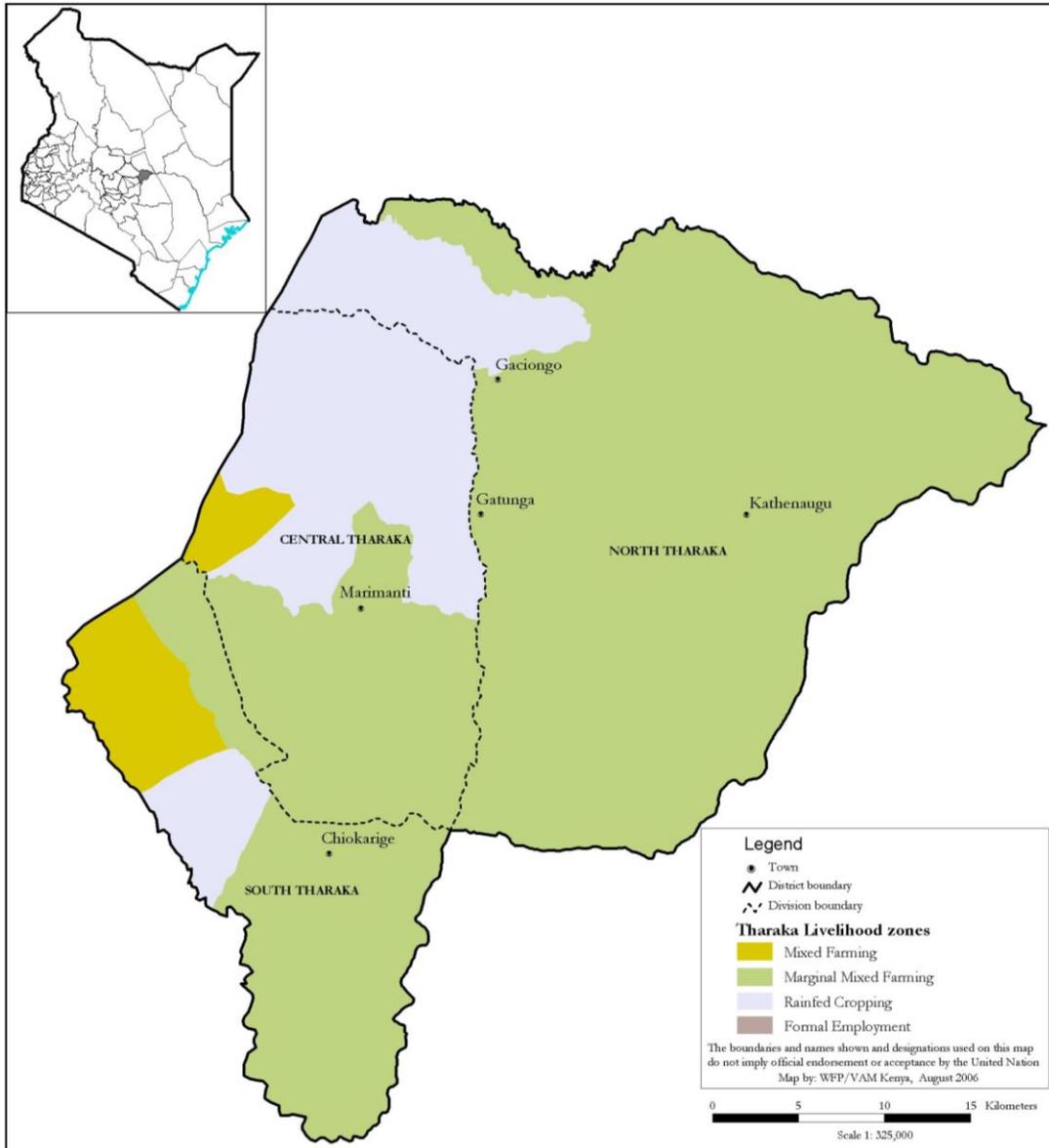


THARAKA NITHI COUNTY (THARAKA) 2017 LONG RAINS FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main drivers of food insecurity in Tharaka Nithi County are poor rainfall performance and high food commodity prices. The county depends on rainfall for both crop and livestock production. The poor performance has affected forage availability for livestock as well as crop production through poor harvest. The household stocks are 21 percent of the long term average (LTA). Cereal prices and especially maize has been on an upward trend even though the price as from May is declining though still above the long term average for the season. The price of the other commodities remains relatively high. The terms of trade are below the long term average, an indication that the household's purchasing power has been compromised.

The four dimensions of food security have been affected differently. Food is physically available in the households (21 percent of LTA) and markets (31 percent of LTA). Water for both domestic and livestock use is available in the water sources. However, financial access has been affected by the poor terms of trade and poor road network especially in the marginal livelihood areas. Utilization of food has been affected by consumption of less preferred foods as households readjust to cope with the food gaps. Moreover, about 50 percent of households treat water, leaving the rest exposed to water borne diseases. The available household stocks are likely to be depleted within one month and the traders are expected to bridge the gap with supplies from outside the county. However market operations are expected to be normal. Due to over abstraction of water from the permanent rivers in the upstream, these sources are likely to dry or be severely stressed. The latter will also affect the other water sources. Pasture and browse is expected to be depleted within two months.

Majority of households are having borderline food consumption scores (52.5 percent) with 19 percent having a poor food consumption score, while the coping strategy index is 14. The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition is stable at nine percent, although above the long term average of 7.9 percent.

The region's food security situation is classified in the 'stressed phase or 'phase two' , an indication that even with any humanitarian assistance, at least one in five households in the area have the following or worse: Minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non food expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. The actions required are those geared towards disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Background

Tharaka-Nithi County is located in Eastern Kenya and borders Embu County to the South West, Meru County to the North East, Kirinyaga and Nyeri counties to the West and Kitui County to the South East. For the purpose of this assessment, the coverage includes Tharaka North and Tharaka South sub-counties which are semi-arid and cover an estimated area of 1,569 square kilometres (km²) with a total population 158,023 people (KNBS Projections 2016). There are three main livelihood zones namely; Marginal mixed farming (MMF), Mixed farming (MF) and Rain-fed cropping (RF) with population proportion of 52 percent, 38 percent and 10 percent (Figure1).

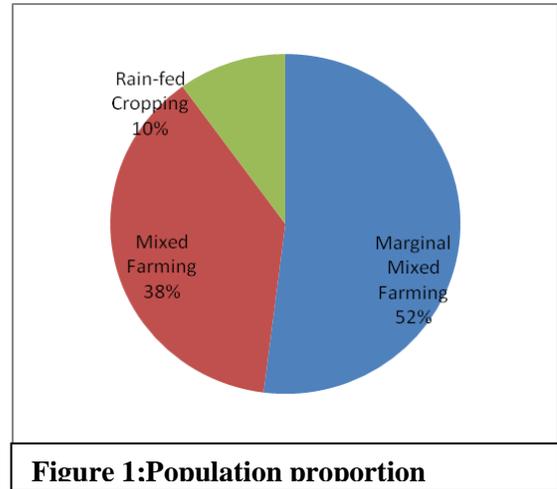


Figure 1: Population proportion

1.2: Objective and approach

The main objective of the long rains assessment was to develop an objective, evidence-based and transparent food security situation analysis following the long rains season of 2017 and taking into consideration the cumulative effects of previous three seasons, and to provide actionable recommendations for possible response options based on the situation analysis. The assessment was conducted from 3rd to 7th July 2017 using a multi-sectoral approach, which involved checklist administration by county sector heads followed by initial briefings by the county food security group (CSG) and Kenya Food Security Steering group representatives. The field data was collated, reviewed and triangulated to produce a food security assessment report, which was presented before the CSG for validation and approval.

2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

2.1 Rainfall Performance

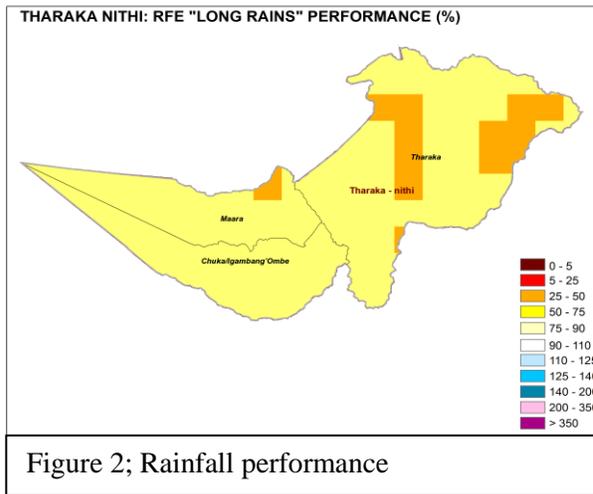


Figure 2; Rainfall performance

Tharaka receives a bimodal rainfall but is short rains dependent for marginal mixed farming; mixed farming and rain fed cropping livelihood zones. The onset was late in the first dekad of April compared to third dekad of March normally. The rains were unevenly distributed in space as shown in Figure 2 alongside, with most of the sub counties receiving 50-75 percent of normal with sections in Central and North Tharaka receiving 25-50 percent of normal. Temporal distribution was poor and cessation was normal in the third dekad of May.

2.2 High food prices

The prices of basic commodities have been on an upward trend. Currently, the price of maize, beans, rice, posho and various pulses is above the long-term average, which has affected food availability and access at household level.

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

3.1.1 Crop Production

Crop production accounts for 20 percent of household income in the marginal mixed farming zone, 52 percent in the mixed farming zone and 53 percent in the rain fed cropping zone. The crops grown are maize, green grams and millet under rain fed agriculture while bananas, papaya and maize are grown under irrigated agriculture. Maize contributes 20 percent to food in marginal mixed and 40 percent in rain fed zones respectively while green grams contribute 40 percent income and nine percent food in marginal mixed farming zones. More than 60 percent of potential land for rain-fed agriculture has been exploited whereas less than 15 percent of the potential land is under irrigation in the sub county.

Table 1: Rain-fed cropping

Crop	Area planted during 2017 long rains season	Long Term	2017long rains season production	Long Term Average production during the long rains season
1.maize	3080	4800	5870	18700
2.greengrams	14270	14990	38560	57970
3. millet	8900	9110	22000	66500

Area under maize reduced by 36 percent compared to the long term average (LTA), which was attributed to forecast of poor performance of the rains (Table1). Production is also expected to decline by 69 percent attributed to poor performance of the rains. Area under green grams and millet decreased slightly and was attributed to the same reasons as maize. However, production for both crops is expected to decline by 33 and 67 percent respectively attributed by inadequate water for the crops as per crop water requirement.

Table 2: Irrigated cropping

Crop	Area planted during the 2017 long rains season (ha)	Short Term Average (3 years) area planted during Short rains season (ha)	2017 long rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected/actual	short Term Average (3 years) production during 2016 Short rains season (90 kg bags)
1.Banana	450	475	6750	8235TONS
2.Papaya	325	340	810	847TONS
3.Maize	175	220	2600	3080

Small scale irrigation is carried out in Karethani area where small scale horticulture production is mostly practiced. Area under bananas, papaya and maize crop reduced by 5.3, 4.5 and 20.3 percent respectively (Table 2), due to lower than normal river flow in the period before the onset of the rains. There is little irrigation activity in Tharaka north. Correspondingly, due to the reduced acreage, production was lower than the short term average (STA) with 5.8, 4.3 and 15.5percent for bananas, papaya and maize respectively

Maize stocks in the county

Table 3: Maize stocks

Maize stocks held by	Quantities held currently (90-kg bags)	Long Term Average quantities held (90-kg bags) at similar time of the year
House Holds	6570	30700
Traders	600	1600
Millers	0	0
NCPB	0	0
Total	6,900	32300

The average household stocks are 21.4 percent of the LTA while stocks held by traders are 37.5 percent of the LTA (Table 3). There is very little stocks at household level most of which has been purchased from the market. The stocks for households is the projected production of 2017 long rains season which is yet to be harvested. Most households are depending on purchases from the market for consumption. The traders stocks are replenished from sources outside the county. There are no millers or NCPB stocks in the county.

Normal stocks lasts for four to five months in the rain fed and two months in the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming zones. In the latter, households have to rely on stocks from traders. With anticipated low replenishment from production, food security outlook remains poor.

3.1.2 Livestock Production

The main types of livestock kept in the region are cattle, sheep and goats. Livestock and poultry production contributes to 60 percent of household cash income in the marginal mixed farming, 15 percent in the mixed farming and 20 percent in the rain fed cropping zones.

Pasture and Browse condition

Table 4: Forage condition

Livelihood zone	Pasture					Browse				
	Condition		How long to last (Months)		Factors Limiting access	condition		How long to last (Months)		Factors Limiting access
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal		Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current
MMF zone	Fair to poor	Good/fair	1 month	2 months	No reported/known factors	Fair	Good	<1 month	Up to 3 months	No reported/known factors
RF zone	Good to fair	Good	2-3 month	2-3 months	None	Good	Good	1½ months	3 months	None
MF zone	Fair to poor	Good	1 month	3 months	None	Fair	Good	2 months	4 months	None

The poor temporal and spatial rainfall distribution has led to inadequate regeneration of pasture and browse. The areas mostly affected by poor pasture are Chiakariga, Marimanti and Gatunga in the marginal mixed farming zone (Table 4). However, currently there are no factors affecting access to the pastures by the livestock. Crop residue is also contributing to livestock feeds especially in the mixed and rain fed cropping areas. This is not normal as it normally happens in the month of August.

Livestock Productivity

Table 5: Livestock body condition

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Sheep		Goat	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
MMF	Good to Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
MF	Good to fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
RF	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

The good body condition in the mixed farming and rain fed cropping livelihood zones is attributed to availability of pastures (Table 5). However, this pasture and browse is likely to diminish fast due to competition between livestock. In the marginal mixed farming zone, the

quantity of pasture is diminishing and the quality is poor. The longer distances to grazing and water are also taking a toll on the livestock body condition, leaving them exhausted. Household food security will be affected by reduced milk availability as a result of livestock movement over long distances, which will affect livestock body condition adversely.

Birth rates and Tropical livestock Units (TLUs)

Currently, the birth rates are low, though a normal situation at this time of the year, because since it is not the kidding/calving/lambing season. There are a few abortions, which is within the normal range.

Currently, the average tropical livestock units (TLU) per household ranges 1 – 3 which is below normal as opposed to 1 – 8 normally (Table 6). The implication is that food availability for the children and the vulnerable as well as resilience levels have been compromised

Table 6: Tropical Livestock units

Livelihood zone	Poor income households		Medium income households	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Marginal mixed farming	1	1	1	8
Rain fed farming	1	2	3	4
Mixed farming	1	1	1	2

Milk availability and consumption

Currently, the milk production and availability at household level is 0.25-0.5 litres compared to the normal two litres and is below normal (Table 7).

All the milk produced is consumed at household level and is not even enough, this trend poses a threat to the entire community nutrition wise especially children under-five years old and expectant mothers.

Table 7: Milk Production

Livelihood zone	Milk Production (Litres)/Household		Milk consumption (Litres) per Household		Prices (Ksh)/Litre	
	Current	LTA	Current	Current	LTA	Current
Marginal mixed farming	0.25-0.5	2	0.25-0.5	1	40-50	40
Rain fed farming	0.5	3	0.5	2	40-50	30-40
Mixed farming	0.25-0.5	2	0.25-0.5	1	40-50	40

Water for livestock

The current water sources for livestock are; permanent rivers, water pans, boreholes and piped/furrow water which is below normal situation at this time of the year.

The current, trekking distance stands at 12, two and six kilometres in marginal mixed farming zone, mixed farming and rain fed livelihood zones respectively as opposed to eight, two and four under normal circumstance.

Migration.

Currently, there are reported incidences of livestock in migration which is not a normal situation at this time of the year. The affected animals are cattle and goats especially from the marginal mixed farming zone. The routes also are not normal. This is expected to worsen with time.

The migration routes are: Mbalambala-National Park-Kamachabi /Kiamiramba in Tharaka North and Kamarandi-Nkariini, Kamarandi – Kiuga in Mumoni and Gituma-Ntugi and Marimanti-Ntugi in Tharaka South

Livestock disease and mortalities.

Currently, there are reported suspected cases of sheep and goats pox disease in Tharaka North sub county. However, the responsible department is keen with monitoring and farmer advisories to contain the spread.

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Market Operations

The main markets are Kathangachini, Tunyai, Marimanti, Gatunga and Ciakariga, while the commodities traded are both livestock, cereals and vegetables. The types of livestock traded included cattle, sheep, goats as well as poultry. The cereals included maize, green grams, sorghum, millet, cowpeas and beans. The vegetables included cabbages, tomatoes, kales and potatoes. The supply of livestock is from within and without the county while that of maize is from outside the county. Green grams, millet, sorghum and cowpeas are supplied from the county as harvesting is still ongoing.

The main markets are currently well provisioned with livestock and poultry as well as food commodities. There was a notable increase in cattle supplied to the various markets by both farmers and brokers which was attributed to farmers downsizing their stocks due to fear of the dry season and lack of livestock feeds.

Price of maize

The price of maize has been on an upward trend from January until May which can be attributed to poor harvest affecting the forces of supply and demand. The price in June was 42 percent above the LTA and 62 percent above that of same period in 2016 as shown in figure 3 alongside. However, this is a sharp decline from May (77 percent above LTA) occasioned by influx of maize into the markets leading to decline in prices. The drop in prices is an improvement in household's access to the commodity.

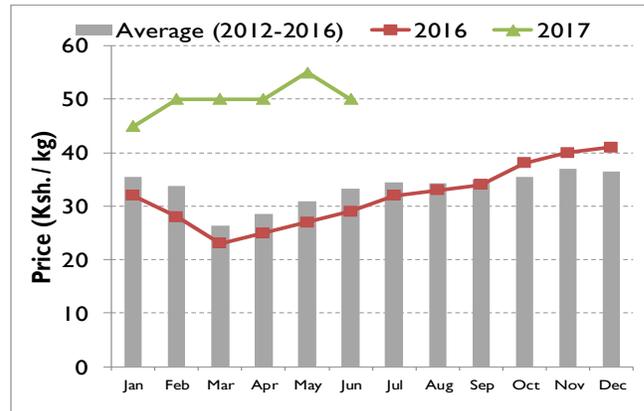


Figure 3: Trends in maize prices

Goat Prices

The current price of an average goat is 12 percent below the LTA and 28 percent below that of same period in 2016 (Figure 4). The variation in price has been attributed to oversupply in the market as farmers destock in anticipation of a dry spell.

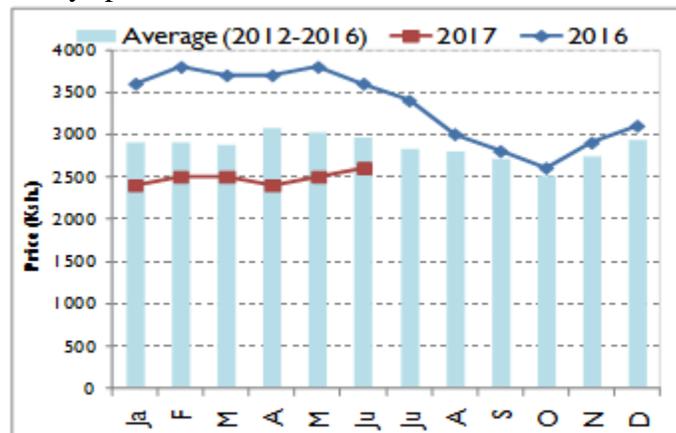


Figure 4: Trends in goat prices

3.2.2 Terms of trade

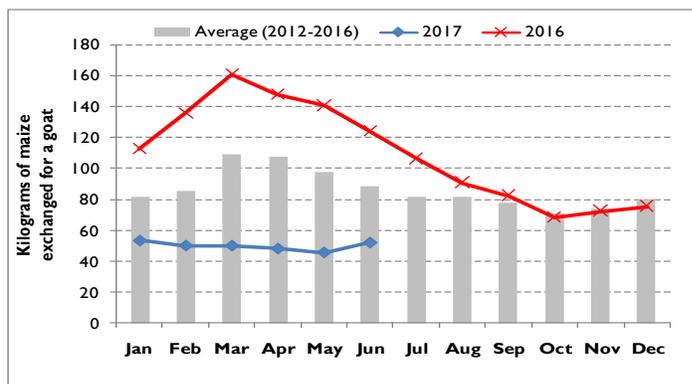


Figure 5: Trends in terms of trade

The terms of trade have been stable oscillating between 45kg and 52kg as shown in Figure 5. Currently, the sale of one goat can purchase 52 kilogrammes which is 42 percent below the LTA and 58 percent below that of same period in 2016. The variation is due to the above normal maize prices and lower than normal goat prices.

3.2.3 Income Sources

The current income sources in the region are charcoal burning, sale of livestock and livestock products as well as sale of firewood. Green grams are also treated as a cash crop and are contributing to income sources especially in Tharaka North as well as sale of millet. Petty trade was also observed to be on the increase.

3.2.4 Water access and availability

The major water sources are rivers, boreholes, shallow wells, piped water as well as pans/dams, which are the normal sources except that the volumes in the open ones are normally high. Recharge to the open water sources was between 40 and 60 percent of their capacity which impacted positively in as far as water availability and accessibility is concerned.

Over 90 percent of the water sources currently have water. However, some seasonal rivers, pans and dams in both mixed and marginal mixed farming zones have dried up causing water stress in those areas.

Chiakariga market in the marginal mixed farming zones and the region surrounding it rely on water vendors for water needs. About 80 percent of these households access water from vendors.

Table 8: Access to domestic water

Ward / livelihood zone	Return Distance to Water for Domestic Use (Km)		Cost of Water at Source (Ksh. Per 20litres)		Waiting Time at Water Source (Minutes)		Average Water Consumption (Litres/person/day)	
	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current
Marginal mixed farming	3-5	4-6	2-5	5-10	15-20	20-30	14-18	10-14
Mixed farming	<1	<1-1.5	2-5	2-5	3-7	5-8	22-30	20-25
Rain fed farming	<1	<1-1.5	2-5	2-5	6-8	5-10	20-25	15-20

Distance to water sources

The current distance to water sources have increased to four to six kilometers from the normal three to five kilometers in the marginal mixed farming zones and one to two kilometers in the mixed farming and rain fed zones compared to the normal 0.5-1.5 km. The increase has been occasioned by drying up of some open water sources and breakdown of boreholes and piped water system especially in the marginal mixed livelihood zones.

Waiting time

The current waiting time varies between 20 and 30 minutes at the boreholes and piped schemes compared to the normal of 10-15 in the marginal mixed farming zones, but within the normal range of 5-10 in the mixed farming and rain fed cropping livelihood zones. The increase in waiting time can be attributed to more concentration at those water points.

Water consumption and cost

Current water consumption is 13-15 litres per person per day compared to 20 litres in the marginal mixed farming zones. Water consumption in mixed farming and rain fed zones is 15-20 litres compared to the normal 25 litres per person per day. Cost of water has remained within the normal of 5-10 Kenya shillings (Ksh) per 20 litre jerrycan at the water kiosks and boreholes in the marginal mixed farming zones. It was within the normal two to three Kenya shillings in mixed farming and rain fed cropping livelihood zones.

3.2.5 Food Consumption

Food consumption score is a measure of the quality and quantity of foods consumed at household level in terms of nutritional value, frequency of meals and dietary diversity. The higher the frequency and nutritional value and diversity, the higher the score.

Majority of the households in the marginal and mixed farming zones are currently consuming two meals per day compared to the normal three comprising of two to three food groups. Most of the foods being consumed are less nutritious and sometimes the less preferred ones. 54.2 percent of the households in the marginal mixed farming have borderline food consumption scores while 19 percent have poor food consumption scores. The rest account for a poor food consumption score. In the mixed farming, 16.7 percent of the households were having a poor consumption score, 53.3 having borderline and 30 percent having acceptable scores. In the rain fed zones, 16.7 percent were having poor food consumption scores, 50 percent borderline and 33.3 percent having acceptable food consumption score. On average, the food consumption score for the region was 19 percent for the poor, 52.5 percent for borderline and 28.5 acceptable scores.

3.2.6 Coping strategies

Burning of charcoal as well as petty trade have emerged as the main strategies of bridging food gaps in the livelihood zones. Most households are also skipping meals, with others reducing the meal portions. In these cases, children are given preference. The coping strategy index (CSI) has however reduced from 24 in May 2017 to 14 in June 2017, an indication of an improving situation in the livelihoods.

3.3 Utilization

Skipping meals and having reduced portions is also affecting utilization. Water for domestic use is available for both cooking and drinking. Due to increase in the prices of commodities, households are relying on less preferred foods.

3.3.1 Nutritional status And Dietary Diversity

Morbidity and Mortality Patterns

The top three most prevalent diseases for the under-fives are diseases of the upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and malaria respectively (Figure 6). There were no any disease outbreaks in the period under review. There was significant decline recorded for the epidemic prone diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, meningitis and typhoid fever for the period January to June 2017 compared to same period 2016, mostly due to frequent strikes by the health workers especially nurses leading to most patients and clients not to seek health services in the health facilities. The average distance to health facilities remains relatively high at around 10 kilometers especially in the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming zones.

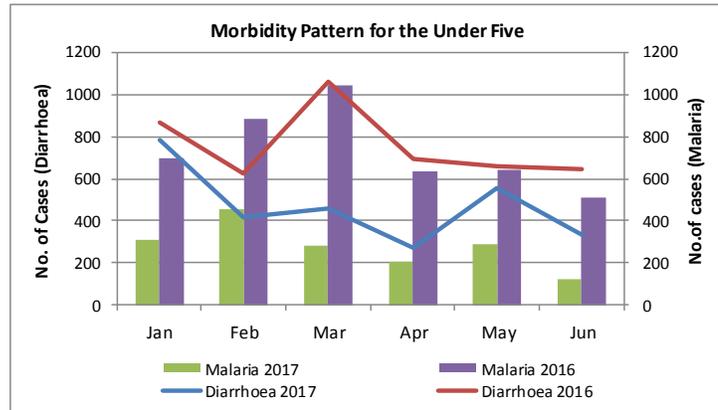


Figure 6: Morbidity

Immunization and Vitamin A Supplementation

The fully immunized child (FIC) coverage for Tharaka North and South sub counties for the period January to June 2017 decreased to 29 percent from 56 percent and below the national target of 80 percent indicating that the region has considerably not met the target as per expectations, due to the frequent strikes by the health workers mostly the nurses who carry out the immunizations in the health facilities hence affecting service delivery. Similarly, vitamin A supplementation has also been negatively affected due to the same reasons.

Currently majority of households are having an average of two meals against a normal of three, are mostly composed of carbohydrates (maize & sorghum), proteins (beans, cowpeas) and fruits (mangoes which are in season though very few). Majority consume maize and cowpeas as the former is affordable and the latter is locally produced compared to other cereals such as rice, pulses such as beans which are a bit expensive.

The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition remained at 9.7 compared to the previous month though it is 23 percent above the LTA (Figure 7).

Latrine coverage in the sub county for the period under review was 67 percent which was similar to the period 2016.

3.3.2 Sanitation and Hygiene

Contamination of water sources is minimal and usually in areas where people and livestock share open water points. Latrine coverage is at 67 percent, an indication that open defecation is common in a few regions, which predisposes the households to waterborne diseases. The possible sources of water contamination are upstream contamination and livestock waste.

Water treatment chemicals are not currently available at household level though normally they are supplied by health institutions. However, they are acceptable. The current water treatment include boiling and use of water treatment chemicals, which are the normal water treatment practices. Livelihood zones that are near settlements commonly use the water treatment chemicals as compared to those away from settlements that mostly boil water as a way of treating it. Water treatment has led to better water quality as well as a reduction in water borne diseases.

A majority of households (80 percent) wash hands before preparing food and also cover any left overs for future use.

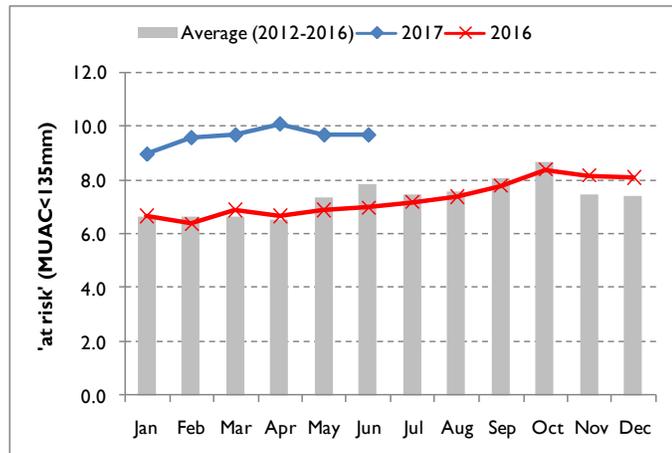


Figure 7: Percentage at risk of malnutrition

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators

Table 9: Food security trends

Indicator	Short rains assessment, February 2017		Long rains assessment, July 2017		
	% of maize stocks held by households (agro-pastoral)	24 percent of LTA		21 percent of LTA	
Livestock body condition	Marginal mixed farming	Good	Cattle	Sheep & goats	
			Good to Fair	Good	
	Mixed farming		Good to fair	Good	
	Rain fed farming		Good	Good	
Water consumption (litres per person per day)	Marginal mixed farming	17 lpppd	13-15lpppd		
	Mixed farming		15-20 lpppd		
	Rain fed farming		15-20 lpppd		
Price of maize (per kg)		45	50		
Distance to grazing	Marginal mixed farming	3km	12		
	Mixed farming		2		
	Rain fed farming		6		
Terms of trade (pastoral zone)		54kgs	52kgs		
Coping strategy index	Marginal mixed farming	15	32.8		
	Mixed farming		4.8		
	Rain fed farming		4		
Food consumption score	Marginal mixed farming	88% Acceptable	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
			23.7	54.2	22.1
	Mixed farming		16.7	53.3	30
	Rain fed farming		16.7	50	33.3

3.5 Education

Enrollment:

The enrollment rate slightly declined in term two with both genders registering lower pupils in primary schools compared to term one. The enrollment for 2017 was similar to that of 2016. However, the school with home grown school meals programme (HGSMP) and expanded school meals program (ESMP) have had normal enrollment. Declining enrollment in public schools may be due to opening up of new private schools, inadequate school feeding programs and family planning.

Table 10: Enrolment rates

Indicator	Term I 2016		Term II 2016		Term I 2017		Term II 2017	
	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)
Enrolment								
Primary	19721	20130	18763	18973	17927	19223	18197	18681
% growth rate	0%	0%	-1.5%	-0.2%	-4.5%	1.3%	-1.5%	-2.8%
EDC								
% growth rate								

Retention

The drop-out rate for both boys and girls is one percent higher than in Term III 2016, at four percent and three percent respectively, however, there was a more significant jump between Term I and Term II 2017 after there had been an initial reduction in drop out rate at the start of the new school year.

Table 11: Drop out rates

Indicator	Term III-2016		Term I-2017		Term II-2017	
	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)
% drop out of the enrolment						
Primary	3%	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%

Participation

The attendance rate has reduced by one percent for both male and female primary students between Term III 2016 and Term II 2017 – from 97percent to 96 percent for boys and 98 percent to 97percent for girls.

There has been a marginal increase, within one percent, in transition rates from primary to post primary institutions for both males and females in 2016, which could be attributed to high retention and lower dropout rates. The presence of school meals program has also contributed in better concentration of pupils in class leading to the relatively good transition rates.

Table 12: Transition rates.

Indicator	2015		2016	
	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)
% of transition				
Primary to post primary	84%	79%	85%	80%
ECD to primary				

School Meals Programme

The school meals program has contributed greatly to high enrollment, retention, increased transition rate, improved academic performance, immunity and good health. There are 52 schools under homegrown meals (HGSMP) in Tharaka North and 13 in Tharaka South. There are seven schools in Tharaka North and 37 in Tharaka South sub counties under Expanded School Meals program (ESMP). There are 58 schools in both Tharaka North and Tharaka South not under any school meals program. There has been an appeal from the communities of those 58 schools be included in the meals programmes for improved attendance, retention and better academic performance. The implementation of the School Meals Program is adversely affected

by delays in fund disbursement, delayed supplier deliveries, and water shortage in some schools. Furthermore, transfers of students to schools where School Meals Program are offered has been recorded in at least 10 schools

4. FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

4.1 Assumptions

- The October November December rainfall performance is likely to be normal to below normal
- Pasture and browse condition is likely to remain poor or depleted until the onset of short rains season, due to high temperatures
- Resource based conflicts over water and pasture expected especially in marginal mixed farming zones
- The terms of trade are expected to worsen throughout the lean season

4.2 Food security outcomes for August, September and October

Pasture and browse is expected to be depleted. With depletion of pasture, livestock will trek for longer distances in search of pasture. Most of the seasonal open water sources will dry leading to increased distances in search of water for both domestic use and livestock. With increased trekking distances, livestock body condition will worsen leading to lower prices and poor terms of trade. The prices of maize will rise. Milk availability at household level will decline due to worsening livestock body condition. The nutritional status of children will deteriorate as milk availability and consumption decline.

4.3 Food security outcomes for November, December and January

The short rains performance is expected to recharge all the open water sources leading to availability of water for both livestock and domestic use. However, with the projected normal to below normal performance, it is unlikely to be adequate for crop production and adequate pasture regeneration. Therefore rangeland conditions will remain poor. Milk production is expected to increase then decrease as the little rejuvenated pasture is consumed. Overall livestock productivity is expected to remain below average with minimal stocks at household level. However, no change is expected in the food security classification and is likely to remain in phase two (IPC 2).

5 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

5.1.1 Phase classification

The food security situation in Tharaka North and South sub counties is currently stable. However, the situation is on a declining trend and especially accelerated in the marginal livelihood zones. The indicative food security phase classification is stressed or phase two (IPC 2), an indication that even with any humanitarian assistance, household groups have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential nonfood expenditures without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. Therefore, action is required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods.

5.1.2 Summary of the findings

The 2017 long rains onset was late. Although the cessation was timely, spatial distribution was uneven while temporal distribution was poor. Household stocks are minimal and in the rain fed and mixed farming zones. Stocks held by traders are inadequate. Although the terms of trade are stable, they are below the LTA and negatively affecting the purchasing power of the households. Pasture and browse is available but on a declining trend and expected to be depleted before the end of August. Availability of water for both livestock and domestic use from the perennial rivers has been affected by over abstraction in the upstream, severely compromising the water volumes in the rivers. Boreholes and piped schemes remain the preferred sources as pans /dams are starting to dry. Nutritional status for children below five years has been affected by reduced milk availability at household level as well as reduced meal portions.

5.1.3 Sub-county ranking

Ranking refers to the arrangement of the sub counties from the most affected to the least affected as evidenced by the various indicators. The most affected is ranked first with the least affected last. In the case of Tharaka, Gatunga Ward is currently the worst hit and Mukothima Ward the least hit by the effects of inadequate rainfall performance (Table 13)

Table 13: Sub county ranking

Sub County/Ward	Food security rank (1-10)	Main food security threat (if any)
Gatunga	1	Increasing food prices, Low household stocks Poor Rainfall performance Poor road Network Poor crop performance Increased trekking distances to water points
Marimanti	2	Increasing food prices, Low household stocks Poor Rainfall performance Poor road Network Poor crop performance Increased trekking distances to water points
Chiakariga	3	Increased distances to water points, Increasing food prices, No Household stocks, Poor rainfall performance Poor pasture and browse
Nkondi	4	Low household stocks Poor Rainfall performance
Mukothima	5	Low household stocks Poor Rainfall performance

5.2 Ongoing Interventions

5.2.1 Food interventions

Table 14: Ongoing food interventions

Sub county	Intervention	population	Population targeted(%)	Implementers	Time frame
Tharaka North	GFD	54,187	10-15	GoK	January-May 2017
Tharaka South	GFD	86,874	10-15	GoK	January-May 2017

Table15: School meals programme

Name of sub counties	No. of school	HGSM		RSMP		ESMP	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Tharaka South	13	1085	1137				
Tharaka South	37					4118	4076
Tharaka North	52	5152	6012			1411	1500
Sub total							
Grand total	50	2220				8194	

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5.2.2 Ongoing non-food interventions

Table 16: Non food interventions

Sub county	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost	Time Frame
Agriculture							
THARAKA NITHI	Promotion of conservation agriculture	all	3400 FARMERS	MOA/FAO	Promotion of drought tolerant crop varieties and water harvesting technologies for improved productivity and profitability	10M	DECEMBER 2018
THARAKA NITHI	Cereals enhancement program	all	9000	MOA/KCEP	Promotion of input usage for higher crop productivity	20M	DECEMBER 2019
Livestock							
Tharaka North & South	Goats upgrading for milk and meat	All	700	Upper Tana (UTaNRMP) and Livestock Department	Will increase income at household level and nutrition diversity	8m	5years
	Vector control (tsetse fly/ticks)	All	4,500	KENTTEC and Veterinary department	Will improve the animal health and boost production	14m	10yrs
	Chicken upgrading for eggs and meat	All	1000	Upper Tana (UTaNRMP) and Livestock Department	Will increase income at household level and nutrition diversity	4.5m	5yrs

5.3 Recommended Interventions

5.3.1 Food interventions

Table 17: Non food interventions

Sub County	Pop in need (percent range min – max	Proposed mode of intervention	Remarks
Gatunga	10-15	CFA/GFD	Maragwa, Kathangachini, Kanjoro
Marimanti	10-15	CFA/GFD	Gituma, Marimanti,Ntugi, Rukenya
Ciakariga	10-15	CFA/GFD	Chiakariga, Kamanyiki,Kamarandi
Nkondi	10-15	CFA/GFD	Rukurini , Kereria,
Mukothima	10-15	CFA/GFD	Mauthini

5.3.2 Non-food interventions

Table 18:Non food interventions

Division	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Agriculture							
Tharaka NITHI	Promotion of post harvest grain management and preservation	all	30344	moa,ndma,county government	fuel,facilitation allowances, stationary,demonstration materials	technical personnel, vehicles	end of march 2018
THAR AKA NITHI	Training on storage, utilization of locally produced foods	all	30344	MOA,NDMA,COUNTY GOVERNMENT	fuel,facilitaon allowances, stationary,demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	END OF MARCH 2018
THAR AKA NITHI	Promotion of crop method demonstration sites(farmer field schools)	all	13000	MOA,NDMA,COUNTY GOVERNMENT	fuel,facilitaon allowances, stationary,demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	END OF may 2018

Livestock Sector							
Tharaka North and south	Livestock feed supplementation	All	5500 farmers	NDMA, County government, National Government and livestock department	Fuel ,funds and personnel	Personnel	
Tharaka North and south	Livestock feed supplementation	All	7,000 farmers	NDMA, County government and Livestock department	Planting materials, funds and personnel	Personnel	
Tharaka North and south	Fodder Establishment and management	All	14,000 farmers	NDMA, County government and veterinary department	Vaccines, funds and personnel	Personnel	
Water and sanitation							
Tharaka North and south	Upgrading of handpump to solar pumping system 10no.	all	3000	CG,NDMA,GOK, And other partner	12m	Human resource	6 months
Tharaka North and south	Provision of storage tanks 10m ³ 20no.	all	4000	CG,NDMA,GOK, And other partner	1.6m	Human resource	6 months
Tharaka North and south	Equipping 2no. boreholes with solar pumping system	Nkondi , kirigich a-mukoth ima	600	CG, GOK, NDMA, OTHER PARTNERS	2.0m	personnel	6month
Health and nutrition							
Tharaka North and south	Blanket Supplementary feeding	T/s	All H/H	Nutrition Officer	Funds/ Food Commodities	Manpower	3 Months