA. Dietary diversity was quite low as meals typically constituted foods from two groups largely carbohydrates and vegetables, occasionally pulses and very rarely animal proteins, poultry or dairy. The proportion of households in poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption groups were estimated at 0.0, 58.8 and 41.2 percent respectively in July 2025 in comparison with 0.8, 67.5 and 31.7 percent respectively in July 2024. Food consumption patterns had therefore improved with regard to dietary diversity, food frequency and nutritive value of food. The coping strategy index (rCSI) averaged 5.6 in July 2025 having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 5.26 recorded at a similar time last year. Households had therefore not significantly reduced nor increased the frequency and severity of consumption-based coping strategies. In conclusion, both livelihood zones were classified in Stressed Phase.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1
1.1 County background 1
1.2 Methodology and approach 1
2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY 2
2.1 Rainfall Performance 2
2.2 Other drivers 3
3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY 3
3.1 Availability 3
3.1.1 Crop Production 3
3.1.2 Cereal stocks 5
3.1.3 Livestock Production 5
3.2 Access 10
3.2.1 Market operations 10
3.2.2 Terms of trade 11
3.2.3 Water access and availability for domestic use 11
3.2.4 Food Consumption 14
3.2.5 Coping strategy 15
3.3 Utilization 15
3.3.1 Morbidity and mortality patterns 15
3.3.2 Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation 16
3.3.3 Nutritional status and dietary diversity 17
3.4 Trends of key food security indicators 18
3.5 Education 18
3.5.1 Enrolment 18
3.5.2 Effects of long rains in schools 19
3.5.3 School Feeding 19
3.5.4 School-based programmes/activities that promote food security and climate change action in the county 20
3.5.5 Inter-sectoral links 21
4.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS 24
4.1 Prognosis Assumptions 24
4.1 Food security Outlook for August-September-October 24
4.2 Food security Outlook for November-December-January 2026 24
5.0 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS 25
5.1 Conclusion 25
5.1.1 Phase classification 25
5.1.2 Summary of Findings 25
5.2 Ongoing Interventions 25
5.2.1 Food interventions 25
5.2.2 Non-food interventions 26
5.3 Recommended Interventions 29
5.3.1 Food interventions 29
5.3.2 Non-food interventions 29

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County background

Kieni East and Kieni West Sub-counties are located in the northern part of Nyeri County. They border Nyandarua County and the Aberdare Forest to the West, Murang'a County to the South, Kirinyaga County and Mt. Kenya forest to the East, Laikipia County to the North and Meru County to the North-East. Both sub-counties cover a land mass of approximately 1,990 square kilometres with approximately 1,026 of these being arable. Major economic activities in Kieni include crop production, horticultural production and livestock keeping. It has a projected population of 293,000 persons according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics population projections for 2024. The main livelihood zones include marginal mixed farming, mixed farming, formal/unskilled employment (Figure 1). However, the assessment's scope was in the first two zones only. In mixed farming livelihood zone, households depend on livestock production on small-scale with improved breeds and crop production as main sources of income and food. Better off, middle, poor and very poor households constitute 10, 40, 30 and 20 percent respectively.

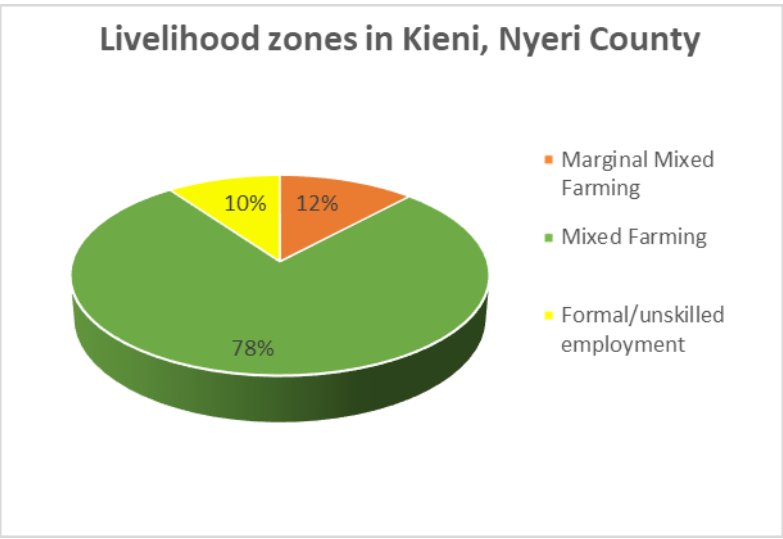


Figure 1: Population by livelihood zone in Kieni, Nyeri County

In marginal mixed farming, crop production is the major source of income and food. Livestock production, pasture/fodder production, poultry, and casual/waged-labour income, small businesses/own business including crafts, non-farm production/brokerage services/ middlemen and *boda* transport are the other sources of income.

In the formal/unskilled employment, casual jobs are a major contributor to household income and include employment in construction sites, *boda* transport, hotels/restaurants and boutiques.

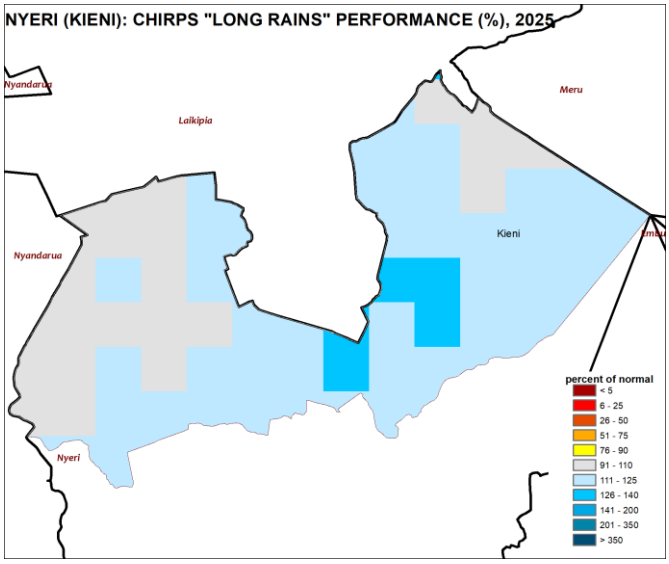
1.2 Methodology and approach

The long rains assessment 2024 was conducted from 9th July 2025 to 24th July 2025. NDMA coordinated the technical County Steering Group (CSG) members from livestock, agriculture, nutrition, water and education. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used to collect data. The exercise began with checklist administration from 9th July 2025 to 11th July 2025. Members from the sub-county technical CSGs populated the checklists with data for the season. The initial CSG meeting took place on the morning of 14th July 2025 where sector representatives presented their consolidated checklists for Kieni. Sources of this secondary data included sector reports, NDMA bulletins, Kenya Health Information System (KHIS) and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). This was later followed by a thorough check of the checklists in the afternoon to identify gaps to be filled during the transect drive. A transect drive was conducted in the two sub-counties to collect primary data on 15th July 2025 to 16th July 2025. A report-writing session was held on 17th July 2025 and a final debrief CSG meeting

was conducted on 18th July 2025 where preliminary findings of the assessment were presented and endorsed. Thereafter, a draft report of the findings was forwarded to the KFSSG for further analysis and review.

2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

2.1 Rainfall Performance



Parts of Gatarakwa, Gakawa and Mugunda Wards received near-normal rainfall of between 91-100 percent in Kieni West Sub-county. The rest of Kieni mostly received an average of between 111-125 percent of normal rainfall. A small part of Thegu River Ward received above-normal rains of between 120-140 percent of normal rains. (Figure 2). The spatial rainfall distribution was fairly even as both the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones recorded some rainfall.

Figure 2: Spatial rainfall distribution in Kieni, Nyeri County

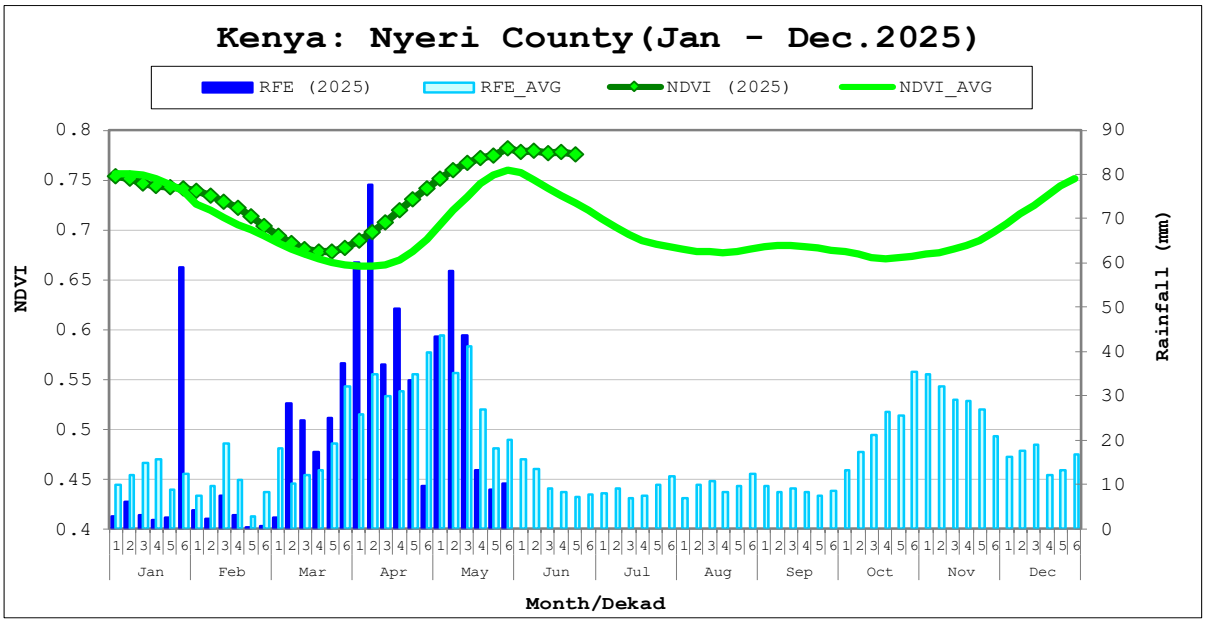


Figure 3: Temporal rainfall distribution in Kieni, Nyeri County

The onset of the long rains season occurred within the first 10 days of March which was normal (Figure 3). The temporal distribution was poor as some areas in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone recorded substantial rains in March and April but minimal rains in May. Cessation occurred in the third dekad of June which was normal although some off-season showers continued to be recorded through to July.

2.2 Other drivers

Some parts of Kieni received extreme rainfall amounts between end of March and mid - May leading to flooding and crop destruction. Maize production was projected to reduce due to fall armyworm attack, human-wildlife conflict and frost attack. The impacts have been quantified in Table 4. Crop diseases such as blight and high input prices also affected production. Forage was also affected by frost.

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

3.1.1 Crop Production

The main crops grown during this season include maize, beans and Irish potatoes. Other common crops include carrots, cabbages, onions and spinach under irrigated agriculture. The long rains season is the most reliable for maize production while the short rains season is most reliable for bean production. Crop production contributes five and 20 percent to cash income in the marginal mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zones respectively. Table 1 shows the contribution of the main food crops to both cash and income in Kieni, Nyeri County.

Table 1: Contribution of food crops to cash and income

Livelihood	Crop	Contribution (%)	
		Cash	Food
Mixed farming Marginal Mixed farming	Maize	1	60
	Irish potatoes	22	15
	Beans	2	20

Rain-fed Crop Production

The acreage for maize decreased by a 27 percent margin, that of beans increased by 18 percent while that of Irish potatoes remained relatively within normal ranges (Table 2). The acreage for maize reduced due to prohibitive cost of hybrid seeds which most farmers could not afford hence reducing planting. There had also been a prediction about low amounts of rainfall that made farmers to avoid planting to mitigate crop failure. They preferred to plant high-value crops such as cabbages, onions and carrots that had an assured income. Acreage under beans increased as the Nyeri County Government provided certified *Nyota* bean seeds to farmers which acted as incentive.

Maize production was projected to reduce by 57 percent due to poor temporal rainfall distribution, fall armyworm attack, wildlife destruction, frost attack, and reduced planting hectarage during the season. Bean production was projected to be relatively within normal ranges although it was affected by blight attack, wildlife crop destruction as well as bean anthracnose disease. Irish potato production was projected to reduce by 68.6 percent due to poor temporal rainfall distribution, wildlife crop destruction, late blight attack and nematodes.

Table 2: Rain-fed crop production

Crop	Area planted during 2025 long rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average (LTA) area planted during the long rains season (Ha)	2025 long rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected	Long Term Average (LTA) production during the long rains season (90 kg bags)
Maize	2,916	3,993	11,587	26,886
Bean	2,455	2,084	11,804	12,402
Irish Potato	3,685	3,828	15,330 MT	49,014 MT

Irrigated Crop Production

The main crops grown under irrigation this season included cabbage, spinach and carrots. The acreage under irrigation increased by 42 and 52 percent for cabbage and carrots respectively in comparison with the LTA (Table 3). The increased acreage could be attributed to the increased price of the commodities (from Kshs 10 to Kshs 60 per cabbage and from Kshs 40 to Kshs 60 per kilogram for carrots) which acted as an incentive for increased planting. However, the acreage for spinach decreased due to reduced availability of water for irrigation due to reduced rainfall in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone.

Cabbage production increased by 27 percent while that of spinach and carrot decreased by 16.4 and 23.8 percent respectively (Table 3). Cabbage production increased due to increased acreage while that of spinach and carrot reduced due to wildlife crop destruction and reduced planted area during the season.

Table 3: Irrigated crop production

Crop	Area planted during the 2025 long rains season (ha)	Long term average (3 years) area planted during long rains season (ha)	2025 long rains season production (90 kg bags/MT) Projected/Actual	Long term average production (3 years) during long rains season (90 kg bags/MT)
Cabbage	778	548	20,085	15,811
Spinach	81	93	1944	2,325
Carrots	135	75	319	1,599

Table 4 below illustrates the acreage of crops damaged and percentage loss at ward level.

Table 4: Damage to food crops in Kieni

Ward	Crop Damaged	Acres Destroyed	Production Loss in MT	Estimated Lost Value In Kshs
Wildlife destruction				
Thegu River	Cabbages	0.6	12	588,000
Kabaru	Spinach	0.2	16	16,000
			Total	**604,000**
Floods destruction				
Kabaru	Irish potato	0.5	0.7	15,000
			Total	**15,000**

The damage by wildlife was reported to Kenya Wildlife Services and the farms assessed for compensation.

3.1.2 Cereal stocks

Farmers held 36.2 percent of normal maize stocks (Table 5) due to little stocks carried over from the October-November-December 2024 short rains seasons. Households lacked suitable storage facilities so sold most of the commodity. In addition, harvesting for the current season under review had not been done. The remaining stocks at household level were projected to last less than one month in both the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones. Traders held 31.1 percent of below average stocks of maize (Table 5) because it was yet to be replenished from the prospective harvests.

Rice stocks at household level were normal. However, traders held more than 70.1 percent above-average stocks (Table 5) as the commodity was in high demand triggered by the low maize stocks at household level.

Table 5: Cereal stock availability

Actor	Maize		Rice		Sorghum		Green gram	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Farmers	1,487	1,988	5	5	5	0	0	0
Traders	1,203	1,745	1,385	810	95	95	276	241
Millers	120	663	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Assistance	0	5	5	5	0	5	0	0
NCPB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**2,810**	**4,401**	**1,395**	**820**	**100**	**100**	**276**	**241**

3.1.3 Livestock Production

Introduction

Kieni is known for its agricultural potential and livestock farming plays a crucial role in the economy of the area. The primary livestock raised in this region includes cattle, sheep, goats (both meat and dairy), local poultry and bees. Livestock farming in Kieni supports both subsistence and commercial farming. Many farmers rely on livestock for income, food and as a source of cultural value. The sector contributes to the local economy through the production of meat, milk and other animal products. Additionally, the sale of livestock provides

livelihoods to many households in the region. In the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones of Kieni, over 70 percent of households engaged in one or multiple livestock enterprises. Sheep rearing and indigenous poultry keeping contribute greatly to household incomes due to their ease of sale, while dairy goat keeping has been key in nutrition improvement especially in terms of goat milk. Over 80 percent of the dairy cattle herd consists of crosses of exotic and indigenous breeds and are mainly kept under semi-intensive production systems. About five percent of farmers are keeping pure breeds through adoption of modern breeding technologies and housing units. There is also a shift in the production systems to intensive farming especially in the mixed farming zones triggered by the diminishing land sizes and need for diversification to tap on to other income sources. Performance of the sector was fair compared to the previous years, with positive outcomes attributed to the rainfall experienced.

Pasture and Browse

The current condition of pasture and browse was almost normal in both livelihood zones as the performance of the season was sufficient for rejuvenation. The available forage was estimated to last approximately one month through to August in both zones compared with 1.5- 2 months normally (Table 6). Forage was unlikely to last through to the onset of the short rains season which will likely impede regeneration. Frost was currently limiting access to both pasture and browse. In addition, an invasive weed known as Africa Senna had continued to colonize natural pastures, which thrive optimally in dry and hot conditions. Estimating the affected area was challenging due to the weed's scattered distribution and lack of continuous canopy. Farmers have been using mechanical control methods, mainly hand-pulling and frequent slashing of the weed in the affected areas, followed by heaping for decomposition or burning. The issue has been reported to the relevant department, but no research has yet been conducted to determine the most effective elimination method.

Table 6: Pasture and browse condition

	Pasture				Browse			
Livelihood zone	**Condition**		**How long to last (Months)**		**Condition**		**How long to last (Months)**	
	Current	**Normal**	**Current**	**Normal**	**Current**	**Normal**	**Current**	**Normal**
MF	Fair-good	Fair	1-1.5	1.5	Fair	Fair	1.5	1.5
MMF	Fair	Fair	1	1.5	Fair	Fair	1.5	2

Pasture/ fodder conservation situation

Fodder conservation is a smart cost effective and sustainable strategy to bridge forage gaps, enhance livestock resilience and secure livelihood in the face of seasonal feed scarcity. There has been an increase in fodder conservation in the form of hay, driven by the long rains. However, while the rains promoted vigorous growth, farmers did not harvest the hay in good time, resulting in poor - quality hay.

Agricultural Mechanization Services remained the only institution that has been supporting farmers with subsided rates for baling of hay in Kieni where land sizes are large allowing for pasture and fodder production. There are about 106 hay stores in both Kieni East and Kieni

West Sub-counties, some located at farm level and the rest in shopping centers for commercial purposes. The current stock for baled hay was expected to last for approximately three months since there was pasture to be utilized.

The percentage of utilization was currently low and approximated at 30% since farmers had crop residues to utilize from their farms thus utilizing little of the conserved pasture. Some of the factors limiting fodder conservation include high cost of baling, surplus production, lack of storage facilities and inadequate knowledge on conservation practices and their importance. These have resulted in a substantial amount of hay remaining in the field as standing hay, with some farmers allowing their animals to graze on it directly. There were no consumption gaps and alternatives sources of hay and hay types since the conserved hay from the previous season is still abundant. It is important to note that farmers were not supplementing their livestock due to the high cost and low quality of concentrates.

Approximately 41,500 bales of hay were in stock and selling at an average price of Kshs. 200/= to 250/= per bale, which was normal for this time of the year. The average weight of the bales was however low at 12kg compared to a standard weight of 15-18 kgs (Table 7).

There was an emergence of small and medium enterprises who were conserving Supper Napier in to portable silage bales of about 50-70kgs thus mitigating losses in quality through conservation. However, the cost of silage bailing was still high. Crop residues contributed approximately 50% of the available fodder, sourced from both harvested crops and crop failures.

Table 7: Baled hay status

Sub County	No. of Hay Stores	Storage Capacity (Total number of bales)	No. of Bales currently being held	Average Weight per bale (in Kgs)	Average price per bale (Kshs.)	Percentage held by farmers and other Institutions
Kieni West	40	16,000	10,000	12	200-250	70% by farmers, 30% by stockists
Kieni East	66	25,500	20,000	12	200- 250	70% by farmers, 30% by stockists

Livestock Productivity

Livestock body condition

The livestock body condition was better than normal for all species for this time of the year (Table 8). Availability of rangeland resources including forage and water had contributed to this improvement occasioned by the increased availability of water during the season. The current good condition was projected to last at least two months through to September because forage and water will likely to be available for at least that long. After that, body condition will likely begin to deteriorate before the onset of the short rains season in October. However, this will likely be short-lived once the rains begin which will likely reverse any negative impacts that may have been recorded in livestock body condition as well as production.

Table 8: Livestock body condition

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Sheep		Goat	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal

MF	BSC 4	BSC 3	BSC 4	BSC 3	BSC 4	BSC 3
MMF	BSC 4	BSC 3	BSC 4	BSC 3	BSC 4	BSC 3

Birth rate and Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs)

Kidding, lambing and calving rates had increased due to improved continued availability of rangeland resources (Table 6) as well as improved livestock body condition (Table 8). The increased rates had also resulted in increased Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) in comparison with normal (Table 9). They were likely to continue increasing in the next three months as most animals are expected to be calving, lambing and kidding.

Table 8: Tropical Livestock Units

Livelihood zone	Poor income households		Medium income households	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
MF	0.8	0.5	2.8	2.5
MMF	1.2	1.1	3.7	3.5

Milk availability

Cattle were the main producers of milk in Kieni with an insignificant proportion obtained from goats. Milk production, consumption and prices per litre were within seasonal ranges (Table 10). The trend was likely to remain stable in the next one month as pasture was likely to remain available at least through to August. Thereafter, some decrease is expected as pasture availability reduces through to October. Therefore, milk production and consumption may likely decrease in the next three months.

Table 9: Milk availability, prices and consumption

Livelihood zone	Milk Production (Litres)/Household		Milk consumption (Litres) per Household		Prices (Kshs)/Litre	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
MF	5	4.5	1.5	1	40	40
MMF	5	4.0	1	0.5	40	40

Water for Livestock

The main current sources of water for livestock include rivers, water pans, dams and streams which are the normal sources in both livelihood zones. The current return trekking distances from grazing areas to water sources were within seasonal norms without variation in both livelihood zones (Table 11). Trekking distances were projected to increase after August when forage would have been depleted (Table 6) and some open water sources would have dried up. Although the rains had recharged open water sources, the recharge had been sub-optimal because the season's performance had been below-average in some areas particularly in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone. There were no major factors limiting access to water in both livelihood zones although siltation and invasion of water algae in some water bodies had been reported.

Table 10: Water availability for livestock

Livelihood zone	Sources		Return average distances (km)		Expected duration to last (months)		Factors Limiting access
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	
MF	Rivers, water pans, dams and streams	Rivers, water pans, dams and streams	0.5 – 3	1-3.5	1-2	1.5	Colonization of open pans by some water algae, reeds and siltation.
MMF	Rivers, water pans, dams and streams	Rivers, water pans, dams and streams	1– 4	1.0 - 5	1-1.5	1	Colonization of open pans by some water algae, reeds and siltation.

Watering frequency

There were no variations in watering frequency across both livelihood zones (Table 12). All livestock were watered once daily. However, livestock being reared under intensive production system such as zero grazing had access to water throughout the day. Watering frequency was likely to remain the same through to August given that availability of water was projected to last that long (Table 11). Thereafter, there will be challenges to water livestock through to October before the onset of the short rains season.

Table 11: Watering frequency (no. of days per week)

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Goats		Sheep	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
MF	7	7	7	7	7	7
MMF	7	7	7	7	7	7

Migration

Approximately 500 heads of cattle had been reported to have migrated in to Kieni East Sub-county from Laikipia County. Given that pasture, browse and water were likely to have been depleted by August, the in-migration will likely lead to increased pressure on these resources in the next three months.

Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

Livestock diseases

Anaplasmosis, mastitis and East Coast Fever (ECF) had been reported although were considered endemic in all the wards, particularly those neighboring the Mt. Kenya Forest and the Aberdares. New Castle Disease (NCD) in fowls was also very prevalent across both livelihood zones. However, they were within seasonal norms. In addition, no notifiable diseases had been reported that had a negative impact on food security. Mortality rates had also remained within seasonal norms.

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Market operations

There were no market disruptions during the assessment and neither were any expected in the next six months. The main food markets in Kieni East include Chaka and Naromoru while those in Kieni West include Kiawara and Mweiga. The commodities readily available in these markets were maize, beans, cowpeas, vegetables, Irish potatoes and rice with key staples being maize, Irish potatoes and beans. All the maize in the market in both livelihood zones was currently being sourced from Mwea in Kirinyaga County, Meru County and Tanzania because farmers in Kieni had not harvested. Approximately 50 percent of beans and Irish potatoes were being sourced locally since harvesting was on-going while the rest came mainly from Meru County. Most of the harvest was being channeled to markets for sale. The trend is likely to continue because farmers' staples did not do well due to excessive rains. The county did not have designated livestock markets with the main actors in livestock trade being middlemen and butchers. Livestock were sold at farm gate level or from neighbouring counties for slaughter.

Market Prices

Maize price

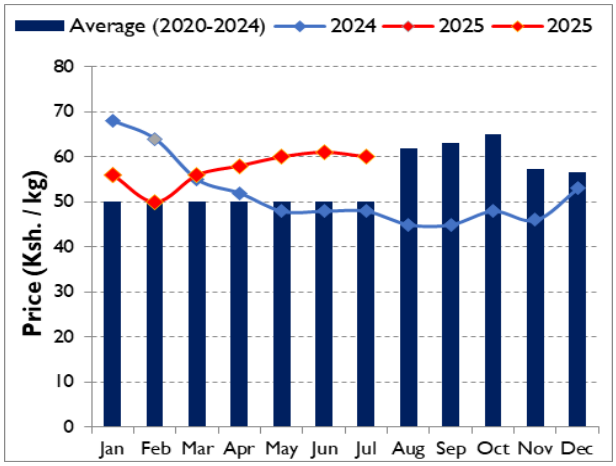


Figure 4: Maize prices in Kieni, Nyeri County

The current price of maize was recorded at Kshs 60 which was 20 percent higher than normal in comparison with Kshs 50 recorded in the 2020-2024 LTA. It was also 25 percent higher than the price recorded at this time of the year in 2024. (Figure 4). Kieni did not realized a good harvest during the previous short rains and traders held lower than normal stocks (Table 5) which had increased the demand for the commodity. Maize prices were likely to decrease as harvests from the season under review are expected in August.

Sheep price

The current price for a medium-sized three-year old sheep was Kshs 5,318 and 39.2 percent above the five-year average (2020-2024) price of Kshs 3,820. The price was also 7.6 percent higher than Kshs 4,942 recorded at a similar time last year (Figure 5). Readily available pasture contributed to improved sheep's body condition which drove better market prices during this assessment. Prices are likely to continue being above-normal for at least a month through August but will likely decrease thereafter as pasture will have been depleted. Body condition is however expected to remain relatively fair.

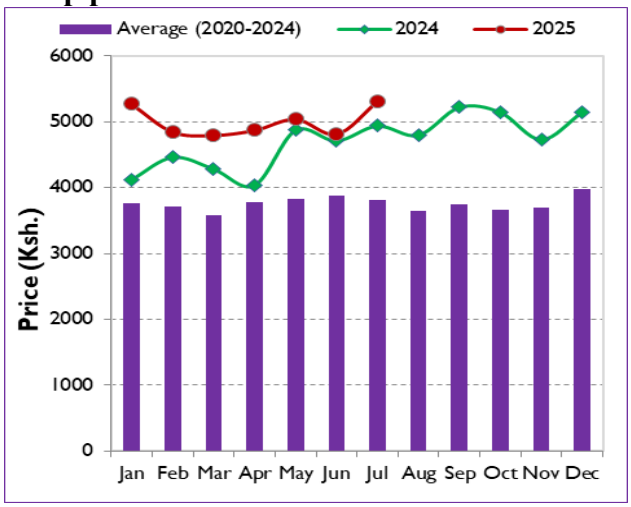


Figure 5: Sheep prices in Kieni, Nyeri County

3.2.2 Terms of trade

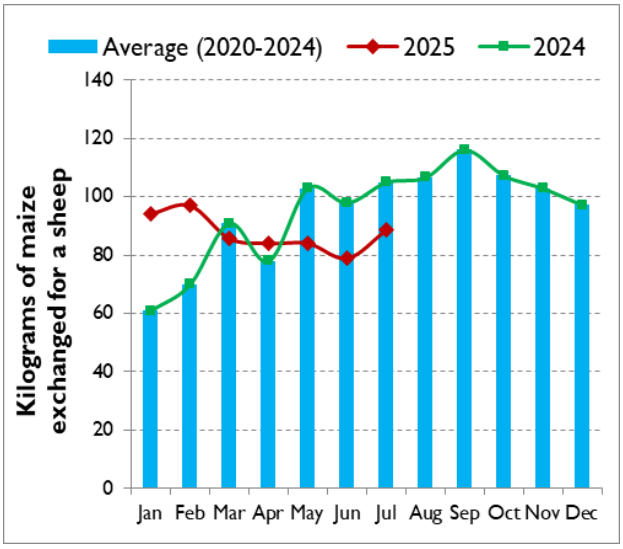


Figure 6: Terms of trade in Kieni, Nyeri County

The current terms of trade in July were recorded at 89 kilograms of maize for the sale of a sheep which was 15.2 percent below the five-year average (2020-2024) and also a similar time last year recorded at 105 kilograms. Although sheep prices had been on an increasing trend, maize prices had also been on an increasing trend hence the reduced terms of trade. (Figure 6). Therefore, the proceeds from the sale of a sheep were able to purchase a lower quantity of maize compared to normal and July last year. Household purchasing power had therefore reduced.

3.2.3 Water access and availability for domestic use

Water availability

The main water sources for domestic use in Kieni include rivers, boreholes, pans and dams. The sources currently in use were the normal ones for this time of the year. The long rains season recharged water sources although to a limited extent since below-average rains were recorded. Consequently, current water levels in rivers averaged 30 percent in both livelihood zones. Some households had also excessively abstracted it upstream for irrigation further reducing the flow. All rivers were operational in the mixed farming livelihood zones. However, in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone, slightly over 70 percent of the rivers were operational (Table 13). Levels in dams averaged 20 and 60 percent in the marginal mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zones respectively (Table 13). Some dams had lost their optimal water-holding capacity due to siltation and required dredging/desilting e.g. Labura, Muthuini, Honi, Kiguru, Mwireri, Gitinga, Kamburaini in the mixed farming livelihood zone and Githura, Kwa Jui, Kienjero, Ruai, Karuthingitu, Gatuanyaga, Kiboya, Mirera, AMS, Acacia, Nyumba Ithatu, Muchuchu in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone. Boreholes had been recharged to a range of 70-80 percent in both livelihood zones and approximately 63.2 and 53.8 percent were operational in the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones respectively (Table 13). The table below also provides location of the non-operational boreholes and the reasons behind it.

Table 13: Water availability in Kieni

Ward/ Livelihood Zone	Water Source (Three (3) major sources)	No. of Current Operational Sources	No. of Normal Operational	Projected Duration (Operational Sources)	Normal Duration that Water Last in Months	Current Water Level as % of Full Capacity after Recharged by the Rains	Locality of Non-operational Water Sources	What are the Reason(s) behind the Non-operational Water Sources?
Mixed farming	**1.**Rivers	13	13	14	3	30	None	
	2.Dams	20	33	24	3	60	Labura, Muthuini, Honi, Kiguru, Mwireri, Gitinga, Kamburaini	- Require dredging/desilting - Require solarization - Need construction of supply lines
	3.Boreholes	12	19	10	12	80	Ex-pages, Kamatongu, Ngano Thayu, Muturanguru, Gatagati, Mere, Arimi/Kiamathaga, Naromoru scheme, Mathako, St. Joseph Allamano Sec	- Ex-Pages: Faulty pump - Kamatongu: No power source - Ngano Thayu: Needs rehabilitation & solar installation - Muturanguru: Ownership conflict - Others: Require solarization, equipping, and last-mile connectivity
Marginalized mixed farming	**1.**Rivers	11	15	2	2	30	Lachuta, Karemeno, Karuthingitu, Wathituga	- Extremely low flows (Lachuta, Karemeno, Karuthingitu) - Over-abstraction in upper stream (Wathituga)

	2.Dams	24	38	2	2	20	Githura, Kwa Jui, Kienjero, Ruai, Karuthingitu, Gatuanyaga, Kiboya, Mirera, AMS, Acacia, Nyumba Ithatu, Muchuchu	- Rehabilitation and desilting needed due to heavy rains and silt accumulation
	3.Boreholes	14	26	12	12	70	Mwihoko Primary, New City, Wangata Primary, Kwa Huku, Gatei Pry, Industrial Park, Gwa Gicheru Thung'ari, Kamuhiuria, Kakuret Village	- Require solarization, equipping, and last-mile connectivity - Gicheru Thung'ari: Pump repair needed

Water access and utilization

Distance to water sources

The current return distance to water for household consumption was within normal ranges in both livelihood zones (Table 14). The current season had recharged water sources to a small extent which had increased water availability near households so they didn't need to walk longer than normal distances to access water.

Table 12: Water access and utilization for domestic use

Ward / livelihood zone	Return Distance to Water for Domestic Use (Km)		Cost of Water at Source (Kshs. Per 20litres)		Waiting Time at Water Source (Minutes)		Average Water Consumption (Litres/person/day)	
	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current
Mixed farming	0.5	0.6	5	15	5	>5	50	40
Marginal mixed farming	1	1.2	10	20	10	>10	40	30

Waiting time at the source

The waiting time at source was within normal ranges averaging approximately five and ten minutes in both livelihood zones (Table 14).

Cost of water

The average cost of water was above-normal for this time of the year in both the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones (Table 14). The below-average rains failed to ease pressure on alternative sources including boreholes and vendor-supplied water. With demand remaining high and free sources still unreliable, the cost of water increased.

Water consumption

The current average water consumption per person per day was slightly below normal by 20 percent in the mixed farming livelihood zone and 25 percent in the marginal mixed farming

livelihood zones (Table 14). Water consumption levels were lower than normal in many households due to limited availability from traditional rain-dependent sources. Households continued to ration water for only essential use.

3.2.4 Food Consumption

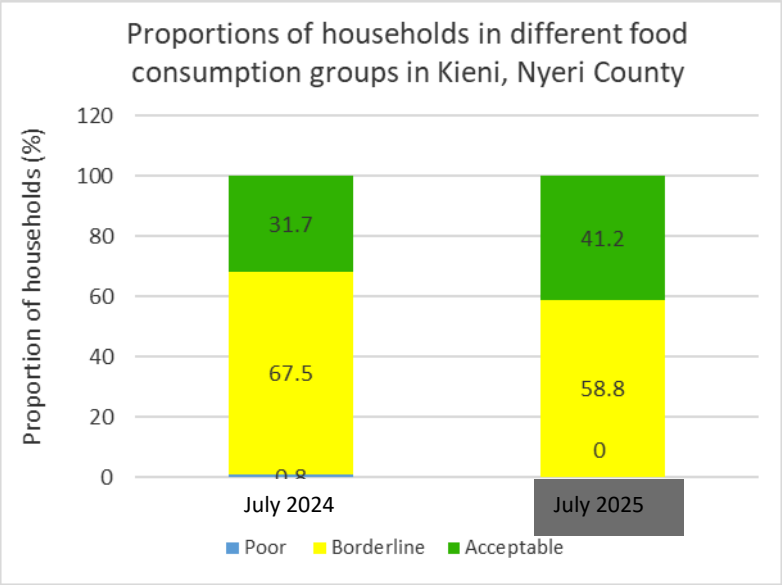


Figure 7: Food consumption patterns in Kieni, Nyeri County

The proportion of households in the acceptable food consumption group increased by 30 percent while that in the borderline food consumption decreased by 12.9 percent during the current assessment in comparison with July 2024. The proportions in the poor consumption group had remained relatively stable (Figure 7). Therefore, there was a general improvement in food consumption patterns in Kieni. During the assessment, households typically consumed foods mainly from only two food groups daily such as *ugali* and vegetables, sometimes pulses but rarely consumed meat, fruits, eggs or dairy foods. This meal composition was almost always the same regardless of the performance of the season.

3.2.5 Coping strategy

The reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) maintained a relatively stable trend during the assessment in comparison with a similar time last year. A similar trend had also been recorded in both the marginal mixed farming and the mixed farming livelihood zones (Figure 8). The stability implied that households had neither reduced nor increased the frequency and severity of engaging consumption-based coping strategies. This could have been occasioned by the availability of some food crops such as beans, cabbage and Irish potatoes from the on-going harvests.

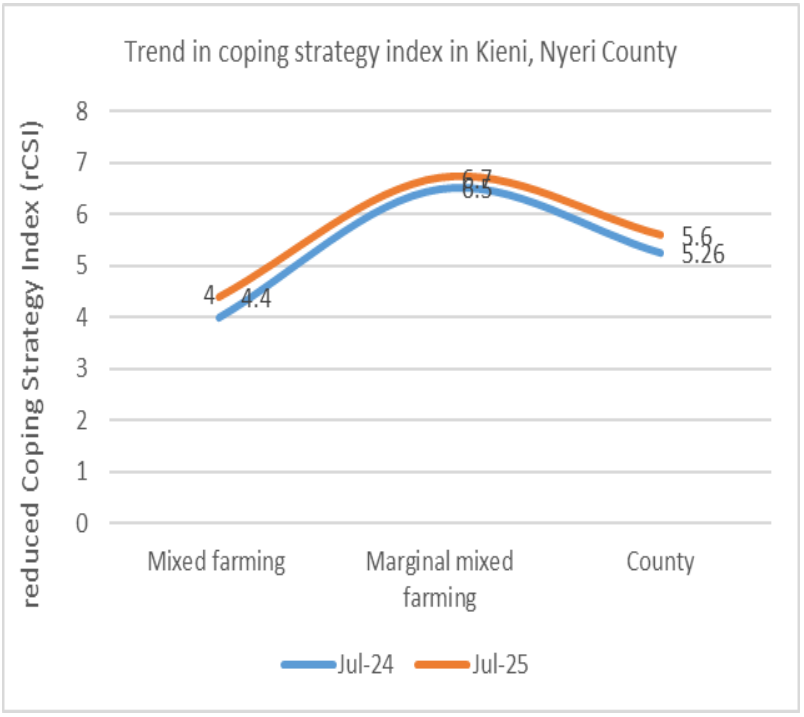
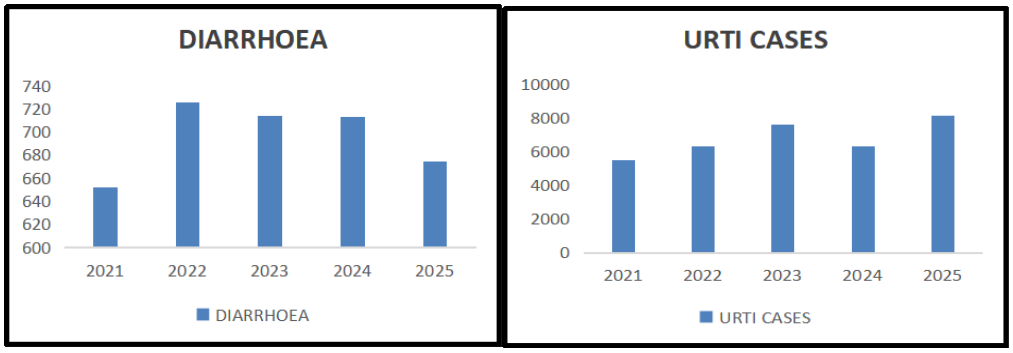


Figure 8: reduced Coping Strategy Index in Kieni, Nyeri County

3.3 Utilization

3.3.1 Morbidity and mortality patterns

In 2025, Kieni recorded a significant increase in upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) cases for children under five, rising to 8,151 from 6,345 in 2024—an increase of 1,806 cases or approximately 28%. This sharp rise may point to worsening environmental conditions, increased exposure, or weakened healthcare interventions for respiratory illnesses. On the other hand, diarrhoea cases declined slightly from 713 in 2024 to 675 in 2025, representing a 5% decrease. This contrast suggests that while diarrhoea remained stable or improved slightly, there was a notable deterioration in respiratory health among under fives during the same period. .36 cases of dysentery, 27 imported cases of malaria and 43 cases of typhoid were reported during the period January to June 2025.



3.3.2 Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation

The coverage for the fully immunized child (FIC) in Kieni from January- June 2025 increased by a 6.8 percent margin to 78% compared with 73% during a similar period in 2024 (Table 15). However, the coverage was below the national target of 80%. The increase in immunization coverage could be attributed to availability of vaccines in health facilities and outreach activities in far to reach areas including a 'big catch-up' campaign to identify and immunize all defaulters.

Table 13: Coverage of Fully Immunized Child (FIC)

Year	**Percentage of fully immunized children in the county Source DHISMOH 710 Vaccines and Immunizations**
Jan – June 2024	1. OPV 1 ____68% 2. OPV 3 ____64% 3. Measles __ 73%
Jan – June 2025	4. OPV 1 ____77% 5. OPV 3 ____77% 6. Measles __ 78%

The coverage for vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6-11 months was at 54% for the period January to June 2025 having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 55% recorded during the same period of January to June 2024 (Table 16). The coverage was however, below the national target of 80 percent. This could be attributed to the low number of eligible children in this age cohort and stock-outs of the supplements. The coverage of children aged 12-59 months reduced by a nine percent margin to 81% for the period between January to June 2025 compared with 89% during a similar period in 2024 (Table 16). The decline could be attributed to the changes in the mode of supplementation compared to previous times when children between one to three years were to be supplemented at the nearest facilities. Further, the exiting of some children from this cohort contributed to the decline.

Table 14: Vitamin A supplementation

Year	**Children 6-11 months**		**Children 12 to 59 months**		**Children 6-11 months**	**Children 12 to 59months**
	Received vitamin A supplementati	**Total Populatio n (6-11**	**Received vitamin A supplementatio**	**Total Populatio n (12-59**	**Proportion of children Received Vit A**	**Proportion of children Received Vit A**

	on Source> DHIS MOH 710 Vaccines and Immunizations	months)	n Source> DHIS MOH 710 Vaccines and Immunizations	months)	supplementation in the last 6 months Source: Nutrition Survey (If available)	supplementation in the last 6 months Source: Nutrition Survey (If available)
January-June 2024	1310 (55%)	2381	16064 (89%)	18133	None	None
January-June 2025	1167 (54%)	2176	15044 (81%)	18518	None	None

3.3.3 Nutritional status and dietary diversity

Dietary Diversity

Male and female adults were consuming at least two to three meals a day while children aged below five years were consuming at least four meals daily which was observed as normal. The meal composition for adults comprised of *ugali*, maize, beans, cabbage and potatoes while that of under-fives was similar to the adults in addition to rice, beans, potatoes and porridge thus practicing dietary diversification.

Majority of the mothers (at least eight out of 10) were practicing exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and thereafter simultaneously breastfed, give porridge and fruits on the onset of complementary feeding. However, neither adults nor children frequently consumed any proteins from dairy or poultry products.

Nutritional status

The current prevalence of malnutrition as determined by MUAC stood at nil percent in July which was less than 1.3 percent recorded in the LTA (Figure 11). The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was therefore lower expected for this time of the year. The proportion was similar to that recorded at a similar time last year (Figure 11). The nutrition status of children was projected to remain relatively the same in the next three months given that harvesting of the seasonal crops was projected to have been completed boosting household food availability and access. It is worthwhile to note that although the nutrition status of children appears not to be alarming, Kieni and Nyeri County in general has never had any nutrition survey to identify any underlying issues. This is more so because feeding habits particularly in Kieni is way below optimal. This assessment strongly recommends a SMART survey to clearly bring out the actual nutrition status.

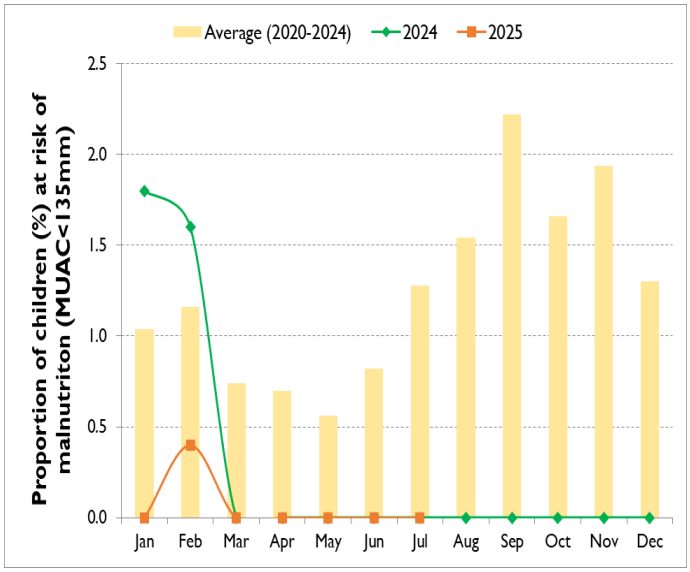


Figure 11: Proportion of children at risk of malnutrition in Kieni, Nyeri County

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators

Table 17: Food security trends in Kieni, Nyeri County

Indicator	Short rains assessment, Feb 2025	Long rains assessment, July 2025
% of maize stocks held by households (mixed farming and marginal mixed farming zones)	60.5 percent of LTA	36.2 percent of LTA
Livestock body condition	Good; better than normal for all livestock	Good; better than normal for all livestock
Average return trekking distance (for HHs in kilometres)	MF: 0.6 km MMF: 1.4km	MF: 0.6 km MMF:1.2km
Water consumption (litres per person per day; lpppd)	MF: 45 lpppd MMF: 30 lpppd	MF: 40 lpppd MMF: 30 lpppd
Price of maize (Kshs per kg)	56	60
Terms of trade (MF and MMF livelihood zones)	94	89
Coping strategy index	5.3 (July 2024)	5.6 (July 2025)
Food consumption (% of households)	July 2024 Poor 0.8 Borderline 67.5 Acceptable 32.7	July 2025 Poor 0.0 Borderline 58.8 Acceptable 41.2
Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC)	0 (July 2024)	0 (July 2025)

3.5 Education

3.5.1 Enrolment

The enrolment in public pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels had remained stable in Term II 2025 in comparison with Term I 2025 in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools (Table 18). However, that in junior schools had increased by a 13 percent margin which could be attributed to parents transferring their children from private schools to public schools due to inability to pay school fees. Parents also had the notion that learners in junior schools stood better chances of transiting to better senior schools. Enrolment at all levels in private schools remained relatively stable (Table 19). There were no refugee schools in Kieni.

Table 15: Enrolment in public schools for current and previous terms in Kieni, Nyeri County

Level	Term I 2025					Term II 2025					Indicate the difference (+) or (-) between current and previous terms
	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Learners with disabilities		Total	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Learners with disabilities		Total	
			Boys	Girls				Boys	Girls		
Pre-Primary	2616	2468	31	25	5140	2810	2617	33	29	5489	6.79%
Primary	8855	8326	38	33	17220	91112	8487	40	32	17639	2.619%
Junior School	5726	5354	20	12	11,113	5794	5410	21	13	11219	13.028%
Secondary	5309	6448	2	3	11662	5380	6483	5	4	11872	1.8%

Table 19: Enrolment in private schools for current and previous terms

Level	Term I 2025				Term II 2025				Indicate the difference (+) or (-) between
	№ Boys	№ Girl	№ Learners with	Total	№ Boy	№ Girl	№ Learners with	Total	

		s	disabilities			s	s	disabilities			current and previous terms
			Boys	Girls				Boys	Girls		
Pre-Primary	1519	1375	4	3	2901	1625	1497	4	3	3229	+228 7.859%
Primary	3812	3687	2	1	7508	3903	4242	2	1	8048	+540 7.192%
Junior School	1286	1353	1	3	2643	1303	1331	1	3	2638	-5 -0.189%
Secondary	150	344	1	2	497	147	340	1	2	490	-7 -1.4%

There was no enrolment in refugee schools in Kieni.

3.5.2 Effects of long rains in schools

Prolonged dry conditions as well as floods were the main hazards experienced in Kieni. The hardest hit areas by prolonged dry conditions included Mugunda, Gakawa, Thegu River and Gakawa Wards where the below -average MAM rains affected crop production. The reduced production affected the community-supported school feeding programs. Floods also caused damage to infrastructure including classrooms, kitchens and toilets. Schools also experienced floods which affected infrastructure such as classrooms, kitchens and toilets. In Gakawa Ward, all schools had flooded toilets. Mureru Primary school suffered sunken toilets and a water tank burst, while CCM Nanyuki had classrooms and administration block developing cracks. In Katheri primary school, water pipes burst affecting the supply of clean water to the school. Additionally, classrooms flooded in Katheri school. In Naromoru/Kiamathaga Ward, two toilets sunk in Munyu Primary School after floods. Toilets flooded across Kieni East Sub-county in schools such as Gitinga, Ndiriti, Kamburaini, Milimani, Mbiriri, Karicheni, Kahuho, Katheri,Rongai and Gatuanyaga primary schools. School facilities were inaccessible for learners with disabilities although some assistive devices were available e.g. at Irigithathi primary school, one male student has a wheelchair, while three used clutches and shoes to aid movement. In Burguret Secondary school, one girl used hearing aids. There were no schools hosting IDPs in both Kieni East annd Kieni West sub-counties.

3.5.3 School Feeding

There were only two types of school meals program running in Kieni namely: the cash transfer program and the community/parents- supported program. In schools that did not have any type of school meals program, children carried food from home to eat at school. In the schools that did have any form of school feeding program in place, increased rates of enrolment, attendance and transition. Children who stay in school also tend to perform better in examinations due to better concentration and less absenteeism. Parents are also not likely to send children to look for work in order to get money for food.

Table 20: School meals program

Category of School	**Total Number of Public schools in**	**Number of schools with School Meals Program in the sub-**	**Number of learners benefitting from the different types of School Meal Programmes offered**				**Total number of learners benefitting from the school meals program**	**Total number of Learners NOT benefitting from the school meals program**
			In-kind School Meals Programme (IKSMP)	**Cash Transfer (CT)**	**Community /Parents supported (CSSP)**	**Other types (Please specify.) ……**		

	Sub-County	county												
			№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls
Pre-Primary	115	44	0	0	0	0	2671	2429	0	0	1324	1201	1489	1415
Primary	100	74	0	0	0	0	8548	7997	0	0	4648	4284	4461	4200
Junior School	99	97	0	0	0	0	5572	5235	0	0	2804	2563	2987	2885
Secondary	57	57	0	0	0	0	5480	6483	0	0	2676	3823	2704	2660
Sub-total	**371**	**272**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**22,271**	**22,144**	**0**	**0**	**11,453**	**11,871**	**12,109**	**11,160**
Grand total (boys + girls)	**643**	**544**	**0**		**0**		**44,415**		**0**		**23,234**		**23,269**	

3.5.4 School-based programmes/activities that promote food security and climate change action in the county

Schools had developed school-based programmes to promote food security and climate change (Table 20). Students also learn values of their action and develop a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Table 20: School-based programs that promote food security and climate change action

County/ Sub-County	Programme/ Activity	Number of schools involved				Sponsor	Effect on learning continuity
		Pre-Primary	Primary	Junior School	Secondary		
Kieni East	Tree planting	0	47	47	26	KFS/MOE/ TSC	Help reduce the effect of climate change leading to increased food production, more income which in turn improve education access. Green spaces enhance students' concentration.
Kieni East	Kitchen gardening/Small scale farming	0	8	8	10	4K CLUB, Willian Holden Foundation	Supplementing the school feeding programme thereby improving retention and attendance Improving the school diet and enhancing concentration and

							academic performance. Alleviating environmental degradation, making schools more conducive for learning.
Kieni East	Livestock keeping	0	0	0	5	BOM	Supplementing the school feeding programme which in effect improves learners' concentration and consistent school attendance.
Kieni west	4 K clubs	N/A	30	30	0	World vision	Learners in the clubs undertake the activity after classes' hence promoting creativity and cohesion of the learners.
Kieni west	Tree planting	n/a	53	53	31	One acre fund Kenya forest service School manageme nt.	As per the government directive of planting trees on all schools, the Elimu Tree Program policy made all learners plant, adopt and water the trees on the school compound.
Kieni west	Tree planting	N/a	30	0	0	World vision	All learners on the zones where World Vision operate each given 5 hass avocado trees and 5 tree tomato trees to plant on their home for financial sustainability after the sale of fruits produce.
Kieni west	Water harvesting	20	20	20	0	World vision	Safe water harvesting.

3.5.5 Inter-sectoral links

Water in schools

The season under review had positively impacted water availability and access although to a slight extent because its performance was below average particularly in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone. The main source of water in schools was piped and rain water. Most schools had access to safe drinking water within 100m radius (Table 22). However, it was noted that some stored rain-water in tanks and were heavily reliant on rain-water. Therefore, during dry seasons, access to and availability of water is significantly compromised. There was need to put in place measures to mitigate such incidences such as excavation of water pans or drilling of boreholes to get more perennial water sources. These can also be enhanced by enhancing the capacity of the already existing water-harvesting and storage structures such as water tanks by simple interventions such as gutter installation where required (Table 22). Many schools did not also engage water treatment measures before consumption which should be prioritized to avoid illnesses in school.

Table 22: Water in schools in Kieni.

No of schools which have NO access to safe water (functional source within 100m radius)				**№ of schools with no water treatment measures**				**№ schools in need of water harvesting and storage facilities e.g gutters, water tanks**			
Pre-Primary	**Primary**	**Junior School**	**Secondary**	**Pre-Primary**	**Primary**	**Junior School**	**Secondary**	**Pre-Primary**	**Primary**	**Junior School**	**Secondary**
0	1	0	0	108	93	93	57	87	93	100	52

Sanitation and Hygiene

Most of the primary, junior and secondary schools used soak pits, composting and recycling as waste disposal mechanisms. Both public and private schools had the optimal pupil-to-toilet ratio for both boys and girls (Tables 23 and 24). However, there were several public schools with inadequate hand-washing facilities (Table 23). All private schools had adequate hand-washing facilities (Table 24). All the facilities were accessible and adequate for all boys and girls with disabilities.

Table 23: Pupil to toilet ratio in public schools

Category of School	**Total № of Doors (Latrine/Pupil toilet)**		**№ of schools with non-functional latrines (i.e filled up, washed away, broken doors, etc)**		**№ of schools with adequate latrines (Pupil toilet Ratio- PtOR of above 1: 20 girls, 1:25 Boys)**		**№ of schools with no or inadequate hand-washing facilities Ratio 1:60**
	Boys	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Boys**	**Girls**	
Pre-Primary	1:20	1:20	0	0	114	114	10
Primary	1:20	1:20	0	0	100	100	09
Junior School	1:20	1:20	0	0	94	94	8
Secondary	1:20	1:20	0	0	57	57	0

Table 24: Pupil to toilet ratio in private schools

Category of School	Total № of Doors (Latrine/Pupil toilet)		№ of schools with non-functional latrines (i.e filled up, washed away, broken doors, etc)		№ of schools with adequate latrines (Pupil toilet Ratio- PtOR of above 1: 20 girls, 1:25 Boys)		№ of schools with no or inadequate hand-washing facilities Ratio 1:60
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Pre-Primary	1:20	1:20	0	0	48	48	0
Primary	1:20	1:20	0	0	49	49	0
Junior School	1:20	1:20	0	0	35	35	0
Secondary	1:20	1:20	0	0	5	5	0

Impact of the Season on School Health and Nutrition

The season had no significant negative impact on learners' health. However, a few challenges were experienced including proper hand hygiene as well as provision of a balanced diet. Washing hands at the four critical times was typically rarely practiced as a matter of habit. Diets were compromised because the main foods provided by the cash transfer school meals program included rice and beans. When parents supported a school meals program, the meals composed of potatoes, cabbages, maize and very rarely beans. Diets were therefore significantly compromised. Some interventions that had been undertaken by the county government of Nyeri included vitamin A supplementation and deworming to improve immunity against diseases.

Child protection

Pregnancy and sexual abuse were reported in primary, junior and secondary schools. The interventions offered included guidance and counselling, school re-entry and flexible learning schedules for those affected supported by school counsellors, children's department, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE). Teachers had been sensitized on handling child protection issues in schools.

Menstrual hygiene

Schools had received sanitary kits during the season. A total of 53 primary schools and 48 junior schools had received them in Kieni West Sub-county (supported by MoE) and four primary and junior schools in Kieni East Sub-county (supported by MoE and Kamburaini Women Guild. All the schools were sensitized on their use. However, the supplies were inadequate in both sub-counties. The provision of sanitary kits had promoted regular attendance of girls to school and boosted their self-esteem which had resulted in improved academic performance.

School community engagement and coordination

Parents and volunteers aided with repairs and supported school feeding programs. All schools had an emergency preparedness plan and an active school management committee/board of management engaged in emergency response in planning and resource mobilization. All schools also engaged in multi-sector coordination with MoH for deworming, vitamin a supplementation and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for clean water. During assessment of schools for registration, MoE collaborates with MoH to carry out assessments for registration of the schools.

4.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

- Food commodity prices are likely to decrease as harvests are completed in a month or two.
- Rangeland conditions are likely to remain in good condition through to August.
- Harvests of maize and Irish potatoes are projected to be below-average while those of beans are projected to be normal. Therefore, they will replenish food stocks in the short-term but ultimately more households will rely on stores for food.

4.1 Food security Outlook for August-September-October

The on-going harvests of staples such as maize and beans will replenish food stocks at household level for approximately 1-2 months thus improve food availability through to September. Food access is also projected to improve as income-generating crops such as carrots and onions continue being harvested. With food stocks likely to last through September, it is expected that the short rains season will have begun by October when on-farm activities will likely provide agricultural waged labour to boost household incomes. This will be beneficial to households at a time when depleted food stocks will coincide with increased opportunities for casual labour to enable food purchases. Livestock production is also likely to perform well given that rangeland resources will likely remain available through to August. Although there will be a period before the onset of the rains where forage may not be readily available, the negative impacts will be reversed when the rains arrive. Livestock are therefore projected to sustain fair body condition and will likely fetch fairly competitive prices at market level. Milk availability is also likely to remain relatively stable further ensuring food access through milk sales. Therefore, poor households are likely to still meet their essential food and non-food obligations without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. With food availability and access assured, nutrition outcomes are not projected to deteriorate. Area-level outcomes for both livelihood zones are therefore likely to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

4.2 Food security Outlook for November-December-January 2026

Most households are likely to have depleted their food stocks and will most likely rely on market purchases. Food commodity prices are projected to increase as traders stock their stores with commodities from other counties since local farmers may not have any for sale. However, the short rains season will be on-going availing opportunities for on-farm casual labour thus ensuring food access even for poor households. Livestock production is projected to keep performing well since the short rains season will further rejuvenate forage. Water sources will also be well recharged reducing the stress to look for water for livestock. With both of these rangeland resources likely to be plentiful, livestock will likely maintain good body condition, fetch competitive market prices and increase milk production and availability for sale and consumption. With assured incomes from both crop and livestock production, most poor households will be able to afford food purchases therefore significant food consumption gaps are not envisaged. They are also unlikely to engage atypical coping strategies to meet essential food and non-food needs. Nutrition outcomes are also unlikely to deteriorate during the scenario period although this may depend on other non-food security related which include child-care practices and sub-optimal hygiene and sanitation practices. Therefore, although most households will remain in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) at least one in every five households (20%) will be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

5.0 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

5.1.1 Phase classification

Kieni is classified in Stressed Phase (IPC Phase 2) in both the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones.

5.1.2 Summary of Findings

Most parts of the county received below-normal to normal rains of more than 91 percent of normal. However, maize and Irish potato production was projected to decrease by 57 and 68.6 percent of normal respectively in comparison with their LTAs. Projected bean production was projected to be normal. Excessive rainfall in some areas led to crop destruction which decreased projected crop production. Currently households held 36.2 percent of the maize stocks they normally held because there were little carryover stocks from the previous short rains season and harvesting of the seasonal crops was yet to be done. Rangeland resources were available and near-normal in both livelihood zones. Pasture, browse and water were estimated to last through to August. Milk production was within seasonal norms. Maize prices were 20 percent above normal at Kshs 60. Sheep prices were 39.2 percent higher than normal to stand at Kshs 5,318. Terms of trade were 15.2 percent lower than normal to stand at 89 which could be attributed to high maize prices amid high sheep prices. Household purchasing power was therefore below normal for this time of the year. The nutritional status of children had improved compared with normal times as the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition averaged nil percent, which was less than 1.3 percent in the 2020-2024 LTA. The proportion of households in the acceptable food consumption group increased by 30 percent from 31.7 percent in July 2024 to 41.2 percent in July 2025. The increase implied that dietary diversity, food frequency and nutritional value of food had improved during the assessment in comparison with a similar time last year. The reduced coping strategy index averaged 5.6 having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 5.26 at a similar time last year implying households had neither significantly reduced nor increased the frequency and severity of engaging in consumption-based coping mechanisms.

5.2 Ongoing Interventions

5.2.1 Food interventions

Sub-county	Wards	Intervention	Locations	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Cost	Time-frame
Kieni West	Mugunda	Increase relief food	Preprimary, Primary and Junior secondary.	3146	GOK	21,12M	July-October 2025
Kieni West	Mugunda Mweiga Mwiyogo/ Endarasha Gatarakwa	Provision of relief food	Day secondary schools	3917	Area Member of Parliament	24.2M	July-October 2025
Kieni West	Mugunda	Provision of relief	Preprimary, Primary and	3146	GOK	21.2M	July-October

		food	Junior secondary.				2025

5.2.2 Non-food interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Kshs.)	Time Frame
Agriculture							
Kieni East and Kieni West	All wards	Support farmers early maturing *Nyota* bean seeds	21,888	County Government of Nyer KALRO – Katumani One Acre Fund JICA Nutri Delish	Improve food production at household level	13.7M	2025-2026
	All wards	Support farmers with certified Irish potato seeds	36,750	CGN Fresh Crop Limited One Acre Fund JICA NDMA Rukaria Farm (Operating from Meru County)	Improved food availability at household level	173M	2025-2027
	All wards	Promotion of crop insurance to Irish potatoes farmers	12000	CGN Fresh Crop Limited One Acre Fund JICA FAO	Improve on food security at HHs Level	36M	2025-2027
Livestock							
Kieni East	All wards	Capacity building on herd management	300 households	Hand in Hand	Improved health and productivity	1M	July – Dec 2025
Kieni East	All wards	Vaccination of cattle, sheep & goats	3000 animals against FMD and	County Govt of Nyeri	Improve on animal health	1.5 M	March –July 2024

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries		Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Kshs.)	Time Frame
			CCPP, 300 against Sheep and Goat Pox			and reduce mortalities		
Water								
Kieni East and Kieni West	Watuka, Embaringo, Karage Bara, Lamuria, Nairutia, Muthangira, Endarasha	Expansion of Intake, Storage & Distribution	3,100HH		CGN, TWWDA, NIA	Increase water availability for both irrigation and domestic use.	60M	2025-2026
	Watuka, Embaringo, Karage Bara, Lamuria, Nairutia, Muthangira, Endarasha; 16 schemes in all wards	Pipeline extension	7,000HHs		CGN	To increase water access and utilization	15M	2025-2026
	Mahiga (Kieni West); Kiboya, Mapema Pry (Kieni East)	Borehole rehabilitation	1150HHs		CGN FLLoCCA	To increase water access and utilization from irrigation water	6M	2025-2026
Health and Nutrition								
			Male	Female				
Kieni East and West	Vitamin A Supplementation	Health facilities, Households and schools	8875	10254	County department of health. Partners; (Hellen Keller foundation)	Improved immunity	Kshs. 4,000,000	3months

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries		Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Kshs.)	Time Frame
	Zinc Supplementation	Health facilities	22456	25380	County department of health.	Increased immunity	Kshs. 6,000,000	2months
	Infant and Young Child Nutrition Interventions (EBF and timely introduction of complementary foods)	Infants and children >6 months	9089	11605	MoH, CDH Partners/donors	Improved nutritional status	Kshs. 2,000,000	2months
	Health education and awareness activities (Hygiene Promotion)	Household, schools and markets	15674	17233	CDH, MoH		Kshs 700,000	July-Dec 2025
	Water purification through issuance of chlorine tablets to ensure water safety	Household,schools and markets	18211	18322	County department of health.		Kshs 300,000	July-Dec 2025
	Vaccination campaigns for outbreak prone disease e,g MR/TCV	Households,schools,churches and mosques	32450	34595	Ministry of health, county department of health.		Kshs20,000,000	July-Dec 2025
Education								
Kieni East	All wards	Campaign to promote hygiene and sanitation and distribute water treatment tablets to schools	10,980		CGN Ministry of Education	To reduce incidences of water-borne diseases	1.7M	May - October 2025

5.3 Recommended Interventions

5.3.1 Food interventions

Ward ranking

	Ward	Sub-county	Rank	LRA 2025
1.	Mugunda	Kieni West	1	25-30
2.	Gakawa	Kieni East	2	20-25
3	Gatarakwa	Kieni East	3	15-20
4	Thegu River	Kieni West	4	15-20
5	Mweiga	Kieni West	5	10-15
6	Naromoru/Kiamathaga	Kieni West	6	10-15
7	Endarasha/Mwiyogo	Kieni East	7	10-15
8	Kabaru	Kieni East	8	5-10

5.3.2 Non-food interventions

Sub-County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Agriculture							
Kieni	All wards	Train and support farmers on conservation agriculture technologies such as water harvesting, chisel ploughing, access to certified seed, dam liners and drip kits	2,500	NCG NDMA KALRO NG FARMERS Jica One acre fund Macadamia Village Nut	500 M	Land Labour	2025-2027
Kieni	All wards	Train and support marketing groups on vegetables drying using solar technologies, dried vegetable packaging, labeling. KBS certification and marketing skills for IGA and food security during dry spells	60 marketing groups (30 members per group).	NCG NDMA KALRO NG FARMERS Jica One acre fund Macadamia Village Nut	200 M	Land Labour (Skilled and semi-skilled)	2025-2027
Kieni	Naromoru/ Kiamathaga ward.	Erection of an electric fence to protect farmers from roaming elephants	Njuguini – Kabati -6 kms	NG KWS NCG NDMA	20 M	Land Labour (Skilled and semi-skilled)	2025-2027
Livestock							
Kieni East and	Capacity build on	All wards	5000	Farmers, County Govt	0.5M	Personnel	1Yr July-

West	herd management			of Nyeri			Dec 2025
Kieni East and West	Construction of hay storage facilities (hay barns) and silage baling machines	All wards	15000 households	NDMA Farmers County Govt of Nyeri NAVCDP	10 M	Land, Personnel	July-Dec 2025
Kieni East and West	Enhance on disease surveillance and upscale on vaccination	All wards	10,000 heads of cattle targeted	Farmers, County Govt of Nyeri	5M	Personnel, Transport	Continuous
Kieni East and West	Desilting of water pans for livestock watering	All wards	10000 heads of cattle	County Government of Nyeri NDMA	10M	Personnel	July-Dec 2025
Water							
Kieni East and Kieni West	Provision of Water Harvesting Facilities	Ex-pages, Gikomo, Kiawara, Ewasonyiro, Kabati, Endarasha, Embaringo, Watuka, Kwanjoni, Lachuta	4500HH	CGN, NDMA, World Vision TWWDA	16M	None	3 months
	Installation of solar power & rehabilitation of boreholes	Karemeno, Karaguriro, Ex-pages, Kamatongu Kinyaiti, Muthuini, Mwiyogo, Mwihoko, and, New City, Kamatongu (Kieni West) & Kamuhiuria, Kamangura Naromoru Scheme, Mere Sec, Gatagati, Kwa Huku boreholes in Kieni East.	11500HH	CGN, NAVCDP, FLLoCA	60M	None	3 months
	Intakes and Pipeline Expansion Projects	Thegu, Naromoru/Kiamathaga, Gakawa, Kabaru, Mwiyogo, Endarasha, Gatarakwa, Mweiga, Mugunda, Kiambari.	8000HH	CGN, TWWDA, NAVCDP	12M	None	4 months
	Borehole Drilling and Rehabilitation	Lower Gituchu Community,Mugunda(Karumu WP), Thung'ari, Kirika, Kamiru, Thegu, Kahiti, Kirinyaga Primary, Lusoi Kaheri,	2000HH	CGN, NDMA, FLLoCA, TWWDA, Development Partners	65M	None	6 months – 2 years

		Tagwa,Watuka,Kiria Dam,Labura Ngogithi, Maragima, Milimani, Burguret, Gakawa& Kabaru.					
Health and Nutrition							
Kieni East and West	Nutrition and health education focused in-reaches and outreaches	Schools, markets and health facilities in all wards	62,000	Ministry of health and county department of health.	Kshs 3.5M	Workforce/expert	July-Dec 2025
	Nutrition SMART survey	All wards		CDH Partners Donors	Kshs.5M	Kshs.0	July-Dec 2025
	Nutrition surveillance through SFPs, home gardens to promote food diversification and climate smart agriculture	All wards	12,000	Ministry of health and county department of health.	Kshs 3.5M	Experts/workforce	July-Dec 2025
	Rapid nutrition analysis to ascertain nutrition status in the subcounty	Under 5s and pregnant women	14232	Ministry of health and county department of health.	Kshs 2.15M		July-Dec 2025
Education							
	Provide water reservoirs, gutters, tanks for water harvesting to ensure uninterrupted supply	Primary/JS/Secondary	47 pre-schools 47 primary schools 47 junior schools 26 secondary schools 18,000	MOE County Government NGOs Boards of management	30M	-	July-Dec 2025

	Infrastructure improvement strategies such as installation of proper drainage channels, building using flood resistant materials, building flood resilient latrines, building fences that control water flow into schools.	Primary/JS/Secondary	47 pre-schools 47 primary schools 47 junior schools 26 secondary schools 18000	MoE County government NGOs Boards of management	20M		July-Dec 2025
	Partnering with County Disaster Management and NGOs to support infrastructure improvement using flood resistant materials.	Primary/JS/Secondary	47 pre-schools 47 primary schools 47 junior schools 26 secondary schools 18000	MoE County government NGOs Boards of management	250M	0	July-Dec 2025
	Increase water supply through pipeline extension, drilling of boreholes	Pre-primary, Primary, Junior and Secondary schools.	6049	GoK NDMA TWWDA	300M	0	July-Dec 2025
	Reinstatement of home-grown school meals	Primary, Junior	4009	Ministry of education	50M	0	July-Dec 2025

	program in schools where it is missing						