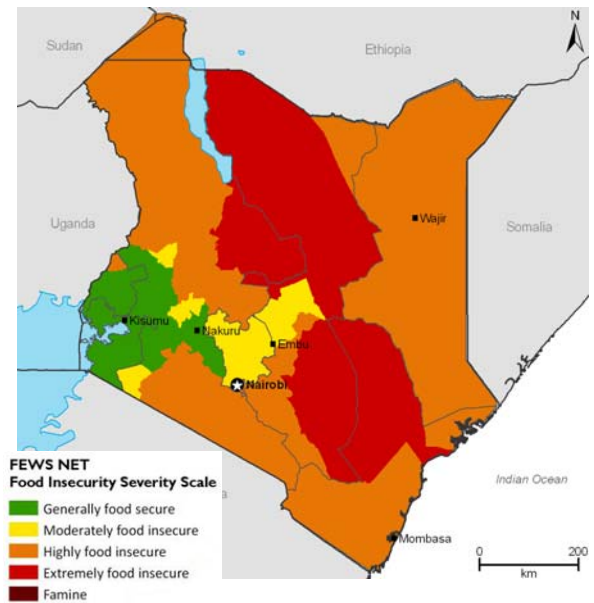


KENYA Food Security Outlook

October 2009 to March 2010

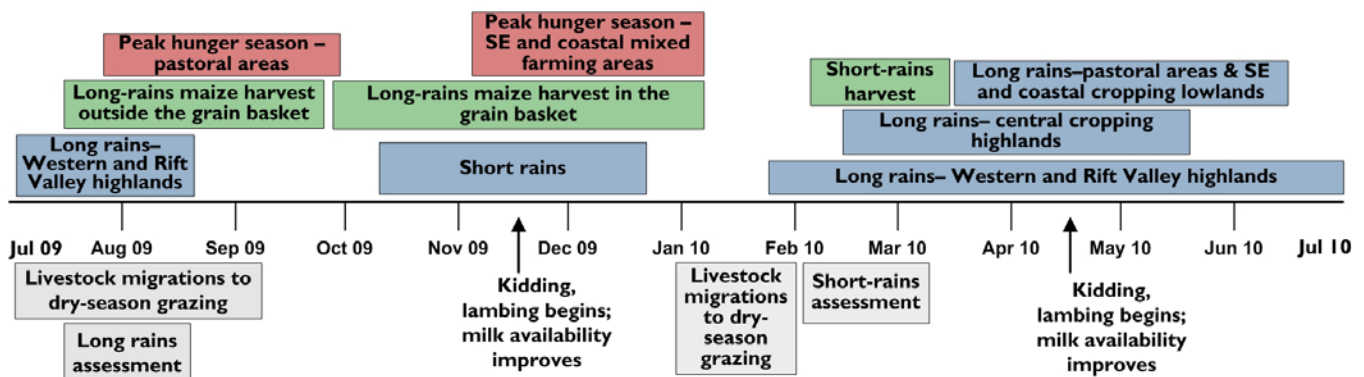
- Food insecurity has continued to worsen through the dry season, particularly in the extremely food insecure areas. An estimated 3.8 million people are highly to extremely food insecure, predominantly in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas. In pastoral areas, livestock mortalities continue to rise as migration options have become even more limited. Escalating conflicts have also exacerbated the precarious food security situation. Widespread crop failure, low livestock productivity, high food prices, and limited alternative income-earning opportunities have resulted in a precipitous decline in food security for marginal agricultural households.
- The most likely scenario between October and December points to some limited improvements in food security toward the end of December. With the arrival of the short rains, increased availability of milk and short-cycle crops should begin to moderate the heightened rates of child malnutrition. Reduced conflict incidents will lead to better access to markets. Cereal prices are expected to decline somewhat during the quarter, which coincides with the peak harvest.
- The most likely scenario between January and March points to improvements in food security, assuming that the short rains will be normal to above normal, as expected due to the impact of El Niño. Both the long and short rains harvests will be completed during the quarter. Livestock productivity should markedly improve, although previous mortalities will moderate the recovery. Due to good rains, food security for urban households will improve as food supplies from the grain basket and short cycle crops should increase and households will no longer need to purchase water. Suspension of power rationing will restore income-generating opportunities and lower food prices should improve household purchasing power.

Figure 1. Current estimated food security conditions, September 2009



Source: ALRMP and KFSSG

Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

Current food security conditions

In general, food security continues to worsen through the dry season particularly in the extremely food insecure areas. An estimated 3.8 million people are considered highly to extremely food insecure, predominantly in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas. Current levels of food insecurity are driven by the cumulative effects of four to five consecutive failed rainy seasons and the lingering impacts of last year's poor harvest; continued high staple food and non-food prices; escalating conflict in pastoral areas and the disruption to livelihoods and markets caused by the post-election violence in 2008.

Pastoral areas

The food security situation continues to worsen in most of the pastoral areas in Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Turkana and Tana River, even as short rains begin in eastern pastoral districts. Food insecurity in these areas is primarily driven by the impacts of several successive poor or failed seasons that have eroded the resilience of livelihoods as coping strategies shrink. Declining pastoral terms of trade, due to the significant reduction in livestock prices and high cereal prices, have also compromised food security. Areas that have received better long rains in the northwest, such as southern and northwestern Turkana, are nonetheless food insecure as these areas are often the epicenters of conflict and competition over grazing resources. Livestock, especially cattle and sheep, are in poor body conditions, many having trekked over 40 km, more than double for an average season, some crossing the borders into Somalia, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Livestock mortalities have been reported in many parts of the pastoral livelihood areas, particularly in Samburu, Kajiado, Marsabit, Isiolo and parts of Tana River. Consequently, livestock productivity is unable to support household food needs since milk output is largely absent, while cattle and goat prices are as much as 40 percent lower than average due to their poor body condition and the unwillingness of traders to purchase livestock at the peak of the drought. At the same time, cereal prices are over 100 percent higher than the respective five-year averages, except in Marsabit, Moyale and Mandera, where maize is being sourced from Ethiopia.

Over 50 pastoralists lost their lives during September in raids in Samburu, Isiolo and West Pokot, further compounding the rapidly worsening food security. Historically the northwestern pastoral districts suffer chronic conflict, to some extent attributed to the diversity of community groups, both within borders and into Ethiopia, Southern Sudan and Uganda. In many of those areas, displacement due to conflict and the lack of access to markets and grazing areas have caused a severe and rapid deterioration in food security, especially for sedentary household members, women, children, and the elderly.

Rates of child malnutrition derived from the Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) data for September 2009 are indicative of worrisome trends. September MUAC rates are at least 20-50 percent higher than September averages in Isiolo, Narok, Samburu and Kajiado districts and the percentages of children "at risk" of malnutrition (MUAC<135 mm) are over 20 percent in Wajir, Turkana, Samburu, Mandera, and Marsabit, which is close to their seasonal averages. However, rates in Mandera and West Pokot are lower than respective September averages. High MUAC rates are characteristic in districts that have undergone a sustained period of livestock raiding such as in Samburu and Turkana.

Southeastern marginal agricultural areas and coastal lowlands

Food insecurity is also highly precarious among farmers in the marginal agricultural areas of the southeast and in the coastal lowlands, particularly in Kwale, Kilifi, Malindi and Taita Taveta. In general marginal agricultural farmers derive an estimated 40 percent of their income from crop production, which has largely failed this year, and about 30 percent of their income from livestock production. Remittances, off-farm wages and petty trade constitute the balance. The impacts of a succession of four failed seasons are accentuating food insecurity as livestock body conditions deteriorate and food prices remain 50-100 percent higher than their respective five-year averages, although they have declined by 5-10 percent in many markets, after harvests in some key growing areas reach these markets. Livestock prices, similarly, compare unfavorably with their respective five-year averages and are about 10 percent lower in most of the markets of the marginal agricultural districts.

The reported increasing rates of child malnutrition in some of the districts in the marginal agricultural areas are of particular concern, as these districts generally report relatively low wasting rates. While absolute rates are far lower than in pastoral districts, ALRMP surveillance data indicates that September MUAC rates are up to 30 percent higher than average in some districts such as Kwale, Malindi, Meru North, and Taita Taveta, and up to three times higher than average in Malindi and Kwale districts. Increasing rates are attributed mainly to the decline in food consumption, particularly in 2009. Apart from

current high MUACs the districts are reporting substantially high stunting rates, up to 45 percent in Kwale District, characteristic of coastal districts, where poverty rates are above national averages.

In response to the levels of food insecurity, coping strategies have been stretched to unsustainable levels. While charcoal production is generally prohibited, continued devastation of the environment regardless of regulation is likely to endanger future production. The absence of agricultural activity as a result of the extended drought has also limited labor migration options for most households. In addition, productive household members are spending an inordinate amount of time walking long distances to fetch water.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

The GoK has put in place mechanisms to re-locate IDPs from camps, most of them located in the highlands of the Rift Valley. However, it is unclear where the IDPs will re-settle as the majority that remained in the camps is unable to return to their homes, due to simmering tensions. Approximately 650,000 IDPs were initially displaced from their homes following the post-election chaos of early 2008. At the beginning of August, approximately 150,000 people remained in IDP camps or in transit camps close to their farms. The food security conditions of the IDPs remain problematic for those that are not able to access their farms or other assets that were at their disposal before the conflict began in December 2007. Recent assessments indicated that those in transit camps are able to farm only a small proportion of their land, due to the distances that need to be covered to access the farms, thus compromising productivity.

Urban poor

Food insecurity remains high for the urban poor, most residing in slums or urban settlements. The three months preceding the current period have been particularly difficult. Sustained drought conditions have resulted in on-going power and water rationing, and water prices are ten times the average in some areas. The rationing of power three days a week has caused similar closure of small and medium-sized businesses where most of the urban poor derive their livelihoods, further constraining their purchasing capacities. While food prices have declined by up to 10 percent, increases in the price of water and reduction in household incomes have undercut expected gains in purchasing power for urban households. There is also increased violent crime in key urban centers and especially Nairobi, attributed to some extent to heightened food insecurity although the linkage has not been decisively researched.

Interventions

Food and non-food interventions fall well below requirements. An estimated 3.8 million people are targeted for relief food, mainly through general food distributions; 1.5 million schoolchildren are part of the school feeding program; 88,607 people are targeted for supplementary feeding; and 175,000 people are provided with protection rations. However, constraints in the supply pipeline resulted in a 30 percent reduction of the ration in July and August, and a halt to the distribution of pulses in September. Support to relief operations has been received from several institutions including US\$ 24 million from the USG; US\$ 1.4 million from Germany; US\$ 7.7 million from the GoK; US\$ 1.2 million from Spain; and US\$ 3.9 million from UN-CERF. However, the pipeline could break in October if the needed 15,800 MT of food is not available. However, WFP has indicated that the pipeline should be restored from January through March.

Long rains maize harvest

Data compiled from the 18 assessment districts coupled with data obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for the non-assessed districts has indicated that the country expects about 1.9 million MT from the long rains crop. Projected long rains maize output for 2009 is about 25 percent lower than the four-year average. The country currently has about 675,000 MT of maize stocks, sufficient to last just over two months. Farmers are holding an estimated 324,000 MT or 44 percent of the stock; the National Cereals and Produce Board holds about 234,000 MT or 39 percent; and traders and millers hold 117,000 MT or 17 percent. Some farmers are not selling at present as they are still expecting even higher prices after the first quarter of 2010.

An estimated 900,000 MT of long rains maize is yet to be harvested from the western and Rift Valley highlands, mainly from Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Lugari, Mt. Elgon and substantial parts of Bungoma and Nandi districts, from now through January 2010. If rains are heavy in November through January, the peak harvesting period in the highlands, substantial pre- and post harvest losses could be incurred and estimates may be revised downward. However, the GoK is instituting mechanisms to reduce post-harvest losses by providing drying facilities for the newly-harvested crop. Maize prices are also declining by

margins ranging between 3-10 percent in key reference markets. However, with national annual demand estimated at 3.2 million MT, a substantial deficit is likely to manifest from the second quarter of 2010 or even earlier, although the grain basket harvest will provide sufficient food stocks to last through March.

Most-likely food security scenario, October 2009 – March 2010

The most likely October 2009 – March 2010 scenario is premised on:

- A mild to moderate El Niño event.
- Initial livestock mortalities, due to weakened animals.
- No major disease outbreak such as Rift Valley Fever (RVF) anticipated.
- Little or no movement from wet season grazing areas due to extended rains.
- Decline in conflict incidents.
- Favorable harvest in the drought-affected marginal agricultural lowlands.
- Grain basket harvest not unduly affected by unseasonable rains.
- Lower than normal decline in maize prices in key deficit markets.
- Cross border imports from Ethiopia to decline after December.
- Limited overseas maize imports by the GoK.
- Flooding in the Lake and Coastal flood plains.
- Haphazard IDP resettlement.
- Improvements in food distributions after WFP takes over entire distribution process.

A mild to moderate El Niño event is expected to result in normal to above-normal rains, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the country, and the possible extension of the short rains into January. The above normal rains bring the potential for water replenishment, pasture regeneration and improved prospects for agropastoral crop production that would benefit the pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas. Longer growing periods would also afford an opportunity in parts of western Kenya to maximize production from the October - December rains. Increased water levels in dams would increase hydro-electric power generation, which would help boost small and medium enterprise productivity, and would therefore boost employment for the poor urban dwellers that depend heavily on unskilled labor opportunities. At the same time, the above-normal rains could have several negative repercussions, including increased livestock mortality due to disease; reduced market access, increased risk of soil erosion, and damage to crops and infrastructure caused by flooding; and increased morbidity and decreased food utilization caused by the potentially greater incidence of human waterborne diseases.

Figure 2. Most likely food security scenario, October to December, 2009

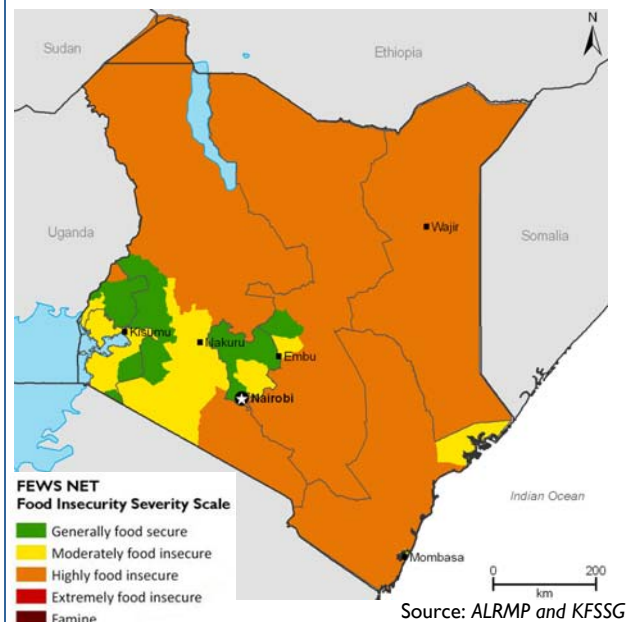
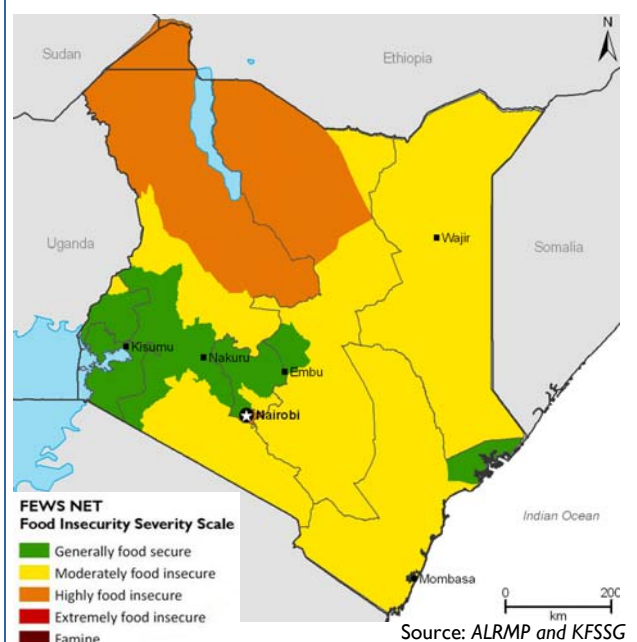


Figure 3. Most likely food security scenario, January to March, 2010



However, there is an outside chance that the short rains could be below normal. Such a scenario would be catastrophic in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas. Livestock mortalities are already rising and would increase exponentially depending on how far 'below normal' the rains are. Rates of child malnutrition would rise sharply. On-going food and non-food interventions are well below the requirement and below normal rains would only cause an increment in those numbers. Poor short rains and a lack of a harvest in the already drought-hit, short rains dependent areas would cause livelihoods to collapse, as coping strategies can hardly be stretched any further. Food prices would escalate because the lead time for imports would be fairly short as a good short-rains season and harvest are expected. The harvest in the grain basket would not be affected much because some rains have been in September. However, below normal rains may be beneficial in areas where the crop has already matured and is ready for harvesting.

Pastoral areas

In the pastoral areas, the most likely scenario points to a limited initial improvement in food security toward the end of year and more pronounced improvements toward the end of the following January-March quarter. Anticipated heavier than normal rains are likely to cause initial livestock mortality as severely weakened livestock will easily succumb to the contagious Caprine and bovine Pleuro pneumonia, a prominent feature of the rainy season onset. The highest mortalities are expected in areas where animals are weakest, such as in Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo.

Rates of child malnutrition are expected to remain a significant concern until livestock begin to recover their body and health conditions. Increased milk production should begin to be realized toward the end of the year as more animals kid, lamb and calve down. However, milk output for households will be lower than average because of livestock mortalities coupled with lower conception rates, due to extended drought conditions. Since the rains are anticipated to continue uncharacteristically into January, it is likely that pastoralists will remain in wet season grazing areas through the onset of the long rains, toward the end of March 2010, ensuring improved household food security during the second quarter of the outlook period. While the severe drought has caused significant losses for most pastoralists, who derive over 85 percent of their income from livestock production, the worst affected are the over 90 percent who are unable to transport their livestock to ranches in the coastal region and have limited alternative income earning opportunities.

In addition, livestock prices are expected to increase substantially because of heightened demand to re-stock, while sellers of livestock remain reluctant to trade, as they rebuild herds toward pre-drought levels. Cereal prices are also expected to decline somewhat as harvests begin to come in from the key growing areas as well as from the short-rains dependent southeastern lowlands, during the January to March quarter, improving pastoral terms of trade. However, repayment of debts may moderate the impacts of the benefits accruing from improved environmental conditions. Conflict incidents are anticipated to decline as grazing resources, pasture, browse and water become available, stifling competition for resources.

Nevertheless heavy rains and localized flash floods are likely to impede access to markets as the road network is largely dilapidated in pastoral areas. Subsequently food and non- food prices may increase even further if airlifting of commercial food and non-food commodities is warranted.

Due to these expected improvements in pasture and browse, livestock body conditions and productivity, and pastoralist terms of trade, food security in pastoralist areas is expected to improve progressively: pastoralists that are currently 'extremely food insecure' will move to the 'highly food insecure' category toward the end of the year. Pastoralists in the northeast who are currently 'highly food insecure' should move to the 'moderately food insecure' category toward the end of March, after productivity gains have established. However, the period pastoralists remain in the 'moderately food insecure' category could be short-lived, depending on the outcome of the 2010 long-rains season and the extent to which response and mitigation activities are instituted. Pastoralists in the northwest will remain in the 'highly food insecure category' through the January to March quarter because less rains are anticipated and because of the persistent impacts of extended conflict, which include displacements from their livelihoods, lack of access to markets, loss of livestock and lives. However, the movements are also contingent upon scaling up of interventions and better targeting that is anticipated from January when food deliveries are increased and WFP takes over the entire distribution of food through a single pipeline.

Southeastern marginal agricultural areas and coastal lowlands

The severely drought-affected marginal agricultural farm households in the southeastern and coastal lowlands are expected to continue to face heightened food insecurity through most of 2009, experiencing a probable reprieve toward the end of

the year as short cycle crops become available and cereal prices from key growing areas decline in the middle of the long rains harvest. Although labor opportunities will increase at the onset of the cropping season in mid-October, many drought-affected households are expected to spend a significant proportion of this income to purchase inputs for their own production. However, marked improvements in food security are expected during the January to March quarter, for households that are overwhelmingly short rains-dependent in Mwingi, Makueni, Machakos, Mbeere, Tharaka, Kitui, Malindi, Taita Taveta, Kwale and Kilifi, in particular. Nearly 70 percent of their output is derived from the short-season and experience suggests that moderate El Niño rains often lead to production levels that sustain households through the next short rains harvest. Rates of child malnutrition that are well above average levels should also begin to decline with the early harvests for vegetables and increased milk output, expected beginning in November. However, the prognosis is moderated by the likelihood that households may sell their harvest rapidly and at low prices so as to meet debts, school fees and other pending financial obligations. In addition, it is unclear to what extent the degraded environment will support production, after four successive droughts and an extended period of cutting down trees for charcoal production.

Flood-prone Lake Basin and coastal lowlands

Food security for households situated in the flood-prone Lake Victoria Basin especially Kisumu, Nyando, Migori and Suba districts and coastal lowlands is likely to deteriorate, unless planned measures to re-locate households are quickly implemented. While floods are a sudden onset disaster and tend to affect livelihoods rather rapidly, sufficient early warning information suggests that the better-off households will have more options available to evacuate in time, while the worse-off households will tend to wait for the GoK/NGO interventions which may delay and may not be of the required scale. Flooding, arising from the expected mild to moderate El Niño, is likely to result in the displacement of farm households, destruction of the short rains crop and of rural roads, limiting access to markets and productive activities, reduction of access to fishing waters and in severe instances, unfortunate loss of life. Current levels of food security suggest that flood prone households are largely food secure, after a favorable long rains harvest. The forecast indicates that rains will be highest in the Lake region as well as in the eastern sector, including the coastal region, suggesting that the localized areas of the lowlands are likely to become flooded. An upsurge in vector and water-borne diseases could occur, most especially malaria and cholera, in the event that floods are sustained and in the absence of effective preventive measures. While most of the flooding is expected to occur between October and November, the impacts will likely persist into the early January 2010 in those localized areas.

IDPs

The food security situation for IDPs situated in the Rift Valley highlands is likely to improve, particularly for those residing in transit camps and able to access their farms. While the households are not able to farm their entire land holdings due to continuing security concerns and long travel distances, household food supply will improve toward the end of the year. IDPs are accessing only a portion of their land, as they do not live on farms but travel there on a daily basis. However, IDPs still residing in camps are likely to experience continued poor food security and sanitation conditions. Many of the tents are no longer serviceable and heavy rains could lead to flooding within the camps, causing a proliferation of vector and water borne diseases, accentuating further the poor food security, health and sanitation conditions. However, a reduction in grain prices in adjacent markets could provide some limited relief for households that are now earning their living largely from petty trade and wage labor.

Urban poor

While urban food insecurity remains intractable for an estimated 3.5 million people across the country, good short rains will be beneficial for most households. Normal availability of water and suspension of power rationing will increase labor opportunities as more businesses and small industries restore productive capacities. A decline in cereal prices will also improve household purchasing power. Nevertheless, factors determining urban food insecurity are not transient and are unlikely to be addressed by good rainfall seasons for non-farm dependent households. The impacts of the planned urban food subsidy program are also unlikely to impact urban food security in the October-December quarter, as its implementation has not yet begun and is not expected during the outlook period.

Table 1: Events that could affect the food security outlook

Geographic focus area	Possible events in the next 6 months that would change the most likely scenario in this area.	Impacts on food security conditions.	Likelihood of occurrence	Key variables to monitor
Pastoral areas in the north, northwest and northeast.	Below-normal rainfall during the short rains.	A catastrophe would ensue due to acute water shortages, exponential increases in livestock mortality and general collapse of livelihoods and destitution.	Unlikely	Rainfall quantity and spatial and temporal distribution.
	Short rains much higher than anticipated.	Water, pasture and browse availability and access improve considerably. However, recovery hampered by poor access to markets, livestock and human disease outbreaks and displacements from flooding.	Unlikely	Rainfall quantity and spatial and temporal distribution.
	Livestock mortalities are excessive.	Recovery slowed down by inadequate access to livestock products like milk. Further, households will not be able to benefit from high livestock prices.	Very Unlikely	Livestock deaths at onset and during the short rains.
	Conflict incidents escalate as pastoralists 're-stock'.	Increased displacement and destitution impact the resilience of households. Also, access to markets for both food and income becomes problematic.	Unlikely	Livestock migration to wet season grazing areas.
Marginal agricultural lowlands in the southeast and coast.	Below-normal rainfall during the short rains.	Food insecurity would worsen inconceivably as this would be the fifth consecutive failure of the season. The next significant harvest would be in February 2011.	Unlikely	Rainfall quantity and distribution.
	El Niño rains much higher than anticipated.	Crop production improves and food prices reduce significantly in most parts. However, risk of displacement from localized flooding and landslides might threaten recovery in coastal flood plains.	Unlikely	Rainfall quantity and; spatial and temporal distribution. Season progress. Food price trends.
	Food prices decline precipitously, post harvest.	Most households would be able to access food easily leading to significant improvements in food security.	Very Unlikely	Food prices
Urban poor	Food prices decline precipitously, post harvest.	Access to food improves as household disposable income improves. Dietary diversity of households improves leading to better nutrition status. However, causes of urban food insecurity transcend high food prices.	Very Unlikely	Food and non-food prices.
	Urban food subsidy is implemented	Most vulnerable households cushioned from serious food insecurity.	Very Unlikely	Government safety net programs.
	Political upheaval as post-election violence	Situation is volatile and disrupts economic activity leading to loss of income and poor	Unlikely	Process of implementing

	issues are addressed. Below-normal rainfall during the short rains.	distribution of food and non-food commodities. Displacement of hitherto generally food secure households. Civil unrest similar to those already witnessed in the informal settlements due to disruption of water supply, escalate. High cost of power pushes prices of items up eroding purchasing capacities of households and curtailing access to food.	Very Unlikely	reforms agreed to by the coalition government. Rainfall quantity and distribution, price of food and non-food items.
Internally displaced persons	IDP resettlement is accomplished. Political upheaval if leaders of the post-election violence arrested.	Capacities and livelihood capabilities of previously displaced persons restored. Rapid improvement in food security of resettled majority. Resettlement plans for IDPs thrown into disarray. Large populations displaced, lose their livelihoods and are vulnerable to additional violence and vector and water borne diseases. Food insecurity heightens, including rates of malnutrition in children.	Very Unlikely Unlikely	Resettlement process and support to production of returnees. Process of implementing reforms agreed to by the coalition government.
Pastoral, marginal agricultural and urban	Six-month economic stimulus package implemented to improve infrastructure, markets and productive capacities.	Households' access to markets and enhanced productivities will result in improved household incomes.	Unlikely	Although implementation is delayed, it could be accelerated with the process of reforms.

* Probability levels	Description
Unlikely	Could occur in the time period if conditions changed moderately
Very unlikely	Could occur in the time period if conditions changed significantly