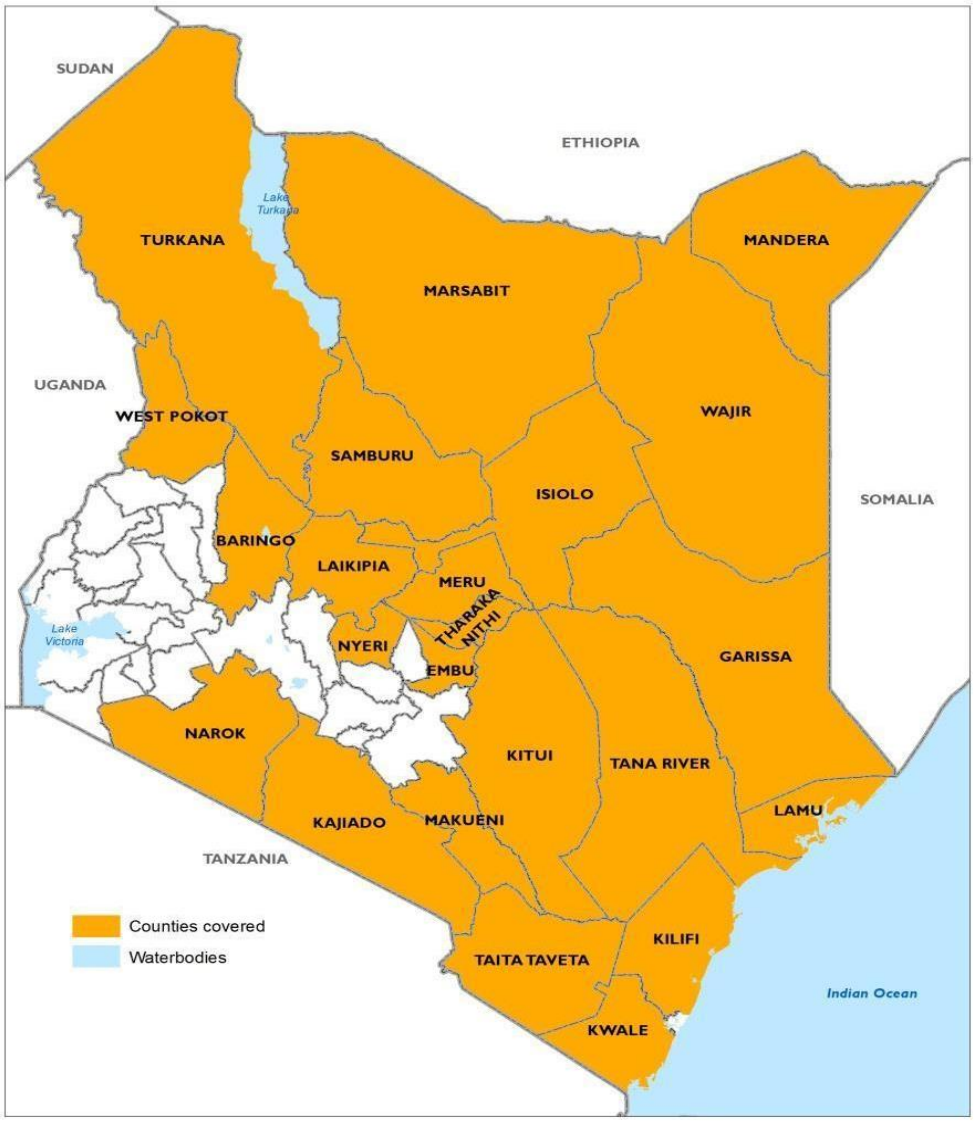
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, THE ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ASSESSMENT REPORT: IMPACT OF 2025 LONG RAINS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY



Collaborative report of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG): Ministries of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development; Agriculture and Livestock Development; Water and Sanitation; Health; Education and Labour and Social Protection; the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), World Food Programme (UN WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) County Steering Groups (CSGs): with financial support from the Government of Kenya (NDMA) and partners.

August 2025

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Abbreviations

ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
ECF	East Coast Fever
ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FNSA	Food and Nutrition Security Assessment
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
IOD	Indian Ocean Dipole
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KEPHIS	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
KFSSG	Kenya Food Security Steering Group
KHIS	Kenya Health Information System
KMD	Kenya Meteorological Department
LSD	Lumpy Skin Disease
LTA	Long-Term Average
MAM	March–April–May (long rains season
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
OND	October–November–December (short rains season)
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
RVF	Rift Valley Fever
SEMA	South Eastern Marginal Agricultural cluster
SNE	Special Needs Education
TWENDE	Towards Ending Drought Emergencies
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

1.0 | Introduction

1.1 Scope of the 2025 Long Rains Assessment

The Kenya Food and Nutrition Security Assessment (FNSA) is a multi-sectoral, multi-agency exercise led by the Government of Kenya, conducted in 23 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties. The Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) coordinates the assessment in collaboration with the County Steering Groups (CSGs). KFSSG is a multi-agency body comprising Government departments, United Nations agencies, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) concerned with food and nutrition security.

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) chairs the multi-agency team, with the World Food Programme (UN WFP) as co-chair. Given ASAL counties' bimodal rainfall pattern, food and nutrition security assessments are conducted bi-annually, following the March to May long rains and October to December short rains. The 2025 Long Rains Assessment took place between 15th July and 7th August 2025.

1.2 Objective

The assessment aimed to determine the impact of the 2025 long rains on food and nutrition security across 23 ASAL counties. It considered cumulative seasonal effects and additional shocks affecting food security, including their impact on food availability, access, utilisation, and stability. The report evaluates the contributing factors and outcomes, and their impacts on key sectors such as water, livestock, agriculture, health and nutrition, education, peace and security, and markets and trade, offering recommendations for interventions. This report presents the results of the assessment and recommended interventions.

1.3 Methodology and Coverage

The assessment focused on acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition while also factoring chronic drivers. It covered the four pillars of food security: availability, access, utilisation, and stability.

The impacts of other contributing factors on the key sectors - agriculture, livestock, water, health and nutrition, education, peace and security, and markets and trade - were considered as well. The assessment also identified possible interventions, both short-term and long-term, to address the issues arising in each sector.

The assessment covered the 23 counties that comprise the ASAL region, where populations are generally the most food-insecure due to high poverty levels, vulnerability to shocks, and arid conditions with highly variable rainfall.

The ASAL region, which covers approximately 80 % of Kenya's landmass, is categorised into five livelihood clusters:

i. Agro-pastoral cluster: Baringo, Kajiado, Laikipia, Narok, the northern part of Nyeri county (Kieni sub-county) and West Pokot.
ii. Coastal Marginal Agriculture: Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu and Taita Taveta.
iii. Pastoral North-East: Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Tana River and Wajir.

iv. Pastoral North-West: Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana.
v. South-East Marginal Agriculture: Embu, Kitui, Makueni, Meru and Tharaka Nithi.

Major livelihood activities in these clusters include Pastoralism, Agro-pastoralism, Mixed Farming, Marginal Mixed Farming, and some Irrigated Cropping, and these form the unit of analysis. The assessment involved the collection of both primary and secondary data. The principal sources were:

(i) NDMA's drought early warning and monitoring system.
(ii) Data collected from the relevant sectors at county and sub-county level.
(iii) Community interviews and market interviews using focus group discussions and trader interviews.
(iv) WFP's food security outcome monitoring.
(v) Secondary data from Kenya Health Information System (KHIS).
(vi) Field observations during transect drives.
(vii) Agro-climatic data.

The analysis applied the **Acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC Version 3.1)** to assess food security 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.

2.0 | Drivers of Food and Nutrition Security/Insecurity

2.1 Rainfall Performance

The cumulative seasonal rainfall during the March-May (MAM) 2025 long rains was generally near average to above average across most parts of the country, with the Coastal region being an exception. However, rainfall distribution was poor both spatially and temporally, with irregular rainfall patterns and dry spells reducing the season's effectiveness. Temperatures were also generally above average across most parts of the country.

The long rains season began during the second week of March in western Kenya (including the Lake Victoria Basin, Highland's west of the Rift Valley, and parts of the Rift Valley), which aligned with climatological expectations. This timely onset extended to Nairobi and portions of the Southeastern lowlands. Most of the South Eastern Marginal Agriculture (SEMA) region experienced normal onset timing, though the rains in Meru began slightly later in the third dekad of March. The Agro-Pastoral Cluster saw varied onset, with Narok and West Pokot receiving early first dekad rains while other areas followed normal patterns. Notably, the Pastoral North East region showed mixed onset performance, with significant delays in Mandera contrasting with timely starts in Tana River and Garissa.

The Western Highlands recorded exceptionally high totals, with Kakamega receiving 911.3 mm, Kisii 779.8 mm, and Kericho 766.0 mm - figures consistent with their typically wet climatology. Coastal stations like Mtwapa also recorded substantial amounts (718.9 mm). In contrast, arid regions reported much lower accumulations, with Lodwar (122.9 mm) and Mandera (128.8 mm) among the driest stations. However, when analyzed relative to long-term averages, several arid and semi-arid locations recorded significantly above-normal rainfall, including Garissa (193.9% of average) and Makindu (179.7% of average).

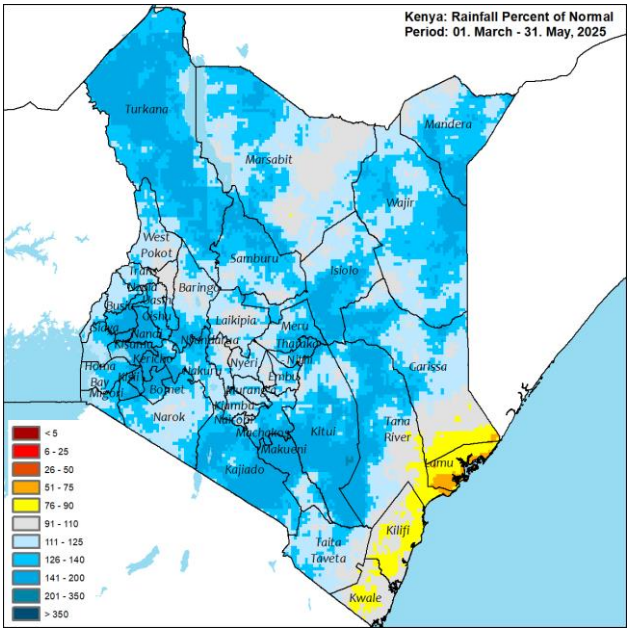


Figure 1: Rainfall Performance (% of normal).

The season's rainfall distribution proved problematic despite generally adequate totals. Spatial and temporal irregularities were particularly pronounced in ASAL regions and the Coast, undermining agricultural potential. The western and central highlands maintained relatively consistent rainfall patterns in both dimensions. In the SEMA cluster, Kitui exemplified distribution challenges, receiving only 40 rainy days out of an expected 60 despite recording 147% of normal rainfall. The Agro-Pastoral Cluster showed similar inconsistencies, with Baringo's highlands demonstrating better temporal distribution than lowland areas. The Pastoral North West cluster reported generally even spatial coverage but experienced problematic dry spells in Turkana and Marsabit following heavy downpours. Coastal regions faced particularly uneven distribution, with Lamu's above-normal totals concentrated in specific zones while other areas remained relatively dry.

Cessation patterns varied significantly across the country, with important implications for crop performance. Northeastern and Southeastern counties generally experienced earlier-than-normal cessation, with Embu (Mbeere) ending about a dekad early in mid-May and Kitui seeing an exceptionally early finish in late April.

The Agro-Pastoral Cluster showed mixed cessation behavior, where Laikipia and Narok had early May endings but later received beneficial off-season rains in June and July. Pastoral regions displayed more typical cessation timing, with Turkana and Marsabit concluding in early May and Samburu continuing until late May. The Coastal cluster generally followed normal cessation patterns in mid-to-late May, though Lamu and Kilifi experienced extended showers into June that provided limited agricultural benefit due to preceding dry spells.

Temperature patterns during the season showed notable deviations from long-term averages. March recorded warmer-than-average maximum temperatures across most stations, except in parts of the northwest, northeast, and central regions. Minimum

temperatures were consistently above average nationwide throughout the season. The month of May saw particularly strong southerly to south-easterly winds along coastal and northeastern areas, with speeds exceeding 25 knots (12.86 m/s) and peaking at 30 knots on May 24-25.

2.2 Conflict and Insecurity

For the period referenced for the assessment, insecurity incidents were reported in different parts of the country. There were incidences of banditry attacks in Turkana East and Suguta sub-counties in Turkana County, in Chari and Cherab Wards in Isiolo County, and in Tiaty, Baringo North and Mukutani in Baringo County. These attacks resulted in loss of human lives and livestock, displacement of people, closure of schools, limited access to pasture, abandonment of farmlands and inaccessibility of markets.

Incidents of raids from Ethiopia were reported in Turkana County (Todonyang) and Marsabit County (North Horr). These attacks led to the loss of life and the displacement of 176 households. Conflicts among communities in Qorqa in Marsabit county disrupted learning in schools and health services suffered as schools closed, and medical facilities became inaccessible in conflict zones.

Similarly, clan conflicts in Banisa and Burashum in Madera County disrupted the flow of food supplies and access to markets. In Laikipia, clashes between the neighboring communities resulted in the displacement of 166 people and loss of livestock. Mandera county also has challenges from Al-Shabab militia attacks that have led to loss of lives. Land ownership issues pose a potential security risk in Tana River County, especially in Mixed Farming zones.

Human-wildlife conflicts were reported in Samburu/Changoni ward in Kwale County, and Matapato South, Matapato north, Mbirikani, Kuku and Lenkism wards in Kajiado County. Other counties that were affected by human-wildlife conflict include: Taita Taveta, Kitui, and parts of Makueni and Tharaka Nithi. The most common incidents involved elephants invading farms and destroying crops, especially during the planting and early maturity stages.

Cases of livestock predation by hyenas, lions, and leopards were also reported. In some instances, human injuries and fatalities were recorded. These conflicts have led to loss of livelihoods through crop and livestock losses, heightened food insecurity, and increased tension between communities and conservation authorities.

Some of the mitigation measures for conflicts/insecurity include government intervention through 'Operation Maliza Uhalifu', communal conflict resolution mechanisms, trenching, use of deterrents, and community sensitisation, community peace dialogue meetings facilitated by the National Government Administration, Isiolo Peace Link, and the TWENDE project through National Drought Management Authority.

2.3 Below-average Crop Production

Crop production during the MAM 2025 season was significantly below average across most Agro-pastoral and marginal agricultural clusters. The season experienced late onset, erratic rainfall distribution, prolonged dry spells, and early cessation. These disrupted key stages of crop development, leading to widespread crop failure and an early shift to market dependence for food among many households.

South Eastern Marginal Agricultural Cluster: The rains began late (2nd-3rd dekad of March), with poor temporal distribution and prolonged dry spells in April and early May. Crops like maize, green grams, cowpeas, and pigeon peas were severely affected. Areas such as Kitui South, Makueni East, and Tharaka North recorded crop failures of 80-100%. Early planters lost crops during flowering and pod formation due to insufficient soil moisture. In Embu (Mbeere) and Tharaka, assessments confirmed near-total losses of short-maturing pulses and cereals, with most households harvesting nothing. This forced an early reliance on markets by June, 2–3 months earlier than usual, amid rising food prices.

Agro-Pastoral Cluster: Rainfall performance was better in highland areas but poor in lowlands. In Narok North and Baringo Central, relatively good rainfall supported below-average harvests of maize and beans. However, lowland zones such as Baringo South, Kajiado East, and Narok East experienced dry spells in April, causing wilting and poor yields. In Laikipia North and West Pokot (Chepareria and Sigor), crops suffered from stunted growth due to dry conditions followed by early cessation in May. Crop yields were generally 40–70% below normal, reducing household income and limiting food purchases.

Coastal Marginal Agricultural Cluster: Rains started late and ceased early, with long dry spells in April. Key crops like maize, green grams, cassava, and cowpeas were severely affected. In Kilifi's Ganze and Magarini, maize and pulses failed due to poor soil moisture during germination and flowering. In Kinango, Kwale County, crop loss ranged between 70–90%. Taita Taveta also saw reduced production in marginal zones like Voi and Mwatate, where high temperatures and rainfall deficits caused irreversible crop stress. Poor harvests have led to reduced household food stocks and increased food market dependency.

Pastoral North Western Cluster: Crop production was largely confined to irrigation schemes along riverine belts like River Turkwel. However, water scarcity, insecurity, and high input costs disrupted irrigation. In Turkana's Lokichar and Lodwar, river levels dropped too low to support irrigation past March. Marsabit and Samburu saw minimal crop activity, and any rain-fed farming attempts failed due to prolonged dry spells.

Pastoral North Eastern Cluster: Agriculture is limited to small-scale riverine farming. However, conflicts along rivers, erratic rainfall, and flood recession failures reduced crop activity. In Mandera East and North, insecurity disrupted planting, while in Balambala (Garissa) and Wajir South, low rainfall and human-wildlife conflict restricted cropping. As a result, agricultural output remained negligible, with most households relying on markets or external aid.

2.4 High Staple Food Prices

High food commodity prices remained a major driver of food insecurity during the March-May 2025 season across Kenya. Prices of staples such as maize, beans, vegetables, and pulses were significantly above both short- and long-term averages. Contributing factors included reduced local production, high fuel and transport costs, global inflation, and growing dependence on markets.

Poor and very poor households were the most affected, as incomes from livestock sales, casual labour, and petty trade could not keep pace with rising food costs. The erosion of purchasing power forced families to rely on credit, sell livestock, and adopt negative coping strategies such as reducing meal sizes, consuming less diverse diets, and opting for cheaper, less nutritious foods. These trends heightened nutritional risks, particularly among children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.

In the South Eastern Marginal Agriculture (SEMA) cluster, high staple prices most severely affected Kitui, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi, and Meru North. Poor harvests, high transport costs, and crop failures pushed prices above the five-year average. Supply chain disruptions caused by poor road networks and local insecurity further reduced market frequency and drove up costs. As a result, households increasingly purchased food on credit, cut down on meal portions, and resorted to less nutritious diets, lowering dietary diversity and food consumption scores.

In Garissa and Isiolo, prices, especially maize and pulse, remained high due to fuel price hikes and damaged infrastructure. In Garissa, insecurity and poor roads restricted market access, while in Isiolo, persistently high food costs coupled with low incomes across all livelihood zones deepened household vulnerability.

In Agro-Pastoral areas, maize prices rose due to reduced supply and high input costs, with some farmers in Laikipia and Kajiado shifting to alternative crops. Reported maize price increases included: Kajiado (5.8%), Laikipia (6.9%), Baringo (11.6%), West Pokot (15.5%), Narok (18.2%), and Nyeri (20%).

In Turkana**,** food prices spiked following floods, fall armyworm infestations, and tree locust attacks that devastated crops and livestock. Losses included 80 acres of sorghum, 90 acres of maize, and 20 percent of crops in the Koono irrigation scheme. Livestock deaths and insecurity in Kibish, Lokichoggio, and Kapedo further restricted trade and food access.

In Samburu, maize prices rose due to fall armyworm infestations and livestock disease outbreaks, which reduced both food and milk availability. Marsabit was severely affected by extreme shocks, with floods displacing over 4,000 households, damaging roads and bridges, and disrupting trade. The county also lost 1,000 shoats, while fish catch from Lake Turkana dropped by 50 percent, further undermining household food access. Insecurity in Dukana, Qorqa, and Loiyangalani compounded the crisis by driving up market prices.

In the Coastal region, successive poor seasons and high fuel prices sustained elevated food costs. In Lamu, fishing communities faced reduced access to both food and income, while low agricultural earnings across the wider region forced households to reduce both food quality and quantity, with many resorting to skipping meals altogether.

2.5 Human and Livestock Diseases

The March to May (MAM) 2025 season was marked by significant disease burdens across several livelihood clusters, with outbreaks of both human and livestock diseases undermining public health and pastoral productivity.

Human diseases

In Marsabit County, an active outbreak of kala-azar (*Visceral Leishmaniasis*) was reported, with 267 suspected cases, 105 confirmed, and four deaths by 25th March, a case fatality rate of 3.8%. Laisamis Sub-county was the epicentre, accounting for 88% of cases, with most patients being adult males. The outbreak strained health facilities, already limited in capacity.

Flood-related damage to water infrastructure further compounded risks. Contamination of pans and wells heightened the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, and dysentery, particularly in displacement sites such as Dukana and Saru.

In the Pastoral Northeastern Cluster**,** Wajir reported the highest disease burden, with a kala-azar outbreak resulting in 1,280 confirmed cases and 41 deaths by 9th July. The epicentres were Eldas and Wajir West. Malaria cases also surged, with 421 confirmed across Wajir North and Eldas. In Mandera**,** kala-azar cases were reported in Fincharo, with fatalities occurring among untreated patients. Tana River faced cholera cases in Garsen, further compounding the public health challenges.

Livestock diseases

In the Pastoral Northwest, livestock morbidity and mortality remained high. Samburu experienced prolonged *Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)* outbreaks lasting over seven months, significantly affecting cattle productivity. In Marsabit, North Horr and Moyale sub-counties reported widespread cases of *Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP)*, *Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)*, sheep pox, goat pox, camel pox, *Orf*, and foot rot. Tick and biting fly infestations were rampant in North Horr, while Moyale reported high kid mortality from diarrhoea, posing a serious threat to pastoral livelihoods.

The Coastal Livelihood Cluster also faced widespread livestock health challenges. Taita Taveta reported *FMD*, *Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)*, *Rift Valley Fever (RVF)*, and endemic poultry and caprine diseases. In Lamu, high incidences of *Trypanosomiasis*, tick infestations, and worm burden were recorded. Kwale experienced *East Coast Fever (ECF)*, *Anaplasmosis*, *PPR*, and foot rot, while Kilifi reported no major outbreaks but continued to struggle with persistent endemic conditions. Response interventions, including vaccination, treatment, and surveillance—were constrained by limited resources and personnel.

In the Agro-Pastoral Cluster (Kitui, Makueni, Meru North, and Tharaka Nithi), livestock productivity was hampered by diseases such as *CCPP*, *LSD*, *FMD*, pox, and *ECF*. These outbreaks contributed to poor livestock body condition and young animal mortality, resulting in reduced milk yields. Veterinary response efforts were further hindered by shortages of drugs, staffing gaps, and restricted market access due to quarantines.

The Pastoral Northeastern Cluster reported equally high disease prevalence. In Tana River, in-migration combined with wet conditions exacerbated cases of *LSD*, *FMD*, *Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)*, *CCPP*, *Trypanosomiasis*, and *Orf*. Mandera reported *RVF* alongside abortions in goats, while Isiolo struggled with persistent endemic infections such as *PPR* and *CCPP*.

2.6 Crop Pests and Diseases

A high incidence of pests and diseases was reported in both rain-fed and irrigated crops across most counties. The persistent pressure from pests and diseases, coupled with rising management costs, has forced some farmers to shift away from high-value horticultural crops, particularly tomatoes, to less profitable alternatives.

In Lamu County, pest and disease infestations caused an estimated 10 % yield loss. Fall armyworm was the most widespread pest, heavily affecting maize and sorghum. Other incidences included African armyworm; red spider mites in tomatoes; aphids in green grams, kale, and spinach; blight and anthracnose in beans; thrips on onions; and both late blight and bacterial wilt in Irish potatoes.

In Samburu and Marsabit, fall armyworm infestations led to maize yield reductions of 25% and 10%, respectively, while in Baringo, approximately 12% of maize acreage was affected. In Kitui County, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) analysis of October-December 2024 produce revealed aflatoxin contamination in maize and groundnuts exceeding acceptable limits by 32% and 75%, respectively. Additionally, pesticide non-compliance was flagged, with unapproved substances detected in 53% of kale and 33% of tomato samples.

3.0 | Summary of Key Findings

The food security situation has generally improved following the performance of the March-May 2025 rainfall season. An estimated **1.76 million people are currently facing acute food insecurity and require immediate assistance**, including **179,300 people in *Emergency* (IPC Phase 4).** Populations in *Emergency* are concentrated in Mandera, Turkana, Wajir, and Baringo (Tiaty), while the remaining food-insecure households are in *Crisis* (IPC Phase 3). The situation is projected to deteriorate through January 2026 due to the forecasted below-average October-December short rains season, with **approximately 2.12 million people likely to experience acute food insecurity by the end of the season**.

Crop production improved in the high and medium potential zones, while cereal and pulse production in the marginal areas ranged from fair to poor in some counties. This was mainly attributed to uneven rainfall distribution and early cessation, which negatively affected household food availability.

Livestock body condition was reported as good to fair across all ASAL counties, supported by adequate pasture and browse availability. This has resulted in improved milk production and consumption, returning to near-normal levels of 3-4 litres per household per day for production and 1.5-2 litres per household per day for consumption. Water sources were favourably recharged, with household consumption remaining within the long-term average of 15-20 litres per person per day.

The overall nutrition situation has remained generally stable compared to the previous season, although critical levels of acute malnutrition continue to persist in several counties.

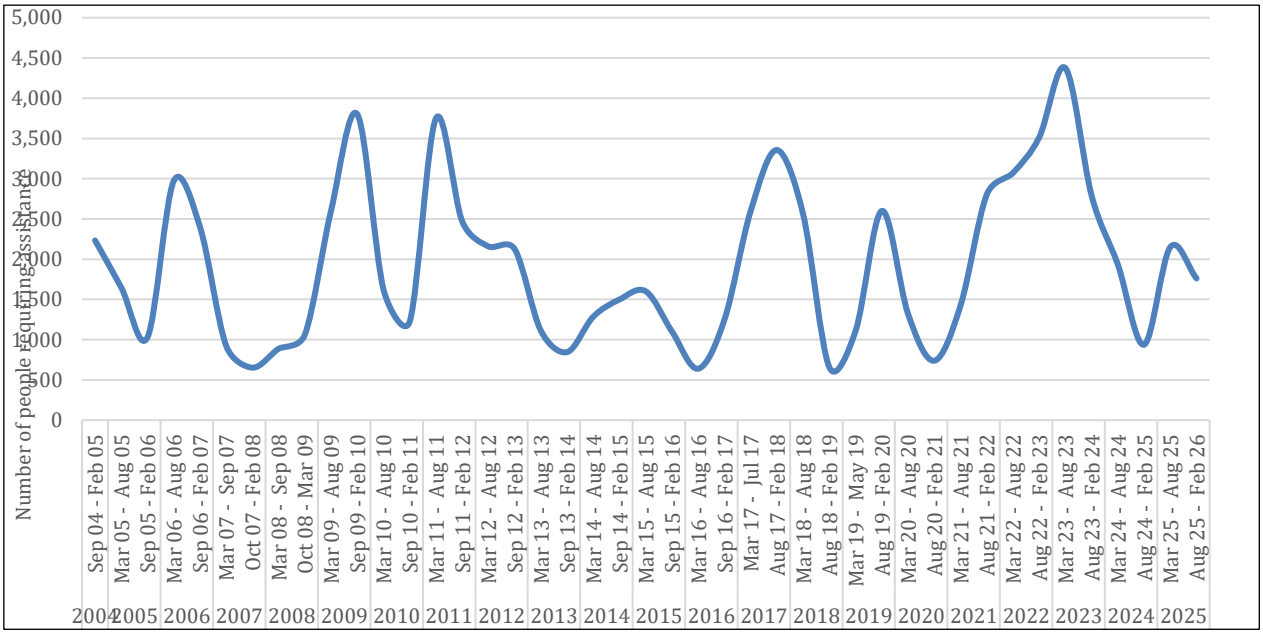


Figure 2: Population in need of food assistance trends.

3.1 Food Consumption and Coping Strategies

Food consumption patterns in July 2025 showed wide disparities across livelihood clusters, largely driven by differences in food access, dietary diversity, and purchasing power.

- **Pastoral Cluster:** Only 38% of households had acceptable Food Consumption Scores (FCS), while 44% were borderline and 17% poor. The worst outcomes were in Tana River (32% poor), Turkana (30%), and Wajir (26%). Isiolo was an exception, with 77% of households recording acceptable consumption.
- **Agro-pastoral Cluster:** Overall, 65% of households were in the acceptable category, 34% borderline, and 1% poor. However, Nyeri, West Pokot, and Baringo had high borderline and poor consumption (40–60%), compared to Kajiado (81% acceptable) and Narok (99% acceptable).
- **Marginal Agricultural Areas:** On average, 69% of households had acceptable consumption, 24% borderline, and 7% poor. However, Lamu (34% poor) and Meru (16% poor) remained highly vulnerable.

Across all clusters, diets were heavily cereal-based with low protein and micronutrient intake due to high food prices and weak purchasing power.

Coping strategies closely mirrored consumption outcomes.

- **Pastoral areas** had the highest severe coping, notably in Marsabit (49%), Garissa (30%), Samburu (25%), and Turkana (24%), where households frequently skipped meals, reduced portions, or relied on less preferred foods.
- **Agro-pastoral areas** were dominated by stressed coping, especially in West Pokot (68%) and Baringo (65%), with severe coping peaking in Baringo (17%) and Narok (14%).

- **Marginal Agricultural areas** showed severity in Meru (24% severe, 61% stressed), followed by Lamu and Kwale (each 21% severe).

Livelihood-based coping was again most pronounced in Pastoral areas, particularly Tana River (45% severe), Turkana (35%), Garissa (22%), and Mandera (16%). Strategies included asset sales, borrowing, and depletion of savings. While most Agro-pastoral and Marginal Agricultural counties reported minimal livelihood stress, Meru (20% severe), Kwale (19%), and West Pokot (14%) faced localised but significant strain.

3.2 Categories of Food-Insecure Population

Generally, the food security situation either improved or remained relatively stable across all the counties. After the analysis for the Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) the positive gains from the rains may not have been enough to change the phase classification in most of the counties. However, the population in need of humanitarian assistance dropped across all counties.

The analysis followed the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) which has three analysis scales that include acute malnutrition, acute food insecurity and chronic food insecurity. This analysis was for acute food insecurity that identifies areas and populations with food deprivation that threatens lives or livelihoods.

The analysis classified households into five severity phases[1]. Households classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse are considered to have urgent need for humanitarian assistance to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps, save lives and livelihoods (in emergency category) and prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods for the worst phase (Catastrophe).

3.2.1 Current food-insecure population (July– September 2025)

As per the analysis, the food security situation relatively improved or remained stable without further deterioration with an estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3 or worse) reducing from 2.1million in February to the current 1.76 million. The number of people in need of assistance been projected to increase to 2.12 million by January 2026.

From the current Analysis, Turkana, Marsabit and Mandera counties are in IPC phase 3 (Crisis), with Garissa and Wajir improving from Phase 3 in February to Phase 2 (Stressed) in July. However, despite the improvement, the counties have populations in Phase 3, only that they didn't meet the 20% threshold for a phase change.

Counties with high proportions of population in IPC phase 3 or worse in the predominantly pastoral arid areas are Mandera (30%), Turkana (20%), Garissa (15%), Wajir (15%), Marsabit (20%) Tana River (15%) and Samburu (10%). For the semi-arid areas, especially in the marginal mixed livelihood zones, counties with high proportions in IPC Phase 3 include Kitui (15%), Baringo (15% , mostly in the pastoral areas of Tiaty), Kwale (10%), Meru (10%) and Lamu (15%).

[1] **IPC severity phases: Phase 1(None or minimal), Phase 2 (Stressed)**, **Phase 3 (Crisis),** meaning households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis.
IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) meaning households either have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or can mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation and **IPC Phase 5:** Catastrophe, where households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.

The situation is expected to deteriorate further between July and January 2026, especially with a forecasted poor performance of the 2025 October- December Short Rains season.

3.2.2 Projected food-insecure population (October – January 2026)

During the period, a projection analysis was also conducted, mainly building from the current food security situation and looking at the most probable situation based on the forecasted performance of the short rains (October-December 2025) and the trend of various contributing factors.

In the projected period, the food security situation is anticipated to worsen, with the estimated population in need of humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3) rising from the current 1.76 million to approximately 2.2 million by January 2026. During the period, the counties currently classified in crisis (Turkana, Marsabit and Mandera) will remain in the same phase but with increased population in need.

Further, Wajir, Garissa and Tana River are projected to also move to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Other counties in IPC phase 2 (stressed) will remain in the same phase, with no significant change or with an increased number of people in need of various assistance.

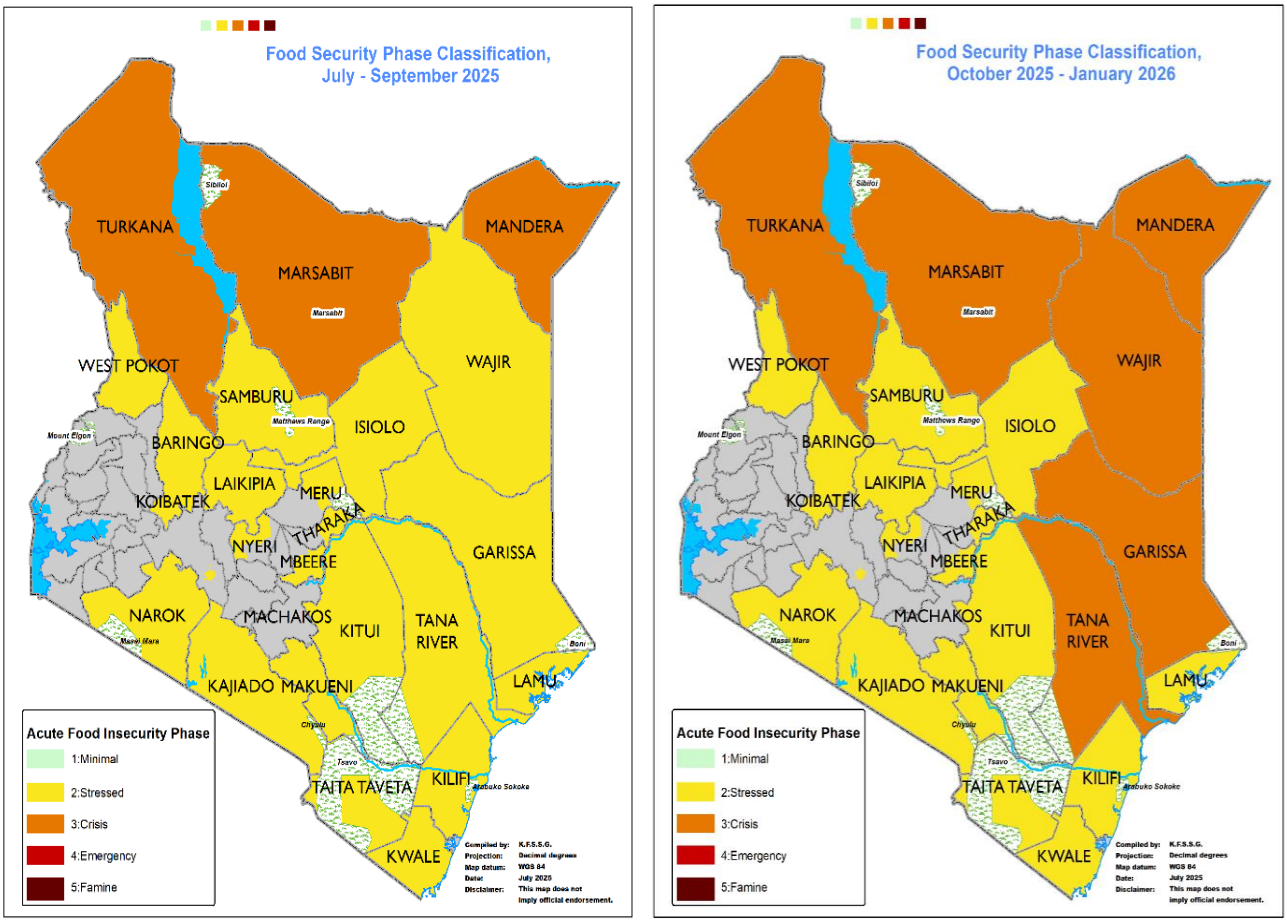


Figure 3: Current and Projected Food Security Phase Classification

Population distribution by county

Table 1. Number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (IPC Phase 3or worse) by county.

County	County population KNBS 2023 projection)	Population in IPC 3 or Worse Aug 2023	Population in IPC 3 or Worse Feb 2024	Population in IPC 3 or Worse July 2024	Population in IPC 3 or Worse Febr 2025	Current Population in IPC 3 or Worse	Projected Population in IPC 3 or Worse
						Jul - Sep 2025	Oct '25 – Jan 2026
Pastoral Livelihoods							
Turkana	**1,022,773**	358,050	306,900	196,117	306,900	204,600	255,750
Garissa	**927,031**	324,450	185,400	92,700	185,400	139,050	185,400
Mandera	**959,236**	287,700	191,800	95,900	287,700	287,700	335,650
Wajir	**870,636**	261,300	174,200	87,100	174,200	130,650	174,200
Marsabit	**515,292**	206,000	103,000	70,906	128,750	103,000	128,750
Kajiado	**1,268,261**	126,800	157,700	5,295	63,400	63,400	63,400
Baringo	**733,333**	109,950	73,300	36,650	73,300	109,950	36,650
Samburu	**348,298**	104,400	52,200	34,800	52,200	34,800	34,800
T/ River	**352,549**	88,250	52,950	52,950	52,950	52,950	88,250
Isiolo	**315,937**	79,000	63,200	15,800	47,400	31,600	47,400
W/t Pokot	**676,326**	67,600	10,000	4,000	33,800	33,800	33,800
Narok	**1,284,000**	64,200	64,200	5,957	64,200	64,200	64,200
Laikipia	**561,223**	56,100	56,100	28,050	28,050	28,050	28,050
Sub Total Pastoral	**9,834,895**	**2,133,800**	**1,490,950**	**726,225**	**1,498,250**	**1,283,750**	**1,476,300**
Marginal Agriculture/Agro-pastoral Livelihoods							
Kitui	**1,229,790**	184,500	20,000	25,000	61,500	123,000	184,500
Makueni	**1,042,300**	156,300	104,200	52,100	104,200	52,100	104,200
Meru*	**794,476**	79,500	39,750	39,750	119,250	79,500	119,250
Kilifi	**1,577,335**	78,850	157,700	78,850	157,700	78,850	78,850
T/Taveta	**363,990**	54,600	5,000	3,875	18,200	0	0
Kwale	**944,464**	47,200	156,300	47,200	141,600	94,400	94,400
Embu*	**280,979**	14,050	14,050	4,000	14,050	14,050	28,100
Nyeri*	**205,139**	10,250	10,250	3,000	10,250	10,250	10,250
T/Nithi*	**177,709**	8,900	8,900	10,000	8,900	0	0
Lamu	**167,332**	8,350	8,350	10,000	16,700	25,050	25,050
Sub Total Marginal Agric	**6,783,514**	**642,500**	**524,500**	**273,775**	**652,350**	**447,200**	**644,600**
TOTAL	**16,618,409**	**2,776,300**	**2,015,450**	**1,000,000**	**2,150,600**	**1,760,950**	**2,120,900**

3.3 Nutrition Situation Overview

The integrated phase classification Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN) analysis conducted in July 2025 indicates varying trends in malnutrition levels across counties similar to February 2025, with the majority of the areas remaining in the same classifications. The nutrition situation is stable, though certain areas continue to report high levels of acute malnutrition. Areas in IPC Phase 4 (Critical), include Turkana, Mandera, Samburu, Baringo (Tiaty), Garissa, Marsabit (North Horr, Laisamis) and Isiolo. These areas face food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and high disease prevalence.

Tana River, West Pokot, Wajir and Marsabit (Saku) are in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious), Wajir showed improvements from critical to serious phase. Moyale, Baringo North/ South, Laikipia, Kwale, Makueni, Taita Taveta sustained IPC AMN Phase 2 (Alert). Kajiado, Narok, Kilifi, Lamu, Kitui and Meru North are IPC AMN phase 2 (Acceptable) with Kitui improving from Alert to Acceptable.

In the projection period, the majority of the areas will remain similar and many deteriorate but within the same phase. Saku will improve to Phase 2 and Kajiado is expected to improve but within the same phase. (Figure5). Factors such as food insecurity, poor dietary intake among children, high morbidity, poor WASH, sub optimal health and nutrition program coverage and stock out of MAM commodities are key drivers for the nutrition situation.

3.3.1 Caseloads

The **number of children 6 to 59 months requiring treatment for acute malnutrition has decreased** from 800,202 reported in February 2025 to **741,883 reported in July 2025**. In addition, **109,81 pregnant and lactating women require treatment for acute malnutrition** (Table 2).

Table 2: Estimated caseloads and targets of children 6-59 months and pregnant & breastfeeding women/girls requiring treatment for acute malnutrition.

	Global Acute Malnutrition		Moderate Acute Malnutrition		Severe Acute Malnutrition		Pregnant and breastfeeding women	
	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	443,344	245,225	349,134	174,564	94,210	70,659	107,902	107,902
URBAN	77,107	47,098	42,932	21,466	34,176	25,632	816	1,164
NON ASAL	221,432	123,354	170,880	85,440	50,552	37,914	744	744
TOTAL	**741,883**	**415,676**	**562,945**	**281,470**	**178,938**	**134,205**	**109,462**	**109,810**

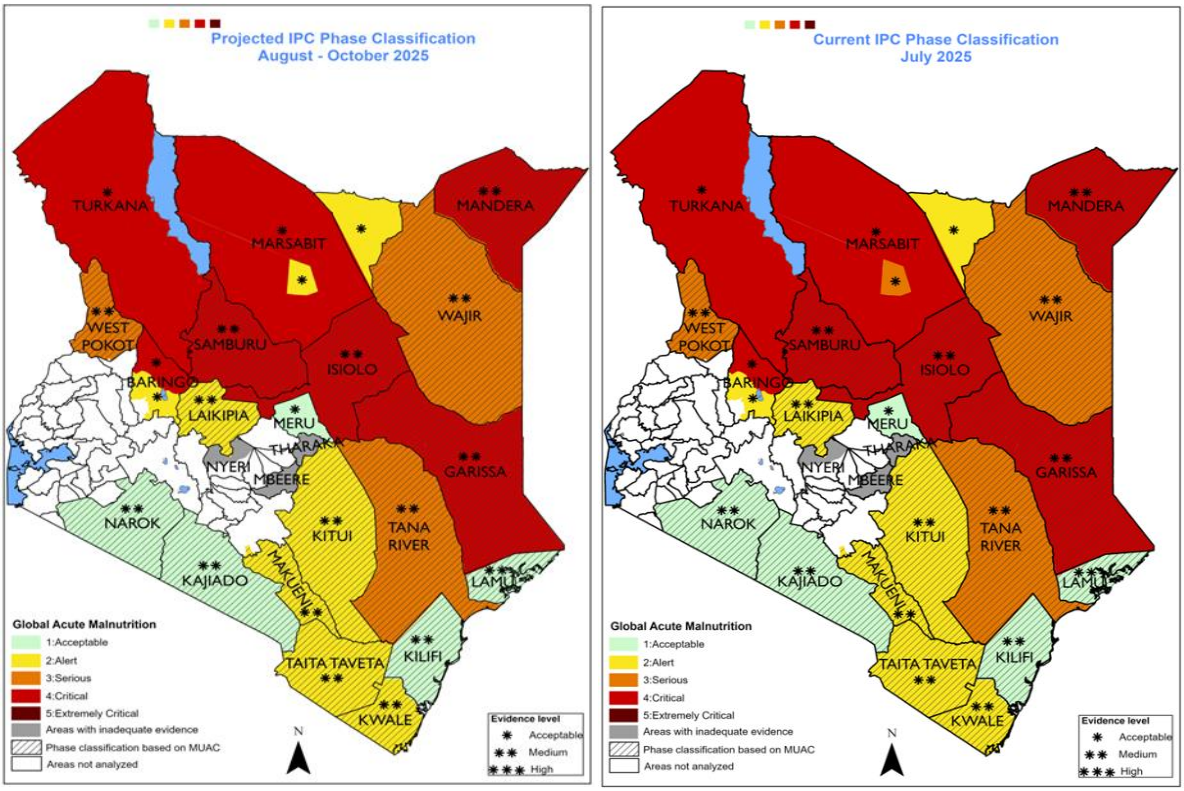


Figure 4: Current and Projected Nutrition Phase Classification.

3.3.2 Factors to monitor

i. Continuous monitoring of acute malnutrition rates across the country, especially in high-risk areas like Turkana and Marsabit, Samburu and Mandera counties, Baring East Pokot.
ii. Monitor disease trends and outbreaks and their effect on malnutrition.
iii. Tracking food security status to understand the impact of climatic conditions on food availability and accessibility. This includes monitoring crop yields, food prices, and food distribution networks.
iv. Availability and accessibility of health and sanitation services, particularly in regions with inadequate access to functional health facilities, clean water access, and proper sanitation.
v. Monitor the supply chain and availability of nutrition commodities and essential medical supplies.

3.4 Crop Production Prospects

The long rains maize production is estimated at 4 million tonnes from 1.63 million hectares, representing a production increase of about 10% above the five-year average, mainly due to favorable rainfall in high and medium rainfall areas of Rift Valley, Western, and Central Kenya. Beans production during the long rains season (769,367 tonnes) was approximately 60% above the long rains long-term average.

Coast Marginal Agriculture Cluster: Maize, cowpeas, and green grams recorded increases of 43.5, 9, and 30% above their respective long-term averages. This was attributed to timely planting, use of certified seeds, and enhanced farmer support services. In Kwale, early land preparation, planting, and support from the county government and partners (through provision of certified seeds and subsidised inputs) enhanced production, while Lamu and Taita Taveta were affected by flooding, soil moisture stress due to erratic rainfall.

Southeastern Marginal Agriculture (SEMA) Cluster: Acreage under maize and beans declined slightly by 3-9%, while green grams increased by 8 %. The Production was 21-35% below long-term average for maize and beans, while green grams was within the long-term average. The reduction in maize production was due to a shift toward drought-tolerant crops like cowpeas and green grams, Fall Army Worm infestations, high cost of farm inputs, use of poor quality/uncertified seeds, and early rainfall cessation. In Makueni, localised crop failures also occurred due to waterlogging in Kibwezi East and West.

Agro-pastoral Cluster: Acreage under maize, beans, and Irish potatoes declined by 10 -29% below the LTA. Maize production was within the LTA, but bean and Irish potato production declined by 14-21% below average. In Baringo, Narok, and West Pokot, maize acreage increased, while Narok and Nyeri shifted to beans, potatoes, and horticultural crops. In Nyeri, bean production increased planting of Nyota Ndogo certified seeds distributed by the county government. However, reduced acreage for maize and beans in Laikipia was attributed to a shift toward wheat, avocado, and coffee, as well as a reduction in agricultural land due to land subdivision.

Fall Armyworm infestation was reported in Baringo, affecting Kajiado and Nyeri, impacting on maize production. Kajiado reported cases of Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease infestation. Beans production in Narok, Nyeri, and West Pokot was affected by blight, anthracnose, and bacterial wilt, while Irish potatoes in West Pokot and Nyeri was affected by late blight and nematode infestations. Poor rainfall distribution and early cessation reduced production in Laikipia, Nyeri, and West Pokot. Other constraints included destruction by wildlife and frost damage in Nyeri County.

Pastoral North East: Maize acreage was within the long-term average (LTA), but production declined by 28%. The area under cowpeas and production increased by 79 and 178 %, respectively, while green grams acreage and production increased by 68 and 78% above LTA. The decline in maize was driven by poor rainfall, low-quality seeds, fall armyworm infestation, limited access to certified seeds and shifting focus to livestock with Mandera, Garissa, Marsabit and Isiolo being the most affected. Tana River shifted focus to pulse cultivation, leading to a slight reduction in maize acreage, while cowpea production in Wajir improved as farmers received support in the form of certified seeds and agrochemicals.

Pastoral North West Cluster: Maize acreage and production increased slightly by 4-8%, while beans acreage decreased by 16 % and production slightly reduced by 6%. Sorghum declined by 30% in both acreage and production. Cowpeas increased by 41%

in acreage and 13% in production. In Marsabit, the increase in production was attributed to support from the county government and development partners, which included the provision of drought-tolerant maize, beans (GLP 2, Kazuri, and KAT B1 varieties), green grams (N26), and cowpeas. In Turkana, maize declined due to limited access to certified seeds and use of uncertified seed. In Samburu, maize improved due to good rainfall, use of advisories, and ploughing services, although early rainfall cessation caused losses. Beans production declined in Samburu, due to pests, flooding, late planting, and seed shortages. Sorghum and cowpeas in Turkana declined due to limited access to certified seeds and use of poor-quality seed. Fall armyworm infestation in Samburu and Marsabit resulted in 25 and 10% reduction in maize production in the respective counties.

The total acreage under irrigated crops increased by 10% above the long-term average. The main crops grown included maize, sorghum, tomatoes, and watermelon. Maize under irrigation declined slightly, with a 7% reduction in area and a 30 % drop in production. Sorghum acreage and production increased by 72% and 49%, respectively. Tomato acreage and production declined by 15% and 39%, mainly due to Tuta absoluta infestation and limited access to irrigation water. Watermelon production remained within the long-term average. Production improvements were reported in Baringo, West Pokot, Kitui, Tana River, and Wajir, driven by input support, reliable water supply, and mechanization. Crop production declined in Kilifi, Lamu, Kajiado, Laikipia, Narok, and Makueni due to insufficient irrigation water, high input costs and pest infestations. Isiolo recorded reduced acreage but achieved improved yields, attributed to efficient irrigation systems and good agricultural practices.

Total maize stock was 20% below the long-term average. Household stocks were 37% below average, while trader and miller stocks were slightly above average. The sharpest stock declines were in coastal and lower eastern counties (Kilifi, Kwale, Makueni, Kitui) due to below-average 2024 short rains and localised crop failures in 2025. In the Pastoral North West and East clusters, household maize stocks are expected to last less than a month, compared to the typical 1-3 months. In the Coastal Marginal areas, stocks are projected to last only 1-3 months, down from the normal 4-5 months.

3.5 Livestock Productivity

The contribution of livestock production to cash income is estimated at about 80% in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone; about 50% in Agro-pastoral and Livestock Farming Livelihood Zones and ranges 30-60% in Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones. The pasture and browse conditions were generally good to fair across the arid and semi-arid counties. The available pasture and browse are projected to last up to 3 months across all livelihood zones. The major limiting factor to access to pasture and browse were invasive plant species which were reported to have colonised about 103,00ha in Marsabit County and about 10,000ha in Turkana, among other counties. Other factors that limited access were water scarcity, presence of disease vectors, enclosures of farms, resource-based conflicts, Insecurity, wildfire, wildlife menace, invasive plant species.

There were a total of 1,516 hay stores spread across the counties with a total capacity of 2,584,100 hay bales and currently holding 869,459 bales. Pasture Conservation was generally 30% to 40% below storage capacity across counties. Weak conservation culture

and lack of conservation equipment are hindering conservation efforts. Livestock body conditions were generally Good for all species across all livelihood zones. Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) have generally improved but are still below the Long-Term Averages in both poor and middle households. The Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones in Mandera and Wajir recorded TLUs which equal the Long-Term Averages among poor and middle Households.

Milk production per household per day were near normal to long-term averages in Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones. Production was lower compared to long-term average by 17% among Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones and by 14% among households in Livestock Farming Livelihood Zone. Turkana County reported 20% milk production above long-term averages. Milk consumption per household per day was near normal in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone and Livestock Farming Livelihood Zone. Consumption was 29% and 27% below long-term averages in Pastoral Livelihood Zone and Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones respectively. Garissa County reported an improvement in household milk consumption by about 25% of long-term average across all livelihood zones.

Return trekking distances to watering points were generally within normal ranges of 5-10km and 2-7km in Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones, respectively. However, Kitui County reported increased distances of up to 6-20km from the normal 2-6km in Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones. There was minimal livestock migration occasioned by declining pasture quality, drying water sources and insecurity. Isiolo received livestock from Wajir and Garissa while animals moved into Kitui from neighboring Garissa and Tana River counties. Lamu County also experienced livestock migration from Tana River and Garissa counties in search of water and pasture.

There were no major disease outbreaks. The most prevalent livestock diseases reported were CCPP (15 counties); FMD (12 counties), LSD (11 counties) and PPR (5 counties). Confirmed anthrax in Baringo South sub-county (Ilchamus Ward and Loboi in Mochongoi Ward) led to the quarantine of markets in the area. Mortality rates were within normal range and below 1% for all livestock species. However, Marsabit reported above normal mortalities in goats (4%) and sheep (2.3%) associated with CCPP and PPR.

3.6 Water Situation

The water situation has greatly improved following good rainfall amounts that recharged most water sources. Currently, most households are relying on their normal sources. Open water sources were recharged to 50-70% in most areas and are expected to last for about 2-3 months. In Baringo, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Meru North, Tana River, Taita Taveta, and the mixed farming areas of Laikipia, recharge levels exceeded 80%, with water expected to last 3–4 months.

The lowest recharge was reported in Kitui and isolated parts of the marginal mixed farming zone in Makueni, where open water sources reached only 20-40% of capacity, expected to last 1-2 months compared to the normal 2-4 months. Similarly, in isolated areas of Turkana, Samburu, Marsabit, and Kajiado, water is projected to last 1-2 months against the usual 2-4 months.

In the fishing zones of Patte, Siyu, and Kizingitini in Lamu, shallow wells that had previously become saline have now recorded reduced salinity levels within acceptable limits. However, siltation and breaching of water pans remain a major challenge in the agro-pastoral and pastoral north-eastern clusters, limiting their capacity to retain water.

Return trekking distances to water sources remained within the seasonal norm of less than two kilometres in Isiolo, the agro-pastoral cluster, the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming areas of Meru North and Tharaka Nithi, as well as the mixed farming areas of Embu, and the mixed farming (dairy, horticulture, irrigated cropping) zones of Kilifi, Kwale, and Taita Taveta counties. However, in Tharaka Nithi's marginal mixed farming zone (Kamanyaki, Kamarandi, Maragwa, and Kathangacini locations), some boreholes contained water with high salinity, forcing households to trek more than 6 Km in search of alternative, safer sources.

Return distances ranged between 2-5KM in Baringo, Makueni, Lamu, Tana River, Wajir, the mixed farming areas of Kitui, the marginal mixed farming areas of Embu, and the pastoral and agro-pastoral zones of Turkana County. Increased return distances of between 6-8Km were observed in Garissa, Marsabit, the pastoral zones of Laikipia, and the mixed farming (food crop/livestock) livelihood zones of Taita Taveta.

Isolated areas recorded very high return distances for water access, ranging between 8-12 km, particularly in the pastoral zone of Garissa, the marginal mixed farming areas of Kitui, and the agro-pastoral areas of Meru North. Notably, trekking distances of up to 20 km were reported in Kaapeduru, Turkana County, where households were forced to seek alternative water sources due to the drying up of open water sources and frequent borehole breakdowns. Similarly, in the pastoral zones of Laikipia, most dams and water pans had either dried up or were nearly depleted, further extending trekking distances.

Waiting times for water access have generally remained within the seasonal norm of 10-20 minutes in Samburu, Turkana, Garissa, the Coastal and South Eastern Marginal Agriculture clusters, and in most counties within the Agro-pastoral cluster. However, increases of about 10 minutes were observed in Makueni, Kitui, Tana River, the agro-pastoral areas of Meru North, and Kiunga in Lamu, where waiting times now range between 30-40 minutes. In contrast, reductions were reported in Narok, Marsabit, and the agro-pastoral and fishing livelihood zones of Lamu, where waiting times currently stand at 20-40 minutes.

In Kajiado and West Pokot, waiting times remain within the normal range of 30-60 minutes. The most severe delays were reported in Mukogodo West and Mukogodo East of Laikipia County, where the limited number of operational boreholes has pushed waiting times to between 1 and 6 hours.

The cost of a 20-litre jerrican of water remained within the normal range of KSh. 2-5 across most ASAL counties, and KSh. 5-10 in Lamu, Marsabit, Kajiado, the agro-pastoral zone of Meru North, and the marginal mixed farming zone of Tharaka Nithi. The highest costs within the normal range (KSh. 10-20 per jerrican) were observed in Narok and the agro-pastoral zones of Marsabit.

In isolated areas of Kilifi, Meru North, and parts of the pastoral north-eastern (PNE) and agro-pastoral clusters, water vendors were selling at KSh. 15-20 per jerrican. Vendor prices were significantly higher in Makueni, Kitui, and across the pastoral north-western (PNW) cluster, averaging KSh. 30-50. The most extreme costs were reported in the fishing zone of Lamu, where prices rose to KSh. 50-100 per jerrican, compared to the normal range of KSh. 10-20.

Water consumption generally remained within the normal range of 15-25 litres per person per day (Lppd) across most clusters. The lowest consumption levels, ranging between 10-15 Lppd, were reported in Marsabit, West Pokot, Kajiado, the pastoral zones of Laikipia and Tana River, the fishing zone of Lamu, and the agro-pastoral zone of Meru North, compared to the normal 15-20 Lppd.

In contrast, improved consumption levels were observed in Kwale, Kilifi, and the irrigated cropping zones of Taita Taveta, where households are currently consuming between 30-60 Lppd.

3.7 Education

Enrollment trends across all learning levels showed a slight increase from Term I to Term II. However, pre-primary schools registered a decline of 11,442 learners, largely due to limited access to school meals and long distances to schools.

At the primary school level, enrollment rose by 19,178 learners, attributed to enhanced government capitation, stronger community engagement, improved infrastructure, and sustained stakeholder sensitisation. Despite this overall increase, Kitui County recorded the highest decline of 7,981 girls, driven by factors such as food insecurity at both school and household level, domestic violence, family migration, poverty, insecurity in certain areas, drought, teenage pregnancy, early marriages, and child labour.

At the junior school level, enrollment increased by 31,992 learners (15,190 boys, 16,602 girls), supported by Government funding and enforcement of the 100% transition policy. In contrast, secondary schools recorded a decline of 3,151 girls, primarily due to teenage pregnancy, early marriages, and child labour.

Currently, 2.38 million learners in public schools benefit from school meals. All refugee primary schools and Special Needs Education (SNE) schools are covered, with the exception of refugee secondary schools. However, the Schools Meals Programme only provides meals for a maximum of 15 days per term, leaving 1.89 million learners without any meal programme access, with pre-primary learners being the most affected. In secondary schools, meals are largely supported by parents and communities, with limited government relief. The limited access to meals continues to impact attendance, concentration, and learner well-being, particularly in marginalised areas.

Heavy rains caused widespread disruptions in education, including damaging infrastructure and displacement of learners and teachers. In Kitui County alone, 426 schools were damaged, affecting 9,900 learners. Across the affected counties, 40 learning days were lost, only partially recovered through remedial lessons. Shortages of textbooks and teachers further constrained syllabus coverage.

Access to clean water and WASH services remains a critical challenge. In Tana River, 153 schools lack functional water sources. Schools in Garissa and Lamu East rely on unsafe trucked water. Most schools lack adequate latrines and handwashing facilities, worsening sanitation and hygiene conditions. Consequently, cases of malaria, diarrhoea, and respiratory illnesses were reported. While health interventions such as deworming and supplementation were carried out, significant service gaps remain.

Children with disabilities face additional barriers due to inadequate support. Reports of child neglect, female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and teenage pregnancy underscore the urgent need for stronger protection and child safeguarding systems within the education sector.

3.8 Staple Food and Livestock Prices

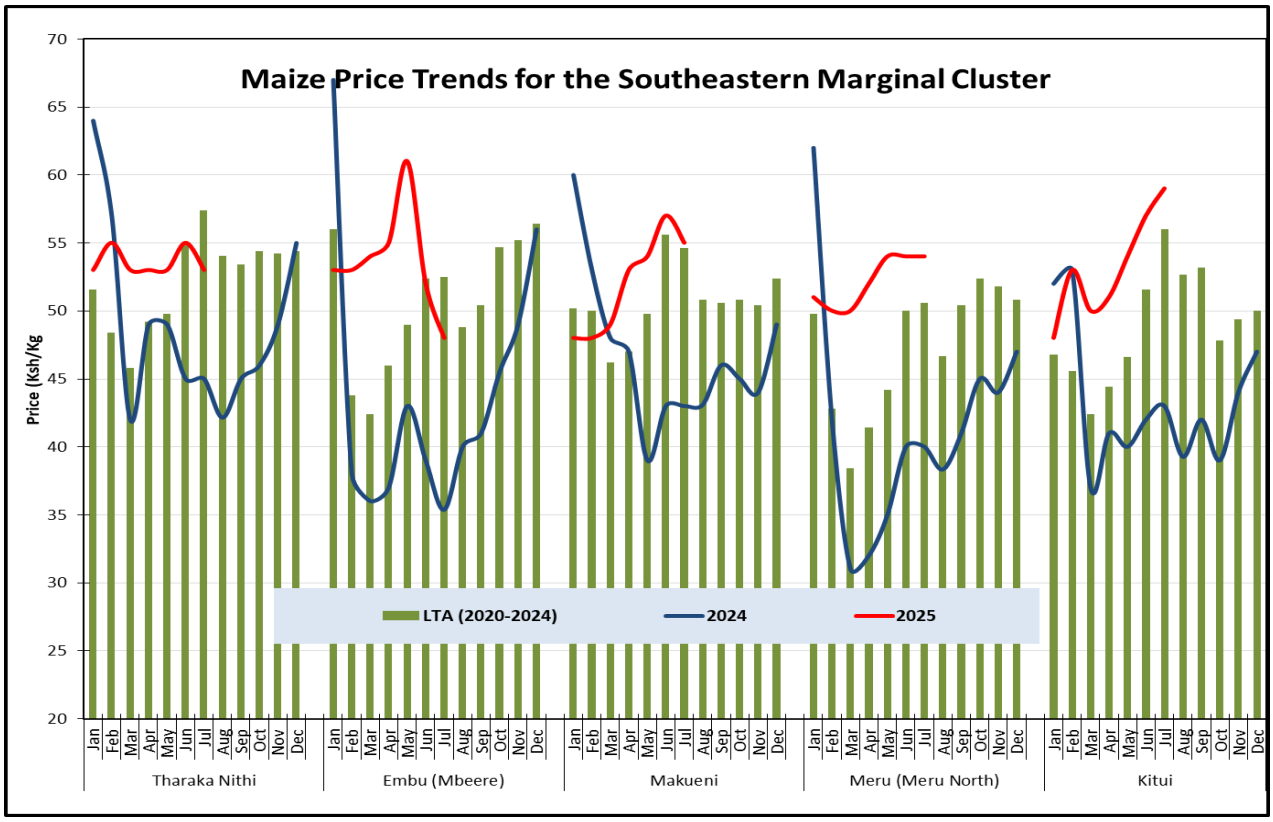
Southeastern Marginal Agriculture Cluster

- **Meru and Kitui:** Maize prices remained above the long-term average (LTA). In Kitui, a kilogramme of maize retailed at KSh. 59 compared to the LTA of KSh. 56, reflecting depleted household stocks and poor harvests. In Meru North, maize averaged KSh. 54/kg, slightly higher than the LTA of KSh. 51.
- **Tharaka Nithi and Embu:** Prices were below the LTA. In Tharaka Nithi, maize averaged KSh. 53/kg, 27% lower than the five-year average of KSh. 62, supported by stable supply from March-May and further price declines during the June harvest. Embu's average price was KSh. 48/kg, 27% below the short-term average.
- **Makueni:** Prices were comparable to the LTA, averaging KSh. 55/kg. However, this represented a 28% increase from July 2024 (KSh. 43/kg), reflecting heightened demand due to reduced household stocks and reliance on markets.

Coastal Marginal Agriculture Cluster

Price variations were noted across different counties.

- **Taita Taveta:** Maize averaged KSh. 58/kg, 9% lower than the LTA.
- **Kilifi:** Prices remained slightly below the LTA, attributed to good production and low demand for dry maize, given availability of sifted maize.
- **Lamu:** Prices averaged KSh. 66/kg, 8% above the LTA of KSh. 64. Price stability was supported by external supplies from neighboring countries.
- **Kwale:** Maize retailed at KSh. 61/kg, significantly below the LTA of KSh. 82. Prices trended upward from January–May due to stock depletion but eased from June with the arrival of green maize harvests.



Goat Prices

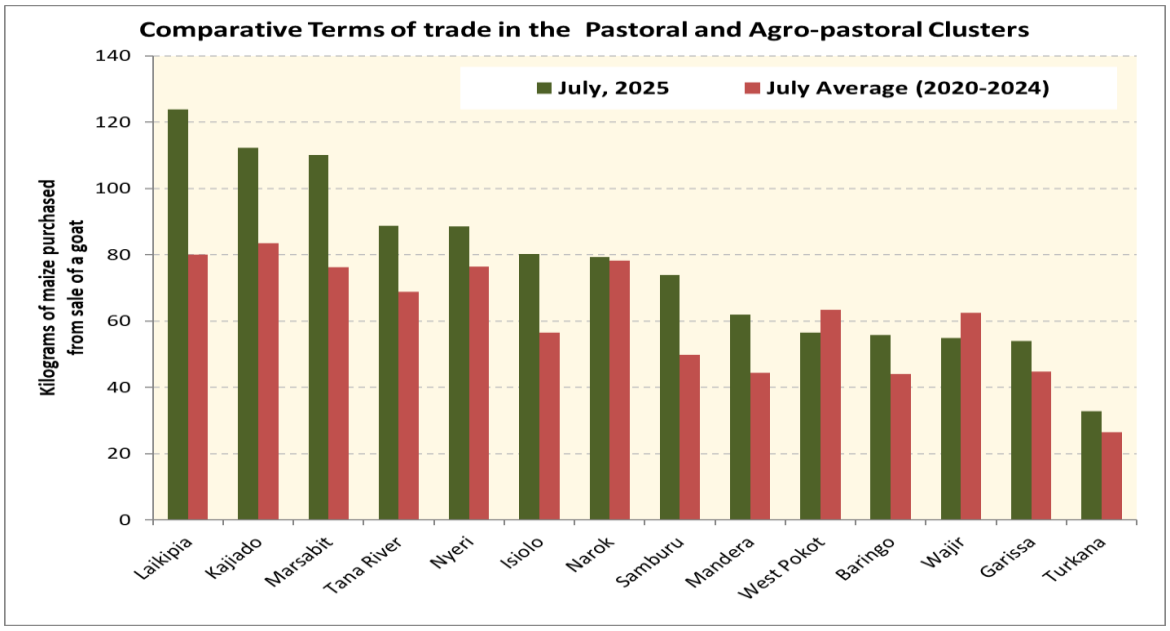
Goat prices remained above LTA in most pastoral and agro-pastoral counties due to good body conditions from improved rangeland resources.

- Highest: Kajiado (KSh. 8,200 vs. LTA 5,756, +42%).
- Largest increase: Laikipia (KSh. 7,680 vs. LTA 4,644, +65%).
- Lowest: Turkana (KSh. 3,110 vs. LTA 2,880).
- Stable: Wajir and West Pokot recorded no major differences from LTAs.

Terms of Trade (ToT)

Generally favourable, except in West Pokot and Wajir:

- Favourable: Laikipia households could purchase 124 kg of maize from goat sales (55% above the LTA of 80 kg).
- Least favourable: Turkana, where sales of a medium goat yielded 33 kg of maize, still above the LTA of 26 kg.
- Unfavourable: Households could only purchase 56kg and 55kg of maize respectively from the sale of a medium sized goat, representing 11% and 12% decline from the long-term average of 63kg and 62kg.



4.0 | Food Security Prognosis

4.1 Assumptions

- **Rainfall:** According to global ensemble forecasts and preliminary long-lead forecasts by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) show 2025 October-December short rains are expected to be below average in most areas, especially the east, driven by a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Neutral ENSO conditions (75% probability) likely until September, with 49% chance of La Niña from October. However, uncertainties exist given the long range of the forecast.
    - The February to September long rains in the unimodal areas of western Kenya are likely to be above average, based on the cumulatively above-average rains received through mid-July, short-term forecasts of above-average rainfall, and seasonal ensemble models of above-average rainfall in August.
- **Temperatures:** According to global ensemble forecasts, above-average land surface temperatures are forecast to persist through December in the eastern half of the country.
- **Rangeland resources:** The availability of pastures, browse, and water resources will remain atypically low through January 2026. The above-average surface temperatures are likely to accelerate the depletion of these resources through October, while the forecast below-average short rains will limit the rejuvenation of pastures and browse, and the recharge of open water sources from November.
- **Crop production:** Harvests in marginal agricultural areas are expected to be below average by late December to January 2026, due to the forecasted poor performance of the October-December short rains. The anticipated below-average rainfall will constrain crop development, leading to reduced production during this period.

- **Food stocks:** Due to below-average long rains production in marginal agricultural areas, household stocks are expected to deplete early (by September), driving atypically high reliance on market supplies through January. A temporary improvement is anticipated from late December with the arrival of early harvests.
- **Household incomes:** Poor households in marginal agricultural areas are likely to face atypically low incomes through January 2026, constrained by reduced crop sales and limited demand for agricultural wage labour during the October–December cropping cycle. Low earnings will restrict the purchase of seeds and other inputs, while the forecasted below-average short rains are unlikely to support good crop development, further reducing labour opportunities for land preparation, planting, and weeding.
- **Staple food and livestock prices:** Staple food prices are expected to remain at average to above-average levels due to below-average production in most marginal agricultural areas, though they will follow normal seasonal trends. Anticipated above-average unimodal harvests and cross-border imports from Uganda and Tanzania will help moderate prices. Livestock prices are also likely to stay above average, as households limit sales to rebuild herds, reducing market supply.
- **Conflict:** The anticipated rapid decline in rangeland resources is likely to heighten tensions and trigger conflicts over access and grazing rights in conflict-prone areas of Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, and Marsabit between August and October.

4.2 Food Security Prognosis (October – January 2026)

4.2.1 Pastoral Areas

Projected outcomes: Widespread *Crisis (IPC Phase 3)* from October, driven by low milk availability, reduced incomes from livestock/milk sales, and constrained purchasing power.

- **Resource access:** The unusually low availability of rangeland resources will continue to limit livestock in the dry season grazing areas, with intensified movements in search of pasture and water. Conflicts in Marsabit, Samburu, Baringo, West Pokot, and Tana River likely over access to pastures, water, and grazing rights in contested grazing areas and watering points.
- **October to December short rains season:** Forecasted below-average performance will provide only short-lived improvements in pasture and water from November through early December, limiting improvements in livestock body conditions and productivity.
- **Nutrition:** With herd sizes below average, milk availability and consumption will remain low. Low household milk availability and consumption are likely to maintain the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged five years and below at Serious (GAM 10-14.9%) and Critical (15-29.9%) ranges.
- **Household incomes:** Household incomes from livestock sales will remain atypically low as households will continue to limit sales due to below-average herd size despite above-average sale values. With the staple food process likely to be

slightly above average, low household incomes will continue to limit household purchasing capacities and access to food. Consequently, households are likely to engage in consumption and livelihood coping strategies indicative of Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while the worst-affected households will engage in consumption-coping strategies indicative of Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

4.2.2 Marginal Agricultural Areas

The forecast below-average October to December short rains will limit crop production in most marginal agricultural areas, resulting in below-average production in January 2026.

Projected outcomes: *Stressed (IPC Phase 2)* for most, with pockets of *Crisis (IPC Phase 3),* driven by below-average short rains which is likely to reduce crop production and agricultural labour demand.

- **Household incomes:** Household incomes will be significantly limited by below-average incomes from crop sales and wage labour opportunities. Despite staple food prices expected to be average to slightly above average, limited incomes will continue to constrain household purchasing capacities and access to food.
- **Household stocks:** Will deplete early, driving reliance on markets.
- **Coping strategies:** The availability of green harvests in late December and legumes in January 2026 will provide only temporary relief for household food consumption. Most households will continue to apply coping strategies indicative of *Stressed* (IPC Phase 2), such as reducing meal frequency, consuming less preferred foods, and purchasing food on credit. The most affected households will adopt *Crisis* (IPC Phase 3) strategies, including harvesting immature crops and cutting essential expenditures on health, education, and farm inputs. Overall, *Stressed (IPC Phase 2)* outcomes will prevail, with households maintaining minimally adequate food consumption but unable to meet some essential non-food needs without engaging in stress-related coping.
- **Nutrition:** With reduced access to food, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is likely to increase but remain within *Alert (5–9.9%)* in most counties.

5.0 | Options for Response

Table 3 sets out response options by sector at a total cost of **KSh. 16.45 billion**. All immediate, medium and long-term interventions should be anchored in the Ending Drought Emergencies Common Programme Framework.

Table 3: Recommended Response Interventions - August to January 2026.

Sector	Response Options	Cost (KSh.)	Cost (USD)
Safety Nets	▪ Distribute in-kind food and non-food items to support vulnerable households. ▪ Provide cash transfers to food-insecure households for immediate relief. ▪ Build community resilience to future shocks through livelihood support and asset creation.	**4.0B**	**31.3M**
Livestock	▪ Disease surveillance, parasite control, deworming, treatment, vector management, and vaccination. ▪ Promotion of pasture establishment, conservation, and utilisation (including reseeding, invasive species control, mechanisation, and training). ▪ Establishment of feed reserves and fodder storage systems. ▪ Rehabilitation of grazing lands and livestock water infrastructure. ▪ Livestock restocking initiatives. ▪ Development of livestock insurance schemes and value chains.	**1.1B**	**8.5M**
Water	▪ Servicing, maintenance, rehabilitation, and expansion of water infrastructure (boreholes, pipelines, water pans, and dam auxiliary facilities). ▪ Desilting of water pans to enhance storage capacity. ▪ Water trucking services to critical facilities, including communities, schools, and healthcare centers.. ▪ Provision of fuel subsidies to strategic boreholes for continuous water access. ▪ Solarization of water infrastructure to enhance climate resilience. ▪ Promotion of rainwater harvesting through training and provision of infrastructure. ▪ Provision of water treatment chemicals to ensure safe drinking water.	**1.5B**	**12.0M**
Health and Nutrition	▪ Sustain disease Surveillance and Response to outbreaks. ▪ Resource mobilisation to improve nutrition supply pipeline, full implementation of response plan and scale up of IMAM programme. ▪ Restore health and nutrition integrated outreaches and Responses, mass screening, hotspot mapping. ▪ Enhance and invest in Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategies to improve infant & young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition, & WASH practices.	**6.8B**	**53.0M**

	▪ Initiate and scale up community-based approaches to address poor dietary intake among children 6 to 23 months. ▪ Enhance community-based programmes to improve coverage or early detection & treatment of acute malnutrition. ▪ Update the nutrition response plan and county contingency plans. ▪ Strengthen nutrition situation monitoring, surveillance and early warning systems. ▪ Advocate for counties to finance data and surveillance activities to allow for comprehensive nutrition situation analysis. ▪ Strengthen nutrition situation monitoring and surveillance; continue to monitor effects of scale down on funding for nutrition programming. ▪ Implementation of multisectoral responses and interventions to address immediate needs with complementary actions to build resilience of communities.		
Agriculture	▪ Development of water harvesting and irrigation systems. ▪ Restoration and upgrading of irrigation schemes and related infrastructure. ▪ Improved access to agricultural inputs and mechanization. ▪ Enhanced post-harvest handling and value addition. ▪ Training and promotion of post-harvest technology practices. ▪ Monitoring and control of crop pests and diseases ▪ Strengthening of agricultural extension service capacity. ▪ Training on soil and water conservation techniques. ▪ Support for climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture initiatives.	**1.5B**	**11.7M**
Education	▪ Construct food storage facilities to improve school access to commodities. ▪ Maintain and expand the School Meals Programme. ▪ Provide water tanks and promote rainwater harvesting in schools. ▪ Support school WASH programmes. ▪ Access to Education and Support for Learners. ▪ Provide school fees bursaries to support vulnerable learners. ▪ Support boarding primary schools to improve education access. ▪ Provide menstrual and dignity kits for both boys and girls to promote hygiene and attendance. ▪ Employ Junior Secondary School (JSS) teachers and intensify enrolment campaigns.	**1.3B**	**10.1M**
Peace and Security	▪ Implement peace-building initiatives aimed at resolving conflicts related to resource use. ▪ Monitor potential conflict hotspots and support affected communities in recovery and rebuilding efforts.	**0.25M**	**2.0M**
	GRAND TOTAL	**16.45B**	**128.6M**