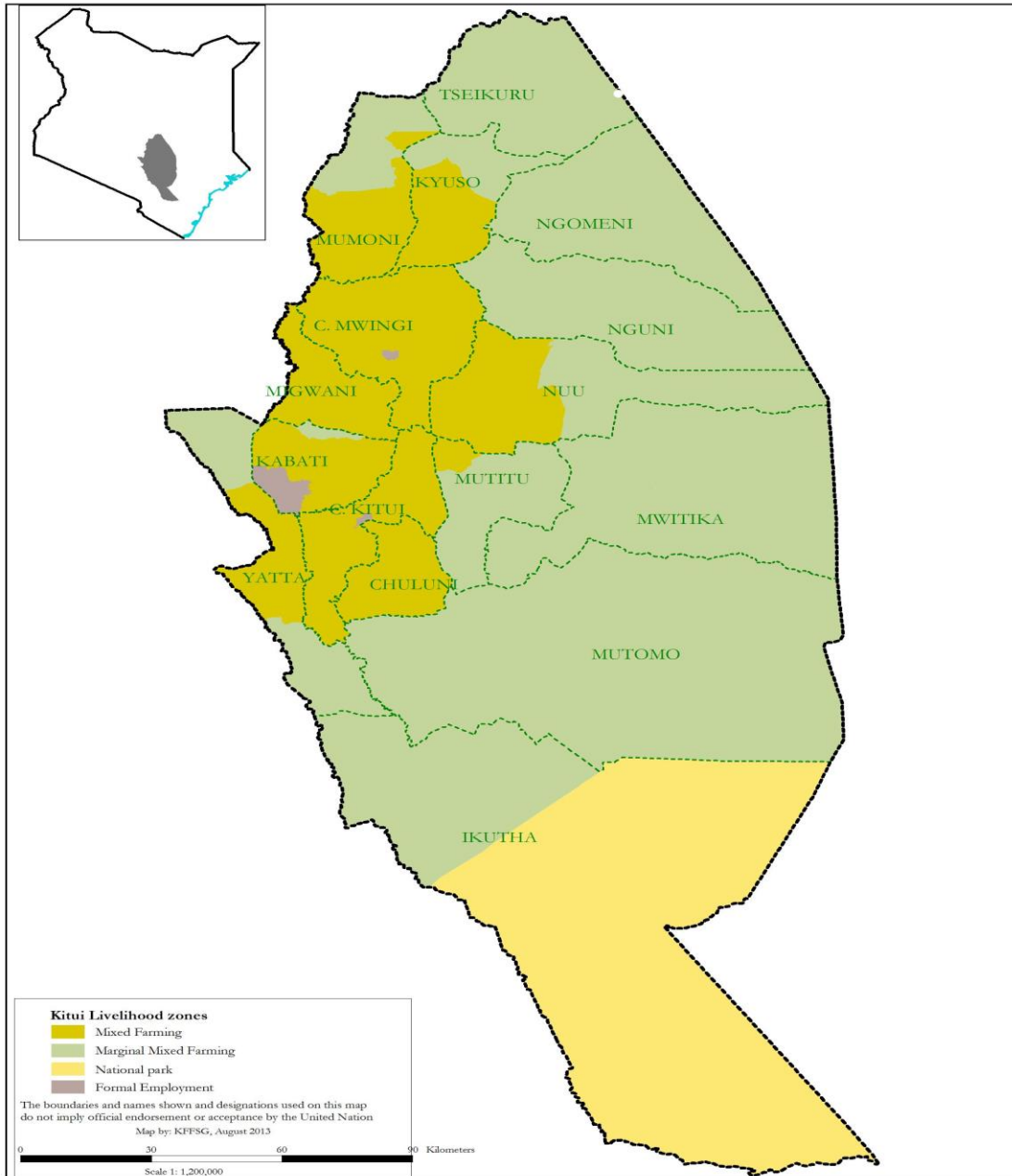


KITUI COUNTY 2017 SHORT RAINS FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



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

February 2018

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Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 County background	1
1.2 Objectives and approach	1
2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY	2
2.1 Rainfall Performance	2
2.2 Staple food prices	2
2.3 Insecurity/Conflict	2
3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	2
3.1 Availability	2
3.1.1 Crop Production	2
3.1.2 Cereal Stocks	4
3.1.3 Livestock Production	4
3.1.4 Impact on availability	7
3.2 Access	7
3.2.1 Markets	7
3.2.3 Income sources	9
3.2.4 Water access and availability	9
3.2.5 Food Consumption.....	11
3.2.6 Coping strategy	11
3.3 Utilization	11
3.3.1. Morbidity and Mortality	12
3.3.2 Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation:.....	12
3.3.3 Nutritional Status and Dietary Diversity	12
3.3.4 Sanitation and Hygiene	13

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators	13
4.0 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES	14
4.1 Education	14
4.1.1 Enrolment	14
4.1.2 Dropout.....	15
4.1.3 Transition and School meals programme	15
5.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS	16
5.1 Assumptions	16
5.2 Food security outcomes for February, March and April	16
5.3 Food security outcomes for May, June and July	17
6.0 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS	17
6.1 Conclusion	17
6.1.1 Phase classification	17
6.1.2 Summary of the findings	17
6.1.3 Sub-county ranking	18
7.0 ANNEXES	19
7.1 Ongoing Interventions	19
7.1.1 Food interventions	19
7.2 Recommended Interventions	22
7.2.1 Recommended Food interventions	22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The indicative food security phase classification for both livelihood zones in the county is Stressed (phase 2). The main drivers of food insecurity in Kitui County currently are poor rainfall performance and high poverty levels. The County is rainfall dependent for crop as well as livestock production. Rainfall performance was adequate for pasture regeneration but inadequate for crop production. The household stocks are 18 percent of the long term average (LTA). The prices of cereals are stable and within the long term average (LTA). The price of maize is still within the long term average while goat prices are slightly above the LTA. The terms of trade are seven percent above the LTA. However, high poverty levels especially in the marginal mixed farming zones are affecting the household's purchasing power due to few livestock holdings.

Food is available at household level though in a lower quantity (18 percent) and the markets (25 percent of LTA). Millers and the national cereals and produce board (NCPB) are also having 195 and 129 percent of their LTA respectively. The traders are also having 116 and 77 percent of their LTA for rice and sorghum respectively. Milk availability has reduced across the livelihood zones. The available household stocks are likely to be depleted in less than a month. However, traders have also stocked rice in addition to the 53 percent of LTA they are holding in order to bridge the gap. Water stress is being experienced in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones but relatively available and accessible in the mixed farming zones. The availability of water for both domestic use and livestock is expected to be affected especially in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, where distances to water are expected to increase as the lean season progresses. In migrations from Garissa and Tana River as well as intra migrations are expected to continue leading to resource based conflicts, as pasture and browse becomes depleted.

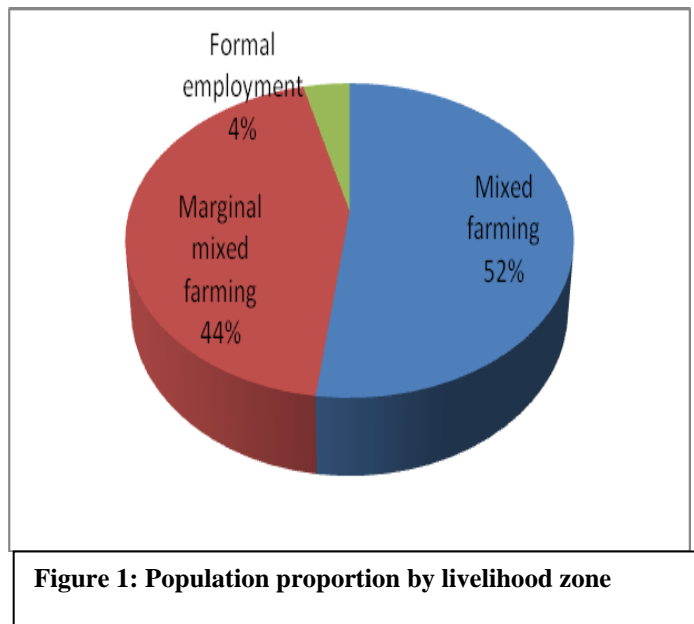
Although the terms of trade are within the LTA, financial access has been affected by the high poverty levels. Market operations are expected to remain normal throughout the period. Utilization of food has been affected by skipping of meals, taking less preferred foods as well as reduced number of meals and meal portions to cope with the food gaps. Majority of households in the agro pastoral livelihood zones (77.8 percent) are having poor food consumption scores with 18.6 percent having a borderline food consumption score. 3.6 percent of the households are having a poor food consumption score. The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition is within the seasonal norm at 7.6 percent and also within that of same period in 2017.

The region's food security situation is classified in the 'stressed phase (phase 2) implying 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

Kitui County is located in the lower eastern region of Kenya and is subdivided into eight administrative units namely: Kitui Central, Kitui South, Kitui East, Kitui Rural, Kitui West, Mwingi North, Mwingi West and Mwingi Central sub-counties. The county has an estimated population of 1,097,687 people (KNBS, 2009) and covers a total estimated area of 33,285.4 square kilometres out of which 6,370 square kilometres is covered by Tsavo National Park. There are three main livelihood zones in the county as indicated in figure 1 namely: marginal mixed farming, mixed farming livelihood zone and formal employment, contributing 44, 52 and 4 percent of the population respectively.



1.2 Objectives and approach

The main objective the short rains assessment was to develop an objective, evidence-based and transparent food security situation analysis following the short 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 as conducted from 5th - 9th February 2018 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

The onset of the short rains season was timely in the second dekad of October. Spatial distribution was uneven with Most of the county receiving 75-90 percent of normal rains with the northern and southern parts receiving 90-110 percent of normal rains. Eastern and south western Kitui East Sub-county, as well as north western Kitui South Sub-county received the least amounts of 25-50 percent of normal rains as shown in figure 2. Temporal distribution was poor. Cessation was early in the second dekad of December compared to the second dekad of January normally. The performance of the rains was adequate for pasture regeneration as well as the early maturing varieties of crops. However, this was not enough for most of the crops grown in the county.

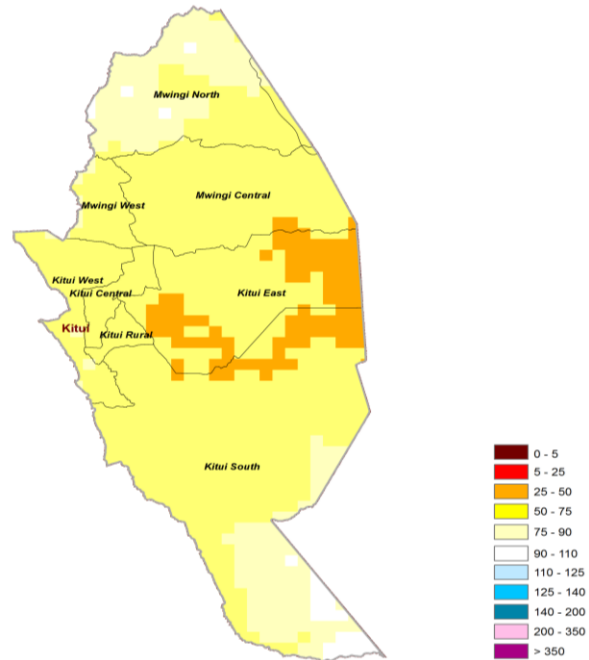


Figure 2: Rainfall performance (%)

2.2 Staple food prices

There was a noted scarcity of millet, sorghum and to an extent cowpeas across all the markets in the two main livelihood zones. The price of maize and beans is within the long term average (LTA) with isolated cases in Endau-Malalani ward retailing maize at Ksh. 40, which is 20 percent higher than the LTA. The stability in these prices is having a positive impact as most households can afford them.

2.3 Insecurity/Conflict

Minimal resource based conflicts have been experienced along the border with Tana River county where herders are looking for water and pasture as they migrate into Kitui. However no major conflict has been reported.

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

The physical presence of a commodity at a certain place defines availability, which is one of the food security pillars. It refers to the presence of pastures and browse, stocks, expected harvests, water, commodities in the markets and imports.

3.1.1 Crop Production

The region mostly relies on the more dependable short rains for crop production compared to the long rains season and it accounts for 60 percent of the total crop production grown in the County. The major crops grown in the County include millet, cow peas and green grams in the marginal mixed zones and green grams, beans and maize in the mixed farming zones. Maize contributes 60 percent and 50 percent to food in the mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood

zones respectively. Green grams contribute 40 percent to cash income in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone, beans contribute seven and 23 percent of cash income in mixed farming and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones respectively.

Rain fed Cropping

Table 1: Rain fed Cropping

Crop	Area planted during 2017 Short rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average area planted during the Short rains season (Ha)	2017 Short rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected/Actual	Long Term Average production during the Short rains season (90 kg bags)
Green Grams	98,116	47,362	130,133	331,534
Cow peas	31,755	43,554	47,633	222,125
Maize	31,039	58,914	15,520	517,667

Areas under maize and cow peas declined by 47 and 27 percent respectively compared to the LTA attributed to preference for production of green grams as shown in Table 1. The area under green grams increased by 52 percent; attributed to the campaigns launched by the Governor and Kenya Red Cross Society on the same. Green gram production was 39 percent of LTA while that of cowpeas was 21 percent of LTA. Maize production was the most affected at three percent of LTA as there was a total crop failure. The decline in production for all the major crops was caused by the poor performance of the rains, as cessation was much earlier than normal.

Irrigated Cropping

Table 2: Irrigated Cropping

Crop	Area planted during 2017 Short rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average area planted during the Short rains season (Ha)	2017 Short rains season production (Tons) Projected	Long Term Average production during the Short rains season (Tons)
1. Kales	265	254	3,975	4,790
2. Water melons	280	185	5,040	1,987
3. Tomatoes	190	232	4,600	5,617

The area under watermelons and kales was 33 and nine percent above the LTA, attributed to high demand within and outside the County. High production costs associated with tomatoes made some farmers prefer growing watermelons due to lower production costs associated with the latter. The area under tomatoes reduced by 18% in terms of both area and production compared to the LTA. Consequently, production of watermelon was 153 percent above the LTA as shown in table 2. Increased production has a positive impact on food security at household level.

3.1.2 Cereal Stocks

Table 3: Cereal stocks

Commodity	Farmers	Traders	Millers	NCPB	TOTAL
Maize	9,353	57,410	8,580	45,383	182,682
LTA	51,450	109,300	4,400	35,000	200,150
Rice	0	75,220	0	2,693	78,413
LTA	0	64,660	0	0	64,660
Sorghum	9,405	10,800		0	20,205
LTA	79,090	14,010	0	0	93,102
Millet	11,210	2,840	0	0	14,050
LTA	70,800	18,650	0	0	189,450

Maize stocks held by farmers are 18 percent of the LTA attributed to three consecutive failed seasons and are expected to be depleted within a month. Traders are having 53 percent of the LTA as most of the maize is being imported from far from the county. However, millers and national cereals and produce board (NCPB) are having 195 and 129 percent of their average. For the former, the stocking could be due to anticipation of shortage of maize for milling while for NCPB it is for price moderation by the government should the price if maize exceed certain limits. Rice is only held by traders and it is 116 percent of the LTA, as they stock an alternative due to maize shortage. Farmers are having 12 percent of LTA for sorghum attributed to failed season while traders are having 77 percent of the same, as most of the sorghum is locally supplied. The current millet stocks are 16 and 15 percent for farmers and traders respectively, attributed to the failed season. Overall, the cereal stocks held in the county are 91 percent of LTA for maize, 122 percent for rice, 22 percent for sorghum and seven percent for millet. The implication is that, though food stocks are inadequate at the household level, maize and rice are adequate at the county level (Table 3).

3.1.3 Livestock Production

Livestock production is one of the major sources of income in the County. In the mixed farming livelihood zones, livestock contributes 15 percent to cash income while in marginal mixed farming livelihood zones its contribution 43 percent to the same. The major livestock species in the County are cattle, sheep, goats and indigenous chicken. Others include rabbits, bees and donkeys. Goats and sheep are usually sold for food and income generation, while the cattle are kept for provision of income during drought, milk production, and draught power on farms and supplement family investments. Donkeys are essentially used as a means of transport and additional source of income while indigenous chicken are a fundamental source of affordable protein and income for immediate household needs.

Table 4: pasture and browse condition

Livelihood zone	Pasture condition			Browse condition		
	Current	Situation at this time of year	Projected Duration to last (Months)	Current	Situation at this time of year	Projected Duration to last (Months)
Marginal mixed	Fair to poor	Good to Fair	0.5 -1 months	Good	Good	2-3 months
Mixed farming	Fair	Good	1-2 months	Good	Good	2-3 months

In the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone, pasture was poor especially in areas of Kanyangi, Endau/Malalani, Tseikuru, Voo/Kyamatu, Nguni, Ngomeni and Kyuso wards compared to good-fair normally. However, it was fair in Kanziko, Mutha and Nuw wards. Pasture is fair in the mixed farming zones compared to good normally. The available quantities are likely to last for less than a month in the highlighted areas in the marginal mixed zones compared to three months normally and approximately two months in the mixed farming livelihood zone compared with three months normally. Browse condition was generally good across the livelihood zones but on a deteriorating trend. The available browse was likely to last for two to three months which is normal. In Mixed farming livelihood zone, there is presence of crop residues which will slightly contribute to livestock feed at 40 percent while in marginal mixed farming the residue will subsidize the available pasture. In the marginal mixed farming zones areas of Ngomeni, Nguni, Endau/Malalani and Mutha wards, it is expected that grazing communities may clash over water and pasture especially from nearby and neighboring counties of Tana River and Garissa Counties along the Borders with Kitui County.

Body condition

The body condition of livestock especially for cattle and sheep is good in mixed farming and good to fair in marginal mixed farming zones, which is normal at this time of the month, while that of goats is good across the livelihood zones. However, in areas of Nguni, Endau/Malalani and Ngomeni wards Livestock body condition is fair. The projected body condition for the next three months for goats is unlikely to change as browse is likely to last for that duration in all livelihood zones. However, the condition of cattle is likely to deteriorate to fair to poor since pasture is likely to last for only one month in the marginal mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zones.

Milk Production, Consumption and Prices

Milk production and consumption in the County was below normal across all livelihood zones due to poor pastures. Milk prices across all livelihood zones were higher in comparison with the LTA, as indicated in table 5 below. The situation is not normal as households are taking what the young ones of livestock are supposed to suckle.

Table 5: Milk production, consumption and prices at livelihood zone level

Livelihood zone	Milk production (Litres) / Household		Milk consumption (Litres) / Household		Prices (Ksh)/Litre	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Marginal mixed	1-2	3	0.5	2	70	60
Mixed	1-3	5	1	1	70	60

Milk availability and consumption has declined across the households in comparison to the normal. The decline in availability is attributed to diminishing pasture and increased distances to water. The reduced availability at household level has also directly affected milk consumption since less milk is available for consumption. Part of the available milk is sold to supplement the household interview. However, the prices have increased from the long term average to the current ksh.70 due to high demand versus the low supply.

Tropical livestock units (TLUs) and Birth rate

Tropical livestock units per household are between 2-3 in marginal mixed farming and 1-2 for mixed farming which is normal. Birth rate is normal for cattle, one calf for every one year and two kids for goats per year.

Migration

The migration of livestock was majorly within the County boundaries; where livestock migrated between Nguni/Ngomoni to Mandongoi, Nguni/Ngomoni to Sosoma, Kyuso to Mumoni and Endau to Makongo. However, pastoralists from Tana River and Garissa counties in search of water and pasture in the same areas as the locals and has resulted into minor conflicts over limited resources. Moreover, migration of herders to one point is likely to cause loss of livestock in the process. The conflicts are likely to intensify as pastures and water decrease in quantity in the next one to two months coupled with the migrants feeding their camels on the farmer's crops. This migration pattern is not normal at this time of the year as it happens during the long dry spell (July to October).

Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

Disease outbreaks reported include Anthrax and Black quarter in Endau/Malalani in cattle. Also, internal and external parasites have been reported across the livelihood zones. Endemic diseases included contagious caprine pleuro-pneumonia (CCPP), caprine bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) new castle in poultry and tick-borne diseases across the livelihood zones. Livestock mortality rates were within seasonal norms at one percent for cattle, goats and sheep. With likely deterioration of body condition due to pasture and water scarcity, more outbreaks are expected to occur.

Water for Livestock

The sources for water were; sand dams, shallow wells, water pans, rivers and boreholes which are normal. With the escalating drought, the situation is likely to worsen leading to increased distances to the water points and decreased watering frequencies.

Table 6: Trekking distances and watering frequency

Livelihood zone	Return trekking distances		Expected duration to last		Watering frequency	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Marginal mixed farming	5-15	4-7	0.5-1	1-2	Alternate days	Daily
Mixed farming	3-5	2-4	1-1.5	2-3	Daily	Daily

3.1.4 Impact on availability

The season impacted positively in terms of pasture regeneration but poorly on crop production. Crop production for all the main crops performed below the long term average with the exception of water melon. Maize has been the most severely affected. Therefore, food availability at household level has negatively been affected. Livestock body condition is good to fair though on a declining trend as the pasture and browse change in both quality and quantity. Milk is available at the household level, though in less amounts. The season impacted positively in terms of pasture regeneration but poorly on crop production. Household stocks are 18 percent of the LTA as a result of the poor performance of the rains while traders are having 53 percent of their LTA. Livestock body condition is good to fair though on a declining trend as the pasture and browse change in both quality and quantity. Milk is available at the household level, though in less amounts.

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Markets

The main markets in Kitui County are Mutha, Kisasi, Nguni, Nuu and Ngomeni for livestock and Mwingi, Kalundu, Tseikuru, Nuu and Kyuso for cereals. However, most of these markets are for both commodities, the difference being the variation between livestock and cereals. Market operations were normal and traded items included livestock, crops and poultry. Livestock traded was from within the County and included cattle, sheep and goats, while the cereals traded were from the County and also imports from Tanzania and Busia for maize and beans. Green grams and cowpeas were from the ongoing harvests in the county. The well provisioned markets are likely to have a direct impact on food availability in the region.

The demand for cereals and especially maize is high as a result of the failed season. However, the price has been moderated by stocking of other cereals including rice. Over 80 percent of households are relying on markets for the commodities. Normally, the markets are well provisioned at this time of the year with cereals from the farm harvests, although currently, part of the provisions for maize and beans are from outside the County.

Price of maize

Maize prices have remained stable since September, which can be attributed to government subsidy on maize flour. The current price is still within the long term average and 19 percent above that of same period in 2016 (figure 3).

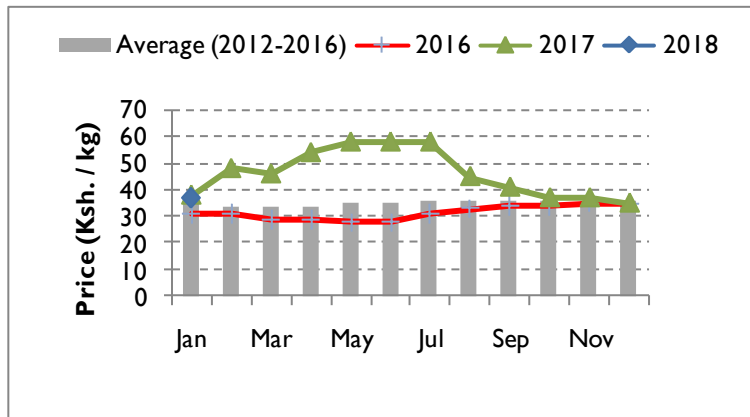


Figure 3: Trends in maize prices

The current price is still within the long term average and 19 percent above that of same period in 2016 (figure 3). The ongoing harvest, even though minimal has a positive impact on the prices since households are consuming what they are harvesting thereby reducing the demand for maize. The average prices means that households can afford to buy maize, which is a boost to the household food security.

Goat prices

Goat prices had been on an upward trajectory from September to November attributed to holding back for the purpose of restocking in anticipation of better pasture after rains, as well as fattening to fetch better prices in December

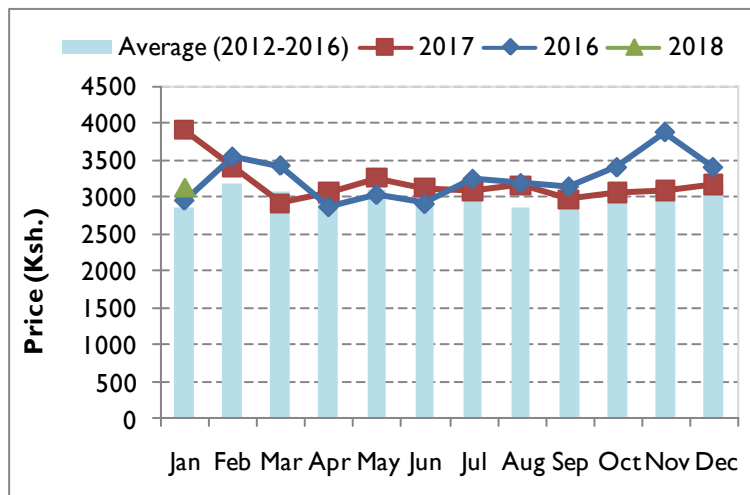


Figure 4: Trends in goat prices

However, there was a drop in price in the month of December attributed to oversupply to the market associated with the December festivities and selling for school fees. The current average price of a mature goat is Ksh. 3133 (figure 4), which is 10 percent above the LTA and also 28 percent below that of same period in 2017. Slight variations were noted in the marginal mixed

zones where the price was Ksh. 3040 compared to 3250 in the mixed farming zones.

3.2.2 Terms of trade

The terms of trade have been on a declining trend since November 2017 attributed to declining goat prices. Currently the sale of a mature goat can purchase 85 kilogrammes of maize which is seven percent above the LTA but 21 percent below that of same period in 2017 (figure 5). The declining terms of trade although above the LTA have a direct negative impact on household's food security situation due to the reduced purchasing power.

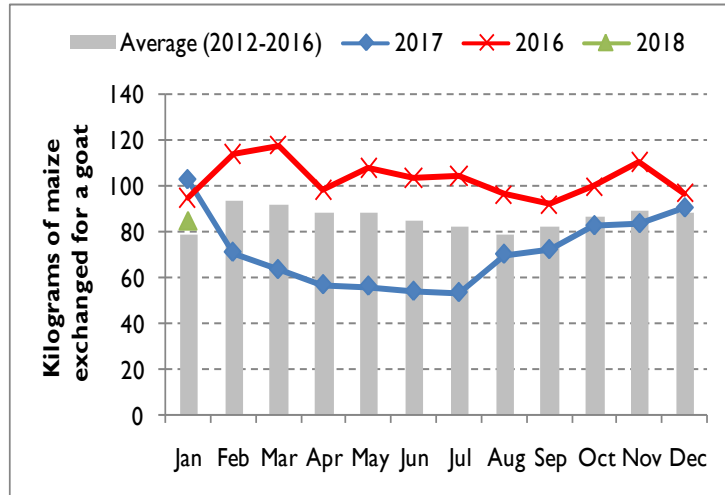


Figure 5: Trends in terms of trade

3.2.3 Income sources

Livelihoods are currently depending on different sources of income, some of which include the following: sale of livestock and livestock products contributes to cash income in both livelihood zones. The livestock sold include sheep and goats and cattle, although the large stocks are mainly for larger expenditure including school fees. In the mixed farming zones, sale of crops including green grams, maize millet and sorghum is the main source of income. Milk is also sold in both livelihood zones, though the amounts and cost varies with seasonality. Other sources of income are petty trade and charcoal burning, which are on the increase compared to normal. The upsurge in these latter two sources could be attributed to the prevailing dry conditions.

3.2.4 Water access and availability

Major Water Sources

The current sources of water for domestic use are boreholes, rivers, shallow wells, rock catchments and piped water systems. Normally, other sources such as pans and earth dams are also used at this time of the year but are currently dry. Recharge to the open water sources was 30-40 percent of their capacities, which greatly affected water availability. Due to the poor recharge and prevailing dry spell, water rationing is ongoing in most parts served by piped water systems. The volumes in over 50 percent of the open water sources are at minimal while some rivers and water pans have completely dried up. Households have made hand dug wells in the dried up rivers.

Water availability

With the exception of Athi River whose flow is over 70 percent, most of the other rivers are dry with a few having minimum flow. The non-operational water sources are as a result of bursts in the case of pipeline schemes, break down of boreholes and drying up for water pans and earth dams. Some water kiosks along the Endao - Malelani road have also been closed as a result of reduced yields in the boreholes. Over 60 percent use water from piped schemes and boreholes, which are protected sources.

Most concentrated Water points

Table 7: Concentrated water points

The most used water points are illustrated in Table 9. Livestock migration is one of the causes of concentrations as well as the drying up of most open water sources. Breakdown of boreholes and burst of piping systems has also put more pressure on the neighbouring water sources.

Ward/ Livelihood zone	Actual Name of the Water Point	Normal No. Served	Current No. Being Served
Mutomo	Kithini WP	500	1500
	Kaseva RC	300	700
Ikutha	Ikutha WP	600	1500
	Kasaala WP	400	300
Kanziko	Kaaki BH	300	800
	Kisuna BH	250	500
	Makuta BH	350	500
Mutha	Kamunda	1500	3800
	Mitaani BH	600	1000
	Nzoani BH	350	800
	Ikangaani ED	500	1000
Athi	Mwaathe BH	350	1000
	Matinga ED	2000	3400
	Mitalani BH	250	400

Distances to Water Sources

Distances to water points were varying in the two livelihood zones. In the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, the distances were within the range of 8-10 kilometres as compared to 4-7 normally, while in the mixed farming livelihood zones, the distances have increased from the normal 2-3 to the current 4-5 kilometres. However, the distances in isolated areas in Mwingi North, Mwingi Central, Kitui East and Kitui South in the marginal mixed zones are trekking up to 12 kilometres in search of water.

Waiting time at the source

The current waiting time varies within the range of 25 - 30 minutes compared to the normal of 15 - 20 in the mixed farming livelihood zone. In the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, waiting time varies 30 minutes and two hours compared to the normal 30-40 minutes. People fetching water early in the morning experience minimal waiting before concentration at the water points. The reason for the increased waiting time has been attributed to increased concentration at the operational water sources and livestock taking precedence over water for domestic use. The result is long queues as people wait to fetch water. However, in areas along permanent rivers, waiting time is minimal across the livelihood zones.

Water consumption and cost

The cost of a 20 litre jerrican of water was within the normal range of Ksh.3-6 in both livelihood zones. However, owners of private shallow wells were charging Ksh10 for a 20 litre jerrican. Water vendors were retailing the commodity at Ksh. 30-50 depending on the distance covered.

3.2.5 Food Consumption

Food consumption score is a proxy indicator that represents the dietary diversity, energy and macro and micro value of the foods that people eat. It is based on dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups.

The percentage of households in the county that were having an acceptable diet was 77.8 percent while 18.6 were having a borderline diet. Only 3.6 percent were having a poor diet (figure 6). The situation is an improvement from the previous season when the score was 73.9, 18.3 and 7.9 percent respectively.

However, with the prevailing dry conditions and above average daytime temperatures, the situation is likely to worsen especially in the marginal mixed farming who are already affected with majority of households consuming 1-2 meals per day consisting of 2-3 food groups.

3.2.6 Coping strategy

Coping strategy Index is often used as a proxy indicator for food security. The current coping strategy index is 16.24 compared to 29.8 for the same period in the previous season. The decline is a clear indication of an improving situation as households are employing less severe coping mechanisms as compared to the same period in previous season. Households in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone were employing consumption based coping strategies more frequent.

Among the current coping strategies are skipping meals, giving preference to children during meals, increase in petty trade, charcoal burning and selling of firewood. Child labour is also on the increase.

3.3 Utilization

In the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, households were consuming 1-2 meals per day compared to the normal 2-3 and the dietary diversity of 2-3 food groups. In the mixed farming zones, meal frequency is within the normal 2-4 with 4-6 food groups. The dietary diversity comprised of maize, legumes rice, green grams, cowpeas and fruits.

The current water consumption per person per day ranges between 8 and 10 litres per person per in the marginal mixed farming zones compared to the normal 15 - 20. In the mixed farming livelihood zones, consumption has reduced from the normal 25 - 30 litres per person per day to 15-20 normally. The drop in consumption has been attributed to increased distances to water sources, drying up of water sources as well as rationing for those relying on piped schemes.

3.3.1. Morbidity and Mortality

The leading causes of morbidity in the County are Upper respiratory tract infections, Clinical malaria and Diarrhea. Skin conditions for both under five and the general population were also reported across all the livelihood zones. Trend analysis indicates a drop in morbidity patterns from July to December 2016 and 2017 (figure 7). The drop could be attributed to under reporting due to the protracted health workers strike thus only the severe cases sought medical attention. However, the URTI cases increased in 2017 when compared with 2016 because of the prolonged dry spell.

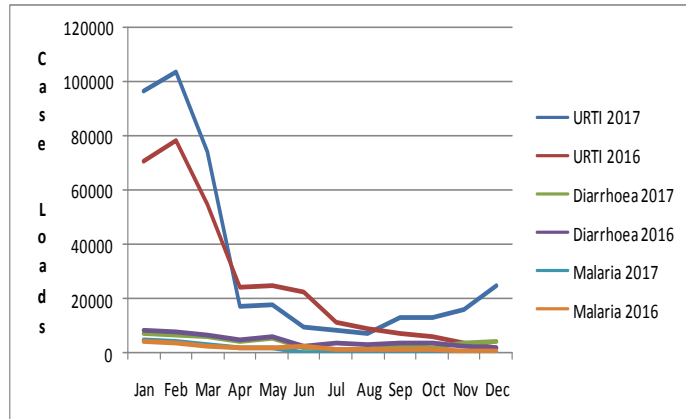


Figure 6: Morbidity trends for general population

3.3.2 Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation:

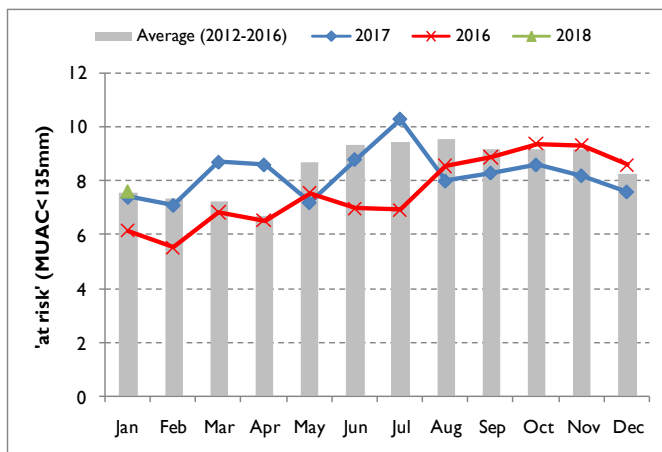


Figure 7: Percentage of children at risk

The proportion of fully immunized children improved from 64.5 percent to 67.1 percent from July to December 2017 compared to the same period in 2016, while Vitamin A supplementation improved from 38 percent to 53 percent for the same period. The improvement can be attributed to integrated outreaches, beyond zero campaigns and Malezi Bora activities in the County. However the rates are both below the National target of 80 percent which could be as a result of reduced routine immunization and Vitamin A supplementation during the health workers strike.

3.3.3 Nutritional Status and Dietary Diversity

The nutrition status of children improved from July to December 2017 as compared with the same period in 2016. A KABP survey done in November 2017 indicated that exclusive breast feeding is at 75.6 percent and minimum meal frequency for children 6-23 months at 79.9 percent, which is above the National rate of 61 percent and 51 percent respectively (KDHS 2014). The increase can be attributed to the ongoing Maternal Nutrition and Child Health projects in the County such as Baby Friendly Community Initiative interventions (BFCI), Agri-nutrition awareness by community health volunteers (CHVs) and Nutrition Improvement through Cash and Health Education (NICHE). However, the current level of children at risk of malnutrition is

at nine percent above LTA as shown in figure 8 above, which can be attributed to declining household milk consumption. In addition, minimum dietary diversity for children below six month is at 32.1 percent while minimum acceptable dietary is at 28.1 percent (KABP 2017). The nutrition status of the under-five is likely to deteriorate in the next two months as the lean season intensifies.

3.3.4 Sanitation and Hygiene

There has been a marked improvement in sanitation with latrine coverage of 97 percent as compared to 89 percent in 2016 due to community led total sanitation programme (KABP 2017). 93 percent of the latrines are privately owned while the remaining percentage is shared. Open defecation is at three percent in the county. Open defecation can be attributed to negative attitude. However, no contamination of water sources arising from sanitation facilities has been reported. Equally, no sanitation related disease outbreaks were reported across all livelihoods within the period under review. Open defecation though minimal could predispose the households to water borne diseases especially during rainy season. Hand washing in all four critical times is at 18.9 percent in the county. Hand washing using soap and water was recorded to be at 52.2 percent while those that used water only was 36.8percent. Most households are relying on piped water schemes, which treat water first. However, those using from the remaining pans and shallow wells along river beds are not treating their water.

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators

Table 8: Trends in key food security indicators

Indicator	Long rains assessment, July 2017				Short rains assessment, February 2018		
Maize stocks held by households (%)	4 percent of LTA				percent of LTA		
Livestock body condition	Mixed farming	Cattle	Sheep	goats	Cattle	Sheep	goats
		Good-fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Marginal Mixed farming	Good-fair	Good	Good	Good-fair	Good	Good
Water consumption (litres per person per day)	Mixed Farming	10-15			15-20		
	Marginal Mixed farming	5-10			8-18		
Price of maize (per kg)		58			35		
Distance to Water from grazing areas	Mixed Farming	30			3-5		
	Marginal Mixed farming				5-15		

Indicator	Long rains assessment, July 2017			Short rains assessment, February 2018		
Terms of trade (pastoral zone)	56kgs			85kgs		
Coping Strategy Index	6.32			16.24		
Food consumption score	P	B	A	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
	73.9	18.3	7.9	77.8	18.3	3.6

4.0 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.1 Education

4.1.1 Enrolment

School enrolment has decreased across all the school levels. In terms of gender in Early Childhood Development centres (ECD) and primary schools more boys than girls were enrolled in term three of 2017 and term I 2018 as in the table 9 below;

Table 9: Enrolment by Gender

Enrollment	Term III 2017			Term I 2018 (includes new students registered and drop-outs since Term III 2017)			Comments (reasons for increase or decrease)
	N _o Boys	N _o Girls	Total	N _o Boys	N _o Girls	Total	
ECD	27984	25624	53608	22785	21435	44220	Decreased
Primary	160262	152100	312362	144204	139149	283353	Decreased
Secondary	38619	41238	79857	35690	40436	76126	Decreased

Generally, the reduction in enrolment was partly because of transfer of pupils to other counties where parents are working. Drop out, casual labour, drought, domestic chores, charcoal burning, security challenges, migration, parents/guardians ignorance to education, distances to schools especially for the ECD children, levies, poverty, early pregnancies and marriages, lack of school feeding program and perennial pupil poor performance have also contributed to reduction in enrolment.

In respect to gender, more boys than girls are enrolled due to the reasons that the girls are engaged in domestic chores, early pregnancies and overprotection of young girls.

On transfers, pupils move out to join their parents/guardians in other areas, drought, lack of school feeding program, family disagreements and to schools with better performance improvement.

4.1.2 Dropout

It was noted that at ECD and primary school levels, more boys than girls drop out .In third term 2017, 384 boys dropped out compared to 250 girls in the county at ECD level as shown in table 10 below

Table 10: Dropout rates by Gender

Indicator	End of Term II 2017		End of Term III 2017	
	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls
ECD	441	374	384	250
Primary	299	208	1204	954
Secondary	47	40	75	85

More girls are dropping out at ECD and secondary school levels than boys while at primary level it is the vice versa. The various reasons attributed to drop out at ECD level include long distances to schools, lack of school feeding program and school levies where the county government has not provided support for the teachers. In Primary schools, drop out is as a result of casual labor, early pregnancies, early marriages, continuous poor performance and ignorance among the parents and guardians among others.

4.1.3 Transition and School meals programme

Transition from ECD to primary is 100 percent for both gender while for primary to secondary or tertiary institutions in the county it is about 80 percent.

There are only two types of school feeding programs; Home Grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP) and Community school meals program (CSMP). The former covers 398 schools in ten sub-counties while the latter is only in Kitui central sub-county. There are 1011 schools in need of school meals programmes as shown in Table 11 below

Table 11: Schools without School Meals Programme

S/NO.	S/COUNTY	NO. of Schools	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Lower Yatta	51	4469	4193	8662
2	Migwani	93	11982	11351	23333
3	Mumoni	58	4653	4682	9335
4	Mutito	56	7079	7218	14297
5	Mutomo	114	13616	12979	26595
6	Mwingi Central	41	4081	3814	7895
7	Mwingi East	36	2560	2551	5111

8	Nzambani	49	7684	7463	15147
9	Tseikuru	50	6607	6401	13008
10	Kyuso	89	8545	8314	16859
11	Kitui West	75	9042	8351	17393
12	Kitui Central	75	9921	9639	19560
13	Kisasi	42	6888	6520	13408
14	Katulani	57	4977	4723	9700
15	Ikutha	77	7915	7545	15460
16	Matinyani	48	5145	4905	10050
	Totals	1011	115164	110649	225813

In terms of access, retention and completion, school meals programme (SMP) has had a positive effect. More children are in school and learning, great improvement in terms of performance has been recorded since the pupils do not miss out on lessons taught at school. Additionally the percentage of children transitioning to the next levels of education has equally improved as a result of SMP.

Among the reasons why pupils miss their meals and yet they are under school meals programme include water shortage in the schools, insufficient support staff, inadequate food supply as well as lack of parents/ guardians contribution

5.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

5.1 Assumptions

- According to preliminary forecasts by FEWSNET, March-April-May long rains performance is likely to be normal to below normal
- Forage condition expected to deteriorate until the onset of long rains season in March and then improve with pasture regeneration
- Resource based conflicts over water and pasture expected especially in along Kitui-Tana River boundary
- Livestock prices expected to decline then rise if the body condition improves after the onset of the long rains.
- Cereal prices expected to stabilize above the long term average
- The terms of trade are expected to worsen in the lean season and then improve with improved body condition after the onset of the long rains.

5.2 Food security outcomes for February, March and April

Pasture and browse is expected to be depleted by end of March, which is expected to lead to a reduction in milk at household level. Distance to water sources for domestic as well as for livestock is expected to increase with drying up of the few shallow wells along river beds leading to overstretching of pipeline water and breakdowns for boreholes. Increased trekking distances in search of water and pasture will have its toll on livestock body condition as well as reduced water consumption for households. Poor livestock body condition will lead to poor prices in the market. Milk availability at household level will decline as a result of reduced forage and

worsening, which in turn will negatively impact on the nutritional status of children Household stocks are expected to be depleted and majority of households will access foodstuffs from the market. Cereal prices are expected to rise. Therefore, with lower livestock prices and high food prices, food access at household level will be compromised due to eroded purchasing power. However, the onset of the rains is expected to be timely but will not change the household's food security phase classification and is likely to remain in "Stressed" (IPC phase 2).

5.3 Food security outcomes for May, June and July

The March –April – May rains are expected to be below average, though the open water sources will be recharged partially leading to availability of water for both livestock and domestic use. The rainfall performance will be adequate for pasture regeneration but inadequate for crop production. Therefore rangeland conditions will remain below average. Milk production is expected to increase and boost the nutrition of the under fives. Overall livestock productivity is expected to improve with improved pasture and browse. Households are expected to rely on the markets for food stuffs as minimal harvest is expected. Overall, no change is expected in the food security classification and is likely to remain in phase 2.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS

6.1 Conclusion

6.1.1 Phase classification

The current food security situation in the county is stable, though on a declining trend. The marginal mixed livelihood zones are more affected in terms of severity when compared to the mixed farming livelihood zones. The indicative food security phase classification for both livelihood zones is stressed (phase 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, the action is required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods.

6.1.2 Summary of the findings

The onset of the 2017 short rains was late and the cessation was early. Spatial distribution was uneven while temporal distribution was poor. The rains were erratic and torrential in nature. Household stocks are minimal and only in the mixed farming zones. However, traders have bridged the gap and are holding stocks above their LTA. The current terms of trade are stable, they are within the LTA thereby boosting 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 March. Availability of water for both livestock and domestic use is affected by water rationing from schemes, breakdown of boreholes, bursting of supply piping as well as drying of most open water sources. Nutritional status for children below five years is stable and within the LTA.

6.1.3 Sub-county ranking

Table 12: Sub-County Ranking

Sub County	Food security rank (1-10)	Food security threat
Mwingi North	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor crop production • insecurity incidences • livestock migration • poor pasture • livestock diseases • Long distances to water
Mwingi Central	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor crop production • ,insecurity incidences • livestock migration • poor pasture • livestock diseases • Long distances to water
Kitui South	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • insecurity incidences • Long distances to water • poor pasture,
Kitui East	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecurity incidences • Long distances to water • poor pasture
Kitui Rural	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low harvest realized • Long distances to water
Mwingi West	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low harvest realized • long distances to water
Kitui West	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low harvest realized • moderate distances to water
Kitui Central	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate harvest realized

7.0 ANNEXES

7.1 Ongoing Interventions

7.1.1 Food interventions

Sub County	Ward	Proposed range of population in need of food assistance
Mwingi Central	Nguni	35-40
	Mui	30-35
	Nuu	30-35
	Waita	15-20
	Central	5-10
	Kivou	15-20
Kitui South	Ikanga/Kyatune	15-20
	Mutomo	15-20
	Mutha	25-30
	Kanziko	25-30
	Ikutha	25-30
	Athi	20-25
Kitui East	Zombe/Mwitika	25-30
	Nzambani	5-10
	Kyuluni	5-10
	Voo/Kyamatu	30-35
	Endau/malalani	35-40
	Mutitu Kaliku	20-25
Mwingi North	Ngomeni	35-40
	Tseikuru	30-35
	Kyuso	30-35
	Mumoni	20-25
	Tharaka	20-25
Kitui Rural	Kisasi	5-20
	Mbitini	5-10
	Kwa vonza/Yatta	20-25
	Kanyangi	25-30
Mwingi West	Kyome/Thaana	20-25
	Kyomo/Kyethani	25-30
	Nguutani	25-30
	Migwani	5-10
Kitui West	Mutonguni	5-10
	Kauwi	25-30
	Matinyani	5-10
	Kwa-mutonga/Kithumula	10-15
Kitui Central.	Miambani	5-10
	Township	2-5
	Kyangwithya West	15-20
	Kyangwithya East	5-10

	Mulango	10-15
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7.1.2 Non-food interventions

Intervention	Objective	Specific Location	Cost	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation Time Frame	Implementation stakeholders
Agriculture						
Promotion of Climate resilient agriculture for increased income.	Increase community resilience to drought.	All wards in the 6 sub-counties.	63M in 3 years	5,534HHs	Ongoing	Caritas And County Gvt.
Promotion of climate resilience and climate adaption project	Increase community resilience to drought.	Ngomeni and Nguni wards	27M in 3 years	2,530 HHs	Ongoing	Caritas And County Gvt.
Promotion of green grams and Sorghum production and marketing through conservation agriculture.	Improved Food security at HH level.	Endau/Malalani , Zombe/Mwitika, Mutitu/Kaliku and Voo/Kyamatu Wards.	100M	5,600 HHs	Ongoing	CEFA, SASOL And County Gvt.
Excavation and lining of farm ponds for water harvesting in crop production.	Improved Food security at HH level.	Nguni, Nuu, Mui, Ngomeni, Kyuso and Tseikuru.	20M	1500 HHs out of which 26 are lined.	Ongoing	Ndma, Wfp, Action Aid And County Gvt.
Small scale irrigation along the river beds	Improved Food security at HH level.	Nguni, Nuu, Ngomeni, Kyuso and Tseikuru.	18M	10,000 HHs	Ongoing	Ndma, Wfp, Action Aid And County Gvt.
Promotion of Conservation agriculture	Increased productivity and income	40 wards	100M	13,000 farmers in 523 groups	Ongoing till 2018	FAO And County Gvt
Promotion of small scale	Increased productivity	40 wards	1Billion	17,000HHs	Starting 2017	FAO And

production, aggregation and marketing of drought tolerant crops.	y and income				to 2 020.	County Gvt
Pasture preservation for improved livestock production.	Improved Food security at HH level.	Nguni, Mui, Ngomeni, Kyuso and Tseikuru.	1M	5,000 HHs	On-going	Ndma, Wfp, Action Aid And County Gvt.
Excavation of Maruru earth pan in Ukasi for improved nutrition through home gardening	Improved Food security at HH level.	Nguni ward	5M	2000HHs	Excavation complete.	Ndma, Wfp, Action Aid And County Gvt.
Medium-Long term						
Intervention	Objective	Specific Location	Cost	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation Time Frame	Implementation stakeholders
Provision and distribution of improved high yielding sorghum seeds for increased crop production in 36 wards	Improved income and food security at HH level	36 wards	1,824,400	3,303 farmers	On-going	County gvt
Provision and distribution of sorghum and millets value addition and utilization disc mills.	Enhanced sorghum and millet utilization Improved food, nutrition security and incomes.	4 wards	997,000	130 farmers	On-going	County gvt
Promotion of sorghum and millet production and marketing through KCEP-CRAL project.	Increased crop production and farm income	All wards	14,745,000	983 farmer in Mwingi central and Mwingi	On going	County gvt and national gvt.

	Improved food and nutrition security at HHs level.			North		
Promotion of small scale horticultural production through SIVAP project-(Small scale irrigation and value addition project)	Increased crop production and farm income Improved food and nutrition security at HHs level	Mwingi central, Migwani and Mutonguini	71M	3000 farmers	2011-2021	County gvt and national gvt.
Intervention	Objective	Specific Location	Cost	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation Time Frame	Implementation stakeholders
Livestock						
Supply of assets in form of goats, chickens, and donkeys	Close to 300 households to benefit from 777 goats, 200 chickens, and 70 donkeys	All Wards	3,600,000	300 HH	Oct2017-Feb 2018	Care International Kenya (Funded by IFAD and National Govt)

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

7.2 Recommended Interventions

7.2.1 Recommended Food interventions

Sub County	Ward	Proposed Range (%)	Modality
Mwingi North	Ngomeni	35-40	CFA/FFA
	Tseikuru	30-35	CFA/FFA
	Kyuso	30-35	CFA/FFA
	Mumoni	20-25	FFA
	Tharaka	15-20	FFA
Mwingi Central	Nguni	35-40	CFA/FFA
	Nuu	35-40	CFA/FFA

	Mui	30-35	CFA/FFA
	Waita	15-20	FFA
	Central	10-15%	CFA
	Kivou	20-25	FFA
Mwingi West	Kyome/Thaana	20-25	CFA
	Kiomo/Kyethani	25-30	CFA
	Nguutani	30-35	CFA
	Migwani	5-10%	FFA
Kitui West	Mutonguni	5-10%	FFA
	Kauwi	25-30	FFA
	Matinyani	5-10%	FFA
	Kwamutonga/Kithumula	15-20	FFA
Kitui South	Ikanga/Kyatune	15-20	CFA/FFA
	Mutomo	20-25	CFA/FFA
	Mutha	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Kanziko	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Ikutha	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Athi	20-25	CFA/FFA
Kitui East	Zombe/Mwitika	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Nzambani	5-10%	FFA
	Chuluni	5-10%	FFA
	Voo/Kyamatu	30-35	CFA/FFA
	Endau/Malalani	35-40	CFA/FFA
	Mutitu/Kaliku	20-30	CFA/FFA
Kitui South	Ikanga/Kyatune	15-20	CFA/FFA
	Mutomo	20-25	CFA/FFA
	Mutha	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Kanziko	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Ikutha	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Athi	20-25	CFA/FFA
Kitui East	Zombe/Mwitika	25-30	CFA/FFA
	Nzambani	5-10%	FFA
	Chuluni	5-10%	FFA
	Voo/Kyamatu	30-35	CFA/FFA
	Endau/Malalani	35-40	CFA/FFA
	Mutitu/Kaliku	20-30	CFA/FFA
Kitui Rural	Kisasi	5-10%	CFA/FFA
	Mbitini	5-10%	CFA/FFA

	Kwavonza/Yatta	20-30	CFA/FFA
	Kyangi	30-35	CFA/FFA
Kitui Central	Miambani	5-10%	CFA/FFA
	Township	5-10%	CFA/FFA
	Kyangwithya West	15-20	CFA/FFA
	Kyangwithya East	5-10%	CFA/FFA
	Mulango	10-15%	CFA/FFA

Recommended for Education Sector

Term	Item	Quantity per pupil per day (grams)	Number of Days per term	Total (Kg) per pupil	Total Number of Pupils	Total Amount (kg)
Terms I	Cereals	150	70	10.5	225813	2371036.5
	Pulses	40	70	2.8	225813	632276.4
	Salt	3	70	0.21	225813	47420.73
	Oil	5	70	0.35	225813	79034.55
	Total	198	280	13.86	903252	3129768.18
Terms II	Maize	150	70	10.5	225813	2371036.5
	Beans	40	70	2.8	225813	632276.4
	Salt	3	70	0.21	225813	47420.73
	Oil	5	70	0.35	225813	79034.55
	Total	198	280	13.86	903252	3129768.18
Terms III	Maize	150	60	9	225813	2032317
	Beans	40	60	2.4	225813	541951.2
	Salt	3	60	0.18	225813	40646.34
	Oil	5	60	0.3	225813	67743.9
	Total	198	240	11.88	903252	2682658.44

7.2.2 Recommended non- food interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
All 8	36 wards	Provision and distribution of improved high yielding sorghum seeds for increased crop production in	Farmers 100,000 farmers	County gvt, National gvt and other partners	Human, Land and capital	Human and land	From March 2018

		36 wards					
All 8	39 wards	Provision and distribution of sorghum and millets value addition and utilization disc mills.	Over 4,000 farmers	County gvt, National gvt and other partners County gvt	Human, Land and capital	Human and Land	From January 2018

Livestock

Sub-Country	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Mwingi North	Tharaka Kyuso Tsiekuru ngomeni	Relief hay and Range cubes	700HH	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 7,000,000)	Kshs 100,000	Feb March 2018
	Tsiekuru Ngomeni Kyuso	Vaccinations,CCPP, CBPP Internal worm control	12,000 head of cattle 30,000 goats	CGOK	Transport Vaccines (Kshs 900,000)	Nil	March 2018
	Kyuso Ngomeni Tsikuru	Rehabilitation of denuded rangelands	450HH	CGOK	Transport Training funds Seeds (Kshs 4,000,000)	Nil	June 2018 to November 2018
Mwingi Central	Nguni Mui	Relief hay and Range cubes	500HH	GOK CGOK Partners	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 5,000,000)	Nil	March 2018
	Nuu Nguni Kivou	Vaccination black quarter and anthrax	15,000 head of cattle	FAO CGOK SDL	Transport Vaccines (Kshs 1,500,000)	Kshs 200,000	February
	Nguni Nuukivou	Rehabilitation of denuded rangelands	250HH	CGOK Partners	Transport Training funds	Nil	June 2018 to July

					(Kshs 3,000,000)		2019
Mwingi West	Nguutani Kyome/Thaana	Relief hay and Range cubes	2500 head of cattle	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 800,000)	Nil	Feb March 2018
Kitui West	Kauwi Ithumula/Kwa Mutonga	Relief hay and Range cubes	2,700 head of cattle	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 900,000)	Nil	Feb March 2018
Kitui Rural	Kisasi Yatta/Kwa/Vonza Kanyangi	Relief hay and Range cubes	900 head of cattle	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 300,000)	Nil	Feb March 2018
Kitui Central	Kavisuni Kyangwithya West	Relief hay and Range cubes	200HH	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes		Feb March 2018
Kitui East	Endau/Malalani Voo/Kyamatuu Mutitu/kaliku Zombe/mwitika	Relief hay and Range cubes	13,000 head of cattle	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 7,000,000)	Nil	Feb March 2018
	Voo/Kyamatuu Zombe/Mwitika	Vaccination against CCPP, Anthrax and black quarter	9,000 head of cattle	CGOK	Transport Vaccines 1,470,000	500,000	February 2018 March 2018
Kitui South	Mutha Kanziku Ikutha	Relief hay and Range cubes	14,000 head of cattle	GOK CGOK	Transport Hay Range cubes (Kshs 5,000,000)	Nil	Feb March 2018
	Mutha Kanziku Ikutha	Vaccination against CCPP, CBPP, Black quarter	7,000 head	CGOK	Transport Vaccines (Kshs 1,500,000 0	Nil	March 2018

	Kanziku Ikutha Mutomo	Rehabilitation of denuded rangelands	150HH	CGOK	Transport Training funds (Kshs 5,000,000)	Nil	June 2018 to July 2019
Sub- County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficia ries	Proposed Implemen ters	Requir ed Resour ces	Availab le Resour ces	Time Frame
Water and Sanitation							
	Kyangi	Athi –Kyangi – Kiseuni w/s	20000	CGOK/ PARTNER S	925M	625M	2014- 2017
Health and Nutrition							
All	All Wards	Upscale integrated out reaches	5,000	C G MoH &S and partners	5 million	Feb to June 2018	5,000
All	All Wards	Upscale BFCI activities	247 villages (1,180,307)	C G MoH &S KRCS UNICEF NHP plus	12 million	Feb to June 2018	247 villages (1,180,3 07)
All	All Wards	Health and Nutrition Disease surveillance	247 villages (1,180,307)	County Government MoH &S and partners	3.5 million	Feb to June 2018	247 villages (1,180,3 07)
All	All Wards	Health and Nutrition Education	354,756	County Government MoH &S and partners	2 million	Feb to June 2018	354,756