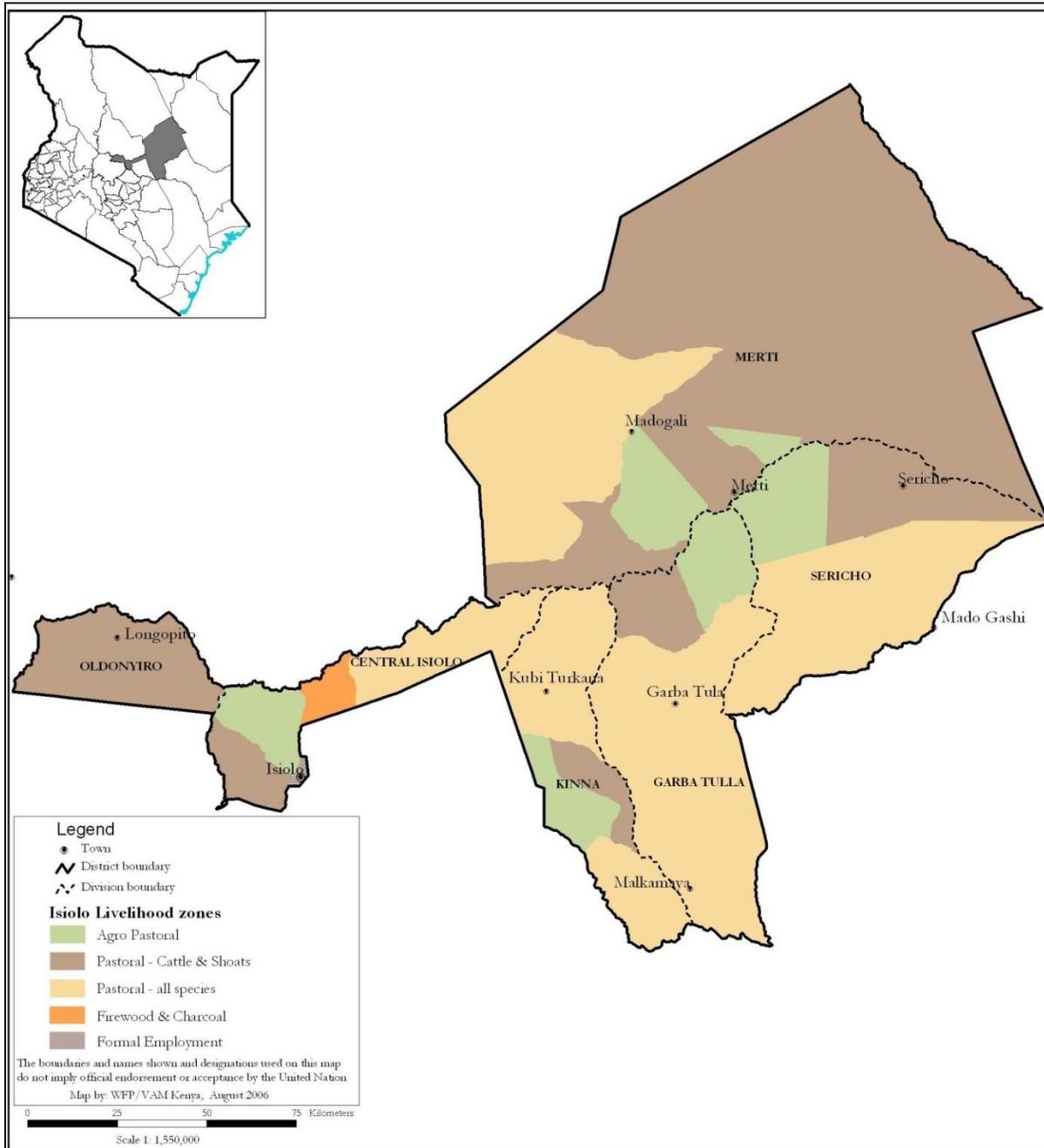


ISIOLO COUNTY

2015 SHORT RAINS FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



A Joint Report by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group ¹(KFSSG) and the Isiolo County Steering Group (CSG)

February 2016

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Background

Isiolo County borders eight counties namely; Marsabit to the North, Wajir to the East and Garissa to the South East, Tana River, Kitui, Meru to the South, Laikipia to the South West and Samburu to the West. The County has an area of 25,605 Square kilometres with 143,294 persons according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) census (2009). Isiolo County has two sub counties; namely Isiolo North and Isiolo South. There are four main livelihood zones in the county: pastoral cattle and goats, which has 35 percent of the population, pastoral-all species (15 percent), casual and waged labour (32 percent) and agro pastoral livelihood zones 15 percent of the population (Figure 1).

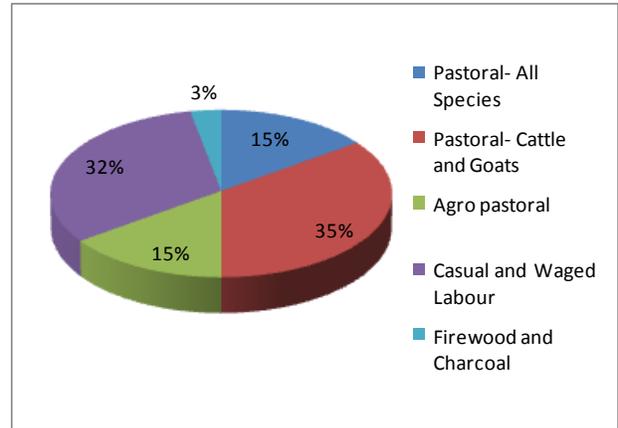


Figure 1. Population by Livelihood zone

In the pastoral livelihood zone, 50 percent of the population is semi nomadic while the other 15 percent are fully and occasionally nomadic. In the agro pastoral livelihood zone, 45 percent of the population is fully settled while 30 percent are semi nomadic.

1.2 Current Factors Affecting Food Security

The main factor affecting the food security is the cumulative effect of previous season's poor rainfall performances. Other factors affecting food security are low terms of trade (ToT) and deteriorating pasture and browse in some areas. Resource based conflicts occurring within the county and with neighbouring counties are restricting movements of livestock and as a result affecting access to pasture especially in Kinna division. There is also limited access to markets that has affected household's access to food commodities.

2.0 COUNTY FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

2.1 Current Food Security Situation

The county is currently classified in the Stressed phase (IPC Phase 2) in most parts of the pastoral firewood and charcoal livelihood zones while it is Minimal (IPC Phase 1) in the agro pastoral livelihood zones. In the agro pastoral livelihood zone, households have 85 percent of the Long Term Average (LTA) maize stocks and the short rains crops are yet to be harvested. Water consumption was normal at 7 – 10 litres per person per day. Livestock body condition is generally good for all livestock species with milk production being 1.5 – 2 liters. Terms of trade (ToT) as at January 2016 were generally poor across livelihood zones and 26 percent below the LTA as the sale of one goat can be exchanged for 54 kilograms of maize compared to the LTA of 73 kilograms of maize. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence was at 12.3 percent as at January, 2016. The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition based on Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC <135mm), as at January 2016 was 13 percent compared to the LTA of

22.7 percent indicating an improved nutrition situation. The coping strategy index (CSI) in December 2015 was 31. In December 2015, five, 17 and 78 percent of the households had poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores respectively. Crude Mortality rate (CMR) was 0.57 per 10,000 per day and under-fives mortality rate was 0.001 deaths per 10,000 live births per day as per 2014 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Survey.

2.2 Food Security Trends

During the long rains of 2015, most parts of the pastoral livelihood zone in Isiolo South Sub-County were in Crisis Phase (IPC Phase 3) of food security classification while most parts of Isiolo North were in Stressed Phase (IPC Phase 2) except parts of Merti ward. Currently the county is classified as **Stressed** phase (IPC Phase 2) in most parts of the pastoral, firewood and charcoal livelihood zones while it is **Minimal** in the agro pastoral livelihood zones. Food stocks are available at the household level compared to the long rains 2015 season. The current water consumption is 10 - 20 compared to 8 -10 liters per person per day in July 2015. Livestock body condition has generally improved in comparison to the previous season. The Terms of Trade (ToT) have remained below normal and are poorest in the pastoral livelihood zone. The CSI was 31 and is comparable to the same period in 2015 and above 25 reported in September of 2015.

There is no significant change noted in the nutrition status based on a SMART survey done in February 2016 as the global acute malnutrition rate is at 12.3 percent compared to 13.2 percent at a similar time in 2015. According to Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) data, in December 2015, five, 17 and 78 percent of the households had poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores respectively compared to eight, 40 and 52 percent in September 2015 indicating some improvement especially in the agro pastoral livelihood zone. Mortality rates for both the general population and the under-fives has remained below the emergency cut offs. Access to markets is poor and malnutrition rates are generally high in this zone.

2.3 Rainfall Performance

The onset of the short rains was slightly late in the 1st dekad of November compared to the normal third dekad of October across the livelihood zones. Rainfall performance was characterized with poor temporal and uneven spatial distribution. The county received above 90 percent of normal rains except the northern parts of Merti that received 50 - 75 percent of normal rains. The southern part of the county received 140 - 200 percent of normal rains (Figure 2). Cessation was normal, in the third dekad of December.

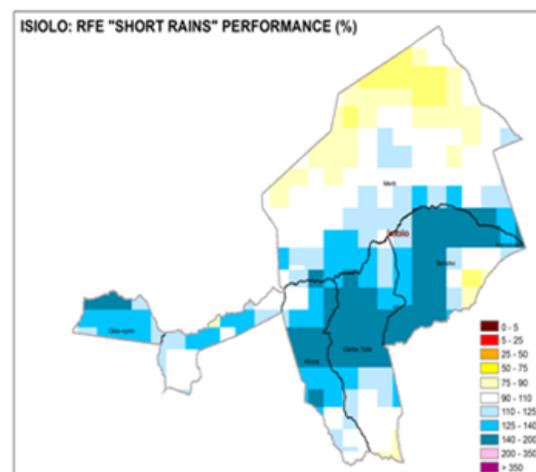


Figure 2: Rainfall Performance

2.4 Current Shocks and Hazards

- Conflicts within the county occasioned by internal movement of livestock to areas with pasture
- Wildlife menace reported in the agro pastoral areas where elephants destroyed crops
- Flash floods that led to loss of livestock and human lives.

3.0 IMPACT OF RAINFALL PERFORMANCE, SHOCKS AND HAZARDS

3.1 Crop Production

The short rains is the main season in the county and more reliable. It accounts for 50 - 60 percent of the annual rainfall in the county. Food crop production contributes to 23 and 15 percent of cash income to agro pastoral and casual waged labour livelihood zones respectively. The main crops grown in the county are maize and beans while cowpeas are grown in small scale. Maize contributes to 15 percent cash income and 45 percent to food in the agro pastoral livelihood zone. In casual waged labour, firewood and charcoal livelihood zone, maize and beans contribute to 70 and 20 percent food income respectively.

Rain-fed Crop Production

Table 1: Rain-fed crop production

Crop	Area planted during the 2015 short rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average area planted during the short rains season (Ha)	2015 short rains season production (90 Kilogrammes bags)	Long Term Average production during the short rains season(90 Kilogrammes bags)
Maize	274	280	5480	5400
Beans	219	165	4380	4300
Cow peas	47	135	122	170

The area planted under maize was 98 percent of the long-term average while the acreage under beans was 33 percent above the long term average. Acreage under cowpeas decreased to 35 percent of the long term average (Table1). The increase in acreage cultivated for maize and beans was attributed to the forecasted above normal rains that led to intensified campaigns done by the department of agriculture, subsidized mechanized land preparation and the supply of relief seeds for maize and beans by the County government of Isiolo. The decrease in area under cowpeas was attributed to lack of seeds and subsequently there was a reduction in production by 28 percent below the long-term average. Projected production of the maize crop is eight percent above the long-term average. Beans were harvested and the production was equally eight percent above the long-term average. The production would have been higher however; crop damage by wildlife was reported in Bulesidima, Kinna and Rapsuareas.

Irrigated Crop Production

Table 2: Irrigated Crop production

Crop	Area planted during the 2015 short rains season (Ha)	Short Term Average area planted during the short rains (Ha)	2015 short rains production (90 Kilogrammes bags) Actual	Short Term Average production during short rains season (90 Kilogrammes bags)
Maize	288	330	4545	4200
Tomatoes	87	80	1490	1440
Onions	86	79	852	1074

The main crops grown under irrigation are maize, tomatoes and onions which are grown mainly along Ewaso Nyiro River, Isiolo and Bisanadi rivers. Acreage under maize was 87 percent of the short term average while acreage under tomatoes and onions increased by nine percent each of the short term average (Table 2). Reduction in area planted for maize was attributed to some farmers not planting due to river changing its course and thus farmers could not do new canals particularly in Merti Sub County. The increase in area cultivated for tomatoes and onions was mainly due to availability of water in the rivers following the above normal rainfall experienced in the season. Production for maize and tomatoes slightly increased and was eight and three percent above the short term average respectively. The production of onion was 79 percent of the short term average. The reduced production of onions was attributed to crop pests and diseases.

Maize stocks

Table 3: Maize Stocks in Isiolo County

Maize stocks held by	Quantities of maize held (90-kilogrammes bags)	Long Term Average quantities held (90-kilogrammes bags) at similar time of the year
House Holds	1529	1800
Traders	1463	1471
Millers	757	695
NCPB	0	21,500
Total	3,749	25,466

Total stocks held in the county were below normal at 15 percent of the long term average. Household stocks were 85 percent of the long term average with no significant changes in the stocks held by the traders. Stocks held by the millers were nine percent above the long term average while the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) hold no stocks currently since maize crop is yet to be harvested. Stocks that are usually held by NCPB at such a time were disposed earlier than normal due to infestation by grain storage pests (Table 3). The slight increase in stocks held by the millers was attributed to the increase in the number of millers in the county. The current household stocks are expected to last for two months compared to three months normally.

Livestock Production

The main livestock types kept across the livelihood zones were Sheep, goats and cattle. Livestock production contributes to 80, 45, 44 and 27 percent of cash income in the pastoral, agro pastoral, charcoal/firewood and casual/waged labor livelihood zones respectively. Nomadic pastoralism is prominent in the county and defines the lifestyle of most of the county's inhabitants. Livestock production activities such as grazing as well as decisions on their utilization and sale are mainly carried out by men. The small ruminants are mainly herded by young children.

Pasture and Browse

The current pasture situation is good in all livelihood zones and is above normal for this time; however, in areas like Merti which received below average rainfall, the pasture is poor and is expected to last for one month until the month of March. In areas where it is good currently it is projected to last for four months until the month of May compared to two months normally. Browse is good across all livelihood zones and expected to last for five months until the month of June which is above the normal of two months for this time of the year. Browse in the pastoral areas of Merti, it is expected to last for 2 – 3 months until April to May. Crop residues are expected to contribute to livestock feed especially in the agro pastoral livelihood zone once the crop is harvested and currently forage is available. Access to pasture and browse is restricted in areas of Kinna attributed to conflict between the livestock owners in Kinna and farmers in Meru. In Merti, the wet season pasture was depleted early necessitating the migration to the dry season grazing area which was also depleted and currently are foraging at Lorian swamp as a last resort.

3.2 Livestock Productivity

Livestock body condition

The body condition for all the species of livestock is good compared to good to fair in normal conditions. The good body condition is attributed to availability of forage following the above normal rains received in the county. The body condition is likely to remain the same until mid-March, after which they will start deteriorating, especially in Merti. Good body condition has translated to an improvement in the yield of livestock products and by products.

Birth rate

The average livestock birth rate is 10 percent (cattle), 17 percent (sheep) and 16 percent (goat), which is the normal at this time of the year, there has been no increase noted due to cumulative below average previous seasons performance. Given the current trend in pasture, browse and water availability, the birth rate is likely to remain the same until April when calving/kidding is expected to be reported.

Milk availability and consumption

All species of livestock are producing milk and they are within reasonable distance and therefore households can access milk. Milk availability per household in the agro pastoral livelihood zone stands at 1.5 - 2 liters per day compared to one liter per day normally while in the pastoral livelihood zone; milk available is 0.5 - 1.5 liters per household which is normal. The increase is due to availability of pasture and browse and livestock are still grazing within reasonable distance from homestead. The average milk price ranges from Ksh. 40 - 60 per liter which is normal.

Tropical livestock units (TLUs)

The current average Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) per household is four for the lower wealth groups, which is normal. Households have an average of 3 - 5 heads of cattle, 10 - 15 sheep and goats and a few chicken. The households in the middle and upper wealth groups have a number of camels in addition to the goats and sheep.

Water for Livestock

Current water sources for livestock are boreholes, rivers, water pans and sand dams. Water levels in these sources are above normal across the livelihood zones and higher in both the agro pastoral and charcoal livelihood zones than in the pastoral. The available water sources are expected to last for three months compared to the normal two months. In the pastoral areas of Merti, the livestock depend on the Ewaso Nyiro River and the Lorian Swamp which has stagnant water that causes common tick borne diseases such as East Coast Fever (ECF) in the livestock. The current trekking return distance is below normal at about three kilometres compared to about five kilometers during normal time except in Mata Arba, where the return distance remained normal. The animals are watered on a daily basis which is normal at this time of the year. The trekking distances are likely to increase across the livelihood zones through April for households depending on surface water sources but for households depending on boreholes the water will be available throughout.

Migration

There was no out migration reported in the county. The livestock are currently grazing in their normal grazing areas and are likely to remain in the wet and dry season grazing areas for the next three months after which they will start moving slowly towards the dry season grazing reserves. In Merti, due to the below average rainfall, the livestock exhausted the wet grazing areas earlier than usual and proceeded to the dry grazing areas of Yamicha and Urura that are supposed to be used during the long lean season of July to November earlier than usual.

Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

Cases of disease outbreak reported in the county include Black Quarter disease affected cattle in Sericho and Garbatulla sub-counties, Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP) in Merti and Garbatulla, haemorrhagic septicaemia for camels in central division, sheep and goat pox in Merti and central division. Vaccination was ongoing as a measure taken to contain the situation. In case of haemorrhagic septicaemia, farmers were being given advice on how handle the camel since there is no vaccine for it. The average livestock mortality rate was five percent for cattle, 1.6 percent for goat and 1.1 percent for sheep. The mortalities are due to disease outbreaks being experienced in the county.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

The main sources of water in the county are rivers, boreholes, water pans as well as shallow wells. Currently, about 80 percent of the pans have water, which is expected to last for approximately three months until June which is above normal at this time of the year. There are a few pans, which are dry due to drought and non-drought reasons. Urura in Merti was blocked, Garissa in Kina has silted and the two communities are reluctant to have them operational to prevent influx from outside the county. In pastoral livelihood areas of Merti/Mata Arba pans are completely dry owing to 50 - 75 of normal rains received in this areas coupled with high evaporation rates. The residents are currently dependent on water from the Ewaso Nyiro River. About 90 percent of the boreholes in the county are operational, while the strategic ones in Merti Sub County are not in use attributed to livestock having moved to the wet grazing areas in EwasoNyiro basin. Water is limited in Modogashe area owing to no permanent source of water and underground water is too salty to be harvested.

Distance and waiting time at Water source

The overall distance to water sources remained relatively stable at 1 - 5 kilometres in Central Sub County as well as other permanent settlements where boreholes exist. In areas served by shallow wells, pans and sand dams, the distance has reduced due to adequate recharge during the short rains. However in pastoral livelihood zone areas of Mata Arba, Korbessa and Malkagalla in Merti Sub County, residents trek up to 16 kilometres return to access water. Waiting time at the boreholes and shallow wells remain the same from previous season at an average of 20 - 30 minutes. The households who rely on rivers, dams and water pans do not have to wait at the source. At Garfassa in Garbatulla sub county, there is only one borehole serving three settlements and each settlement is planned to receive water after every two days. In the stated above areas households store enough water to last for two days.

Cost of water and consumption

The cost of water on average is five shillings per 20 litre jerrican, which is above the normal average of two shillings per 20 litre jerrican. According to the community, there was need for the increase owing to maintenance and fuel costs. In Modogashe, water is retailing at Ksh. 20 per 20 litre jerrican. Consumption of water in Central, Garbatulla, Kina and Chari in Merti is about 15 - 20 litres per person per day. In most of the pastoral areas in Oldonyiro and Sericho especially Modogashe area, consumption is between 7 - 10 litres per person per day.

Sanitation and Hygiene

Water treatment chemicals were available in the households in most parts of the county distributed by department of Health through the support of partners. Based on the SMART survey results of February 2016, water treatment was rarely practiced even though 38 percent of the households got drinking water from unprotected sources. Hand washing during the four critical times was only practiced by 12.5 percent of the households. Latrine coverage slightly improved across the livelihood zones in January 2015 compared to January 2014 at 53 from 51 percent in Isiolo; 49 percent from 47 percent in Garbatulla and 48 from 43 percent Merti Sub county.

3.4 Markets and Trade

Market operations

Main markets in the county are Isiolo, Kipsing and Oldonyiro. The markets are essential in facilitating trade and provision of food products like maize, maize flour, beans, horticultural produce and livestock. About 80 percent of the households across the county are dependent on the markets for food. The reopening of schools has resulted in increased activity especially in the livestock markets since traded volumes have increased. Markets are functioning well in most areas across the county except for areas affected by conflict like Garba Tula and Maua where there is tension affecting trade in the area. The major limiting factor in markets across the county is the vast distances and poor infrastructure that affects supply and prices.

Maize price

The average maize price in the county is Ksh 50 which reduced by six percent between the months of December and January but remained 50 percent above the long term average (Figure 3). The prices are following seasonal trends but are elevated by a difference of between Ksh 10 -

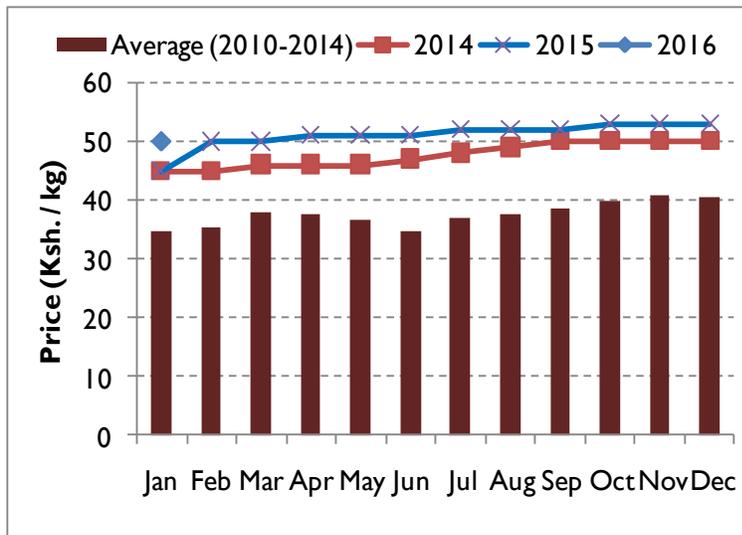


Figure 3. Maize Prices Trend

15 throughout the year attributed to the previous poor performing seasons coupled with harvesting not yet done in the agro pastoral areas hence the low availability of maize. In Isiolo town, a kilogram of maize is Ksh 35 sourced from nearby Meru County. Currently, markets are supplied by maize from Isiolo town sourced from neighboring counties like Meru and Laikipia. In Bisanbiliku Merti Sub county, the market is supplied by production from small scale irrigation in Bulesa and Gafarsa where maize prices range between Ksh 30 - 38 per kilogram.

Goat prices

Average price for a goat in the county is Ksh 2,710 for the month of January, eight percent decrease from the previous price of Ksh 2,951 in December (Figure 4). The decrease in cost of goats is attributed to high number of goats in the market as households are selling in an attempt to raise school fees and meet other monetary obligations. Goat prices vary between Ksh 1,700 - 3,500 in Bisanbiliku, Malkagalla and Mata Arba in Merti Sub County. People are holding the females in order to increase their stock given there is enough browse and pasture. The current goat prices are following the seasonal trends but slightly depressed.

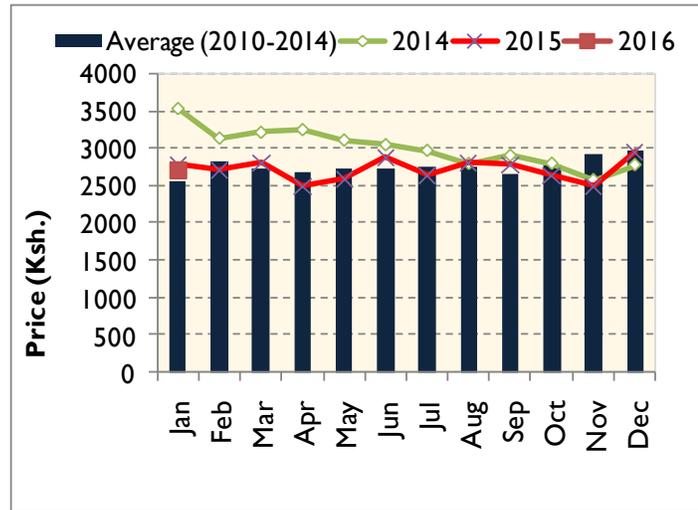


Figure 4. Goat Prices in Isiolo County

Terms of trade

The terms of trade remained stable from the month of December 2015 to January 2016 across the county at 54 kilograms of maize in exchange for a goat. The ToT is following the seasonal trends and was 26 percent below the LTA owing to the sustained high maize prices attributed to the successive poor performing seasons which resulted in poor maize production hence necessitating importation from other counties driving up the prices.

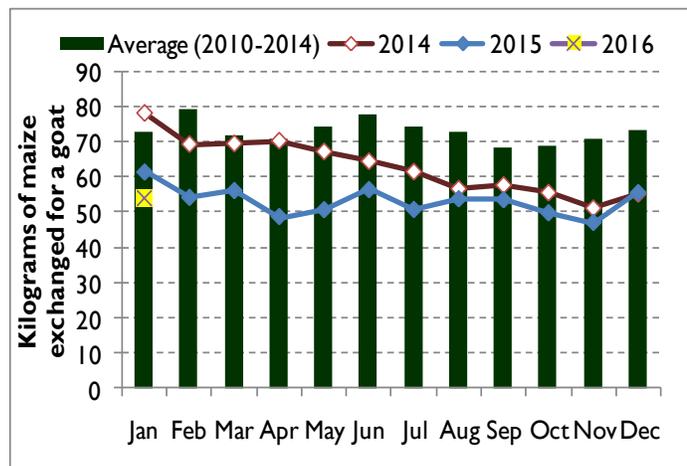


Figure 5. Terms of Trade in Isiolo County

3.5 Health and Nutrition

Morbidity and mortality patterns

Morbidity patterns for both the under-fives and general population remained similar to those of the previous two seasons with Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs), malaria, diarrhea, diseases of the skin and pneumonia being most prevalent diseases among the under-fives. In the general population, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs), malaria, typhoid fever, diseases of the skin and Urinary Tract Infections. Cases of URTI and diarrhea increased by 20 each while pneumonia increased by 40 percent for the children under five years of age. Diseases of the skin increased by 23-26 percent in the period under review compared to the same period in 2014 for both the under-fives and the general population.

A total of seven cases of Cholera were reported in July to December 2015. There were two cases of measles reported between July to December 2015, compared to one case the same period in 2014. Cases of dysentery reported reduced by 11 percent and were 194 in July to December 2015 compared to 218 in the same period in 2014. The number of typhoid cases reported reduced by 23 percent in the period under review in 2015 and were 1,454 compared to 1,911 cases reported in the same period in 2014. Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) and under-five mortality rate was at 0.57 per 10,000 per day and 0.001 per 10,000 per day respectively based on nutrition survey of 2014.

Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation

There was an increase in measles vaccination coverage as at January 2016, it stood at 69 percent compared to 63.5 percent during the same time in 2015, although below the national target of 80 percent. Data from the SMART survey of January 2015 indicated that Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6-11 months was 69.9 percent an increase from 58.6 percent reported in the same time in 2015. Vitamin A coverage for children aged 12-59 months in January 2016 was 70.8 percent compared to 58.4 percent in 2015. The increase in supplementation coverage was attributed to Malezi Bora campaigns done in November 2015.

Nutrition Status and Dietary Diversity

The proportion of children under five at the risk of malnutrition based on mid-upper-arm-circumference (MUAC <135mm) was 13 percent in January 2016 and lower than 20.1 reported in January 2015 and comparatively lower than the long term mean of 20 percent. The MUAC levels for July to November 2015 were generally within the seasonal norms with significant reduction noted in December to 16 percent from 22 percent noted in November and a further reduction in January indicative of a generally improving nutrition situation (Figure 6). Global acute malnutrition rated to 12.3 percent compared to 13.2 percent in 2015. Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate was 1.2 percent and below the emergency cut off of three percent. SMART survey data confirmed the improvement noted by households having poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores were 1.4, 3.8 and 94.8 percent respectively as at January 2016. Most households are consuming an average of 2 - 3 meals per day in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones with poor dietary diversity. Common foods mainly consumed are ugali, rice, beans and sometimes vegetables.

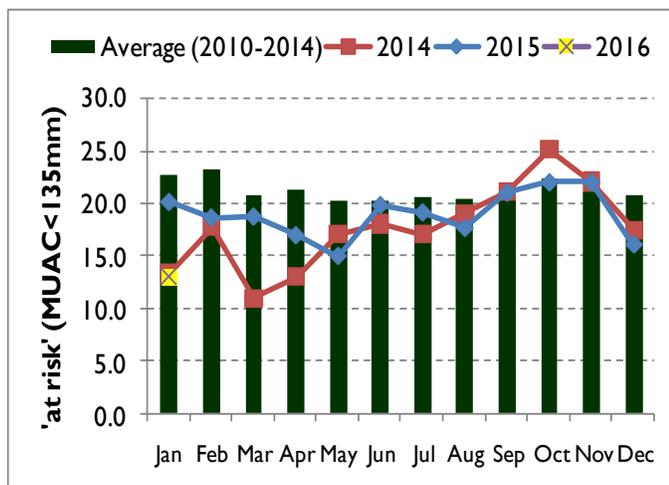


Figure 6. Percentage “at Risk” (MUAC <135mm)

3.6 Education

School meals programme

There are a total of 105 schools having the home-grown school meals programme (HSMP) with a total of 38,005 pupils benefitting. The programme is meant to improve attendance and retention.

3.7 Coping Mechanisms

The mean coping strategy score was 31 in December 2015 and was higher than 27 reported in the same period in 2014. The current coping strategy score was higher compared to 25 reported in September 2015 according to FSOM data. Basing on SMART survey done in February 2016, coping strategy score was 16.85, an improvement from the 20.23 recorded in 2015 same time in 2015. Most common consumption related coping strategies employed by households were relying on less expensive or less preferred foods and reducing the quantity of food consumed by adults to ensure that children had enough to eat which were employed by 100 and 94 percent of the households respectively. Livelihood diversification strategies reported by households included charcoal burning, casual labour and petty trade.

3.8 Ongoing Interventions by Sector

Ongoing Food interventions

Currently, General Food Distribution (GFD) is targeting 48,140 beneficiaries with 38,697 beneficiaries receiving food while the remaining 9,443 beneficiaries are receiving cash under the Protracted Recovery and Relief Operation (PRRO) intervention. Food for Assets (FFA) programmes is ongoing with a total of 6,667 households being targeted. Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) in conjunction with Ministry of Health and UNICEF is ongoing and is targeting 548 Pregnant and Lactating women and a total of 1,030 children under five years of age. There are 105 schools with a total of 38,005 pupils benefiting from the HSMP.

3.8 Ongoing Non- food interventions

Table 4: On-going Interventions

Intervention	Objective	Specific Location	Cost in Kshs (Million)	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation Time Frame	Implementation stakeholders
AGRICULTURE						
Pasture production	To increase pasture availability	Kinna	6	300	6 months	MOA/ADB
Excavation of Gafarsa& Muchuro Irrigation canals.	To increase crop production	Gafarsa Muchuro	2	1500	3 months	Action Aid/WFP
Construction of water harvesting structures	To increase crop production	Gafarsa, Garbatulla, South,Kombo lla Muchuro Kulamawe, Rapsu and Kinna	6	1600	2 years	Action Aid/WFP
WATER SECTOR						
Construction of livestock markets	To facilitate trade	Isiolo, Merti and Garbatulla		44,000	On-going	USAID's REGAL-AG
Training of community members	To enable diversification of livelihoods	Merti and Garbatulla		30,000	Continuous	Department of livestock production
Livestock health interventions (vaccination and deworming)	Reduce the incidences of death Quarter	Merti and Garbatulla		30,000	On-going	Department of livestock production
EDUCATION						
School meals program	To boost enrolment, sustain attendance and retention	All 3 sub counties: Merti, Central and Garbatulla	20	46,211	On-going	WFP/GoK

Intervention	Objective	Specific Location	Cost in Kshs (Million)	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation Time Frame	Implementation stakeholders
	of children in					
HEALTH AND NUTRITION						
Vitamin A Supplementation	Reduced morbidity and mortality	All health facilities	0.2	24,494 (6 to 59 months)	6 months	MoH and Partners
Zinc Supplementation	Reduced morbidity and mortality	All health facilities	0.4	22,260	6 months	MoH and Partners
Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	Reduced morbidity and mortality	All health facilities	14.6	SAM –	6 months	MoH and Partners
IYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementary Foods)	Reduced morbidity and mortality	All health facilities	0.2	MAM -	6 months	MoH and Partners
Iron Folate Supplementation among Pregnant Women	Improved maternal outcomes	All health facilities	0.4	42,018 Women of reproductive age	6 months	MoH and Partners
Deworming	Improved Nutritional status	All health facilities	0.2	42,018	6 months	MoH and Partners
Food Fortification	Improved Nutritional status	All health facilities	0.3	22,260 children	6 months	MoH and Partners

Remarks: Resources required, Available resources, Contribution of each stakeholder

3.9 Sub-County Ranking

Table 5: Sub County Food Security Ranking

Division	Food security rank (1-10)	Main food security threat (if any)
Merti	1	Flash floods that led to destruction of crop, low water availability, Poor Terms of trade, Livestock diseases
Oldonyiro	2	Limited pasture, high malnutrition rates, conflict with neighbouring counties
Sericho	3	Poor access to markets, very high markets prices
Garbatulla	4	Relatively good rainfall received, improved security, Conflict over resources due to influx of livestock from Garissa
Kinna	5	Internal movement of livestock, Livelihood diversification, Production from crops stabilizing prices
Central	6	Good rainfall performance, markets are operational and well provisioned, Livelihood diversification

4.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

- According to FEWS NET/USGS preliminary forecast, there is over 80 percent likelihood that the El Niño conditions will remain relatively influential on the March – May 2016 long rains which according to forecasts by ICPAC, are forecasted to be average with a near normal start.
- Maize prices are expected to remain stable through April, in line with seasonal trends, as supplies are drawn down and demand from the markets increase. Maize prices are however expected to decline between May and June, as improvements in livestock productivity from the long rains, provide alternative food sources, reducing demand on maize. Prices would then typically start increasing from July through August as market dependence increases during the lean season.
- The birth rates in April to June period are expected to be average, following the near average conception during the 2015 short rains, which were somehow favourable. With the long rains forecasted to be average, improvements in calving, kidding and lambing activities are expected between April and May.
- Increased supply of livestock in the markets, during the January – February and May – June periods, as households sell their livestock to raise money for school fees needs and meet other non-food needs.
- In August, conflict over scarce of rangeland resources is likely to heighten.

4.2 Food Security Outcomes for February – April

In the months of February and early March, household food consumption is expected to increase short termly with the impending short rains maize harvest which will also increase dietary diversity and incomes from on farm casual labour. Food consumption will however reduce from April as household food stocks reduce and they revert to market dependence. Milk availability is expected to reduce until mid-March to April when the long rains regenerate pasture bringing back the livestock to the wet season grazing grounds and kidding, calving and lambing peak reducing malnutrition.

4.3 Food Security Outcomes for May - July

During the May to July period food consumption will increase as short cycle crops become available for consumption from May, increased milk availability will also result in reduced malnutrition. In July, the long rains maize harvest will become available further increasing household food consumption. The high consumption will be short lived as the lean season is likely to begin early. Household stocks, milk production and availability is likely to reduce as rangeland resources get depleted and livestock migrate to dry season grazing areas leading to an increase in malnutrition especially among children.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The county is coming from two successive poor seasons where the northern parts of the pastoral livelihood zone according to integrated food security phase's classification was Crisis, while the rest of the County was classified as Stressed. Currently, despite the above average cumulative El Nino enhanced short rains, the anticipated crop production is below average and household food stocks in all livelihood zones are below average. Water availability is above average in most areas across all livelihoods except for areas in Merti in the pastoral livelihoods where the river Ewaso Nyiro drains into the Lorian swamp. In the pastoral livelihood zones, pasture and browse are in good condition except for areas in Merti Sub-County where it is almost completely depleted. Livestock body condition is good in all species.

5.2 Summary of Recommendations

- Provide water trucking in the water scarce areas of Mertilike Mata Arba and Malkagalla and repair of the broken down boreholes that are crucial for water supply
- Provide water treatment chemicals for use in households and schools and increase sensitization on their use to curb the waterborne diseases
- Surveillance and synchronized vaccination of livestock
- Support of market based commercial off-take of livestock
- There is need for the county and National governments to own the Home Grown School Meals Program and to ensure timely disbursement of funds to schools.

6.0 ANNEXES

Annex I. Food Intervention Required

Table 6: Proposed population in need of assistance

Division/Wardname	Population in the division	Pop in need (% Range min – max)	Proposed mode of intervention
Isiolo North	100,176		
Central	64,447	15-20 %	FFA
Oldonyiro	15,388	50-55%	GFD
Merti	20341	60-65%	GFD
Isolo South	43,118		
Garbatulla	16,401	45-50%	GFD/FFA
Kinna	14,618	40-45%	GFD/FFA
Sericho	12099	45-50%	GFD/FFA

Annex II: Recommended Non-food Interventions

Table 7: Recommended Non-food Interventions

Division/ Sub County	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Cost in Ksh (million)	Time frame
AGRICULTURE						
Central/ Garbatula and Merti	Provision of certified seeds	Central/ Garbatula and Merti	23,000	County government/donors	19	From March 2016
Central/ Garbatula and Merti	Rehabilitation of irrigation canals	Central/ Garbatula and Merti	17,000	County government/donors	13	From March 2016
WATER SECTOR						
Merti and Cherab	Rehabilitation of Dadachalafe/Malkagala water supply	Merti/ Cherab	1000 persons	Northern Water Services Board	14	November 2016 – June 2016
Merti and Bullesa	Construction of Awarsitu water supply	Merti/ Bullesa	500	County government	10	July 2015 – June 2016
Garbatula and Kulamawe	Rehabilitation of Yak Barsadi water supply	Garbatula/ Kulamawe	1000 persons	Northern Water Services Board (NWSB) & ADB	6.3	July 2015 – June 2016
Merti	Feasibility study and research of the Merti aquifer	Merti	12,000 persons	JICA, Northern Water Services Board		Rolling
LIVESTOCK SECTOR						
All three sub counties	Undertake regular vaccination of			County government and other partners		6 months

Division/ Sub County	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficia ries	Implementers	Cost in Ksh (million)	Time frame
	livestock	Merti, Central and Garbatula				
All the 3 sub counties	Grass seed bulking and bailing of hay		200 household s	County government and other partners		
All the 3 sub counties	Rehabilitation of livestock markets		Entire communit y	USAID Regal- AG		
All the 3 sub counties	Capacity building on drought preparedness		500 household s	County government and other partners	5	Before April 2016
All the 3 sub counties	Restocking		800 household s	County government and other partners	8	Before April 2016
EDUCATION SECTOR						
All 3 sub counties: Merti, Central and Garbatula	Continuation of home grown school meals program	Merti, Central and Garbatula	46,211	WFP/GoK	20	yearly
All ECD centres across the county	Provision of Unimix for the ECD centres	Merti, Central and Garbatula	11,003	County government	10	Yearly
HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR						
County-wide	Scale up nutrition services	County	50,000 persons	MoH and Implementing partners	1.35	6 months
County-wide	Strengthen community based nutrition surveillance	County	20,000	MoH and Implementing partners	0.5	3 months
County-wide	Supply and distribution of water treatment chemicals	County	40,000	MoH and Implementing partners	0.5	3 months
County-wide	Scale up integrated outreach services	County	50,000	MoH and Implementing partners	2	3 months