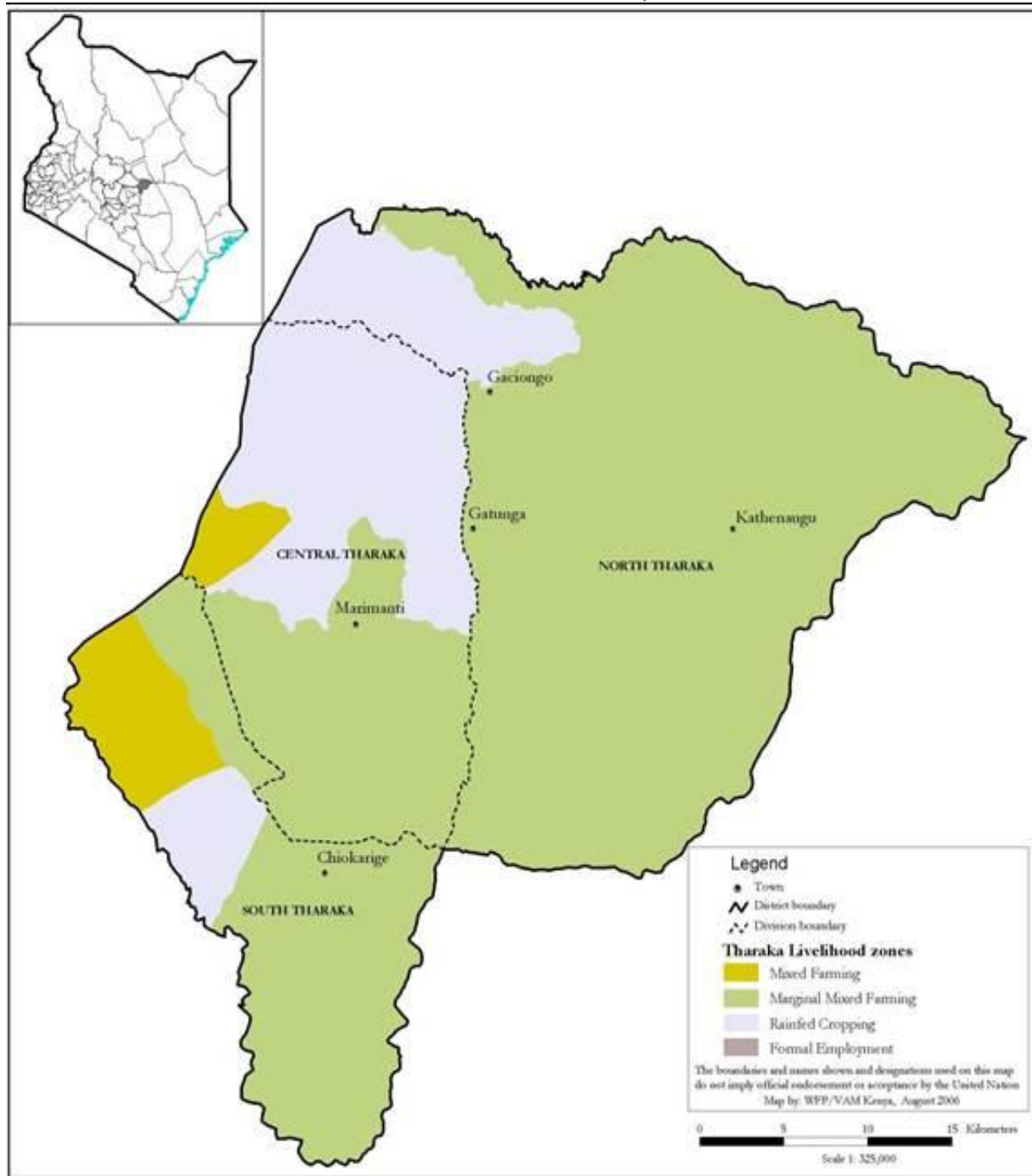


THARAKA SUB-COUNTY
2013-14 SHORT RAINS FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT
10TH - 14TH FEBRUARY, 2014



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Background Information

Tharaka-Nithi County is located in the former eastern province and lies between latitude $00^{\circ} 07'$ and $00^{\circ} 26'$ South and between longitudes $37^{\circ} 19'$ and $37^{\circ} 46'$ E. The county borders the Embu county to the South West, Meru county to the North East, Kirinyiga and Nyeri counties to the West and Kitui county to the South East. The assessment coverage included Tharaka North and Tharaka South sub-counties. The two sub-counties cover an area of 1,569 square kilometres (km^2) with a total population of 130,098 people (2009 census) and has seven divisions namely: Tharaka Central, Nkondi and Turima, Mukothima and Gatue, Tharaka South and Tunyai. The sub-counties have three main livelihood zones (LZ) namely; Mixed farming (MF), Marginal Mixed Farming (MMF) and Rain-fed Cropping (RF) with population proportion of 38 percent, 52 percent and 10 percent respectively as shown in figure 1.

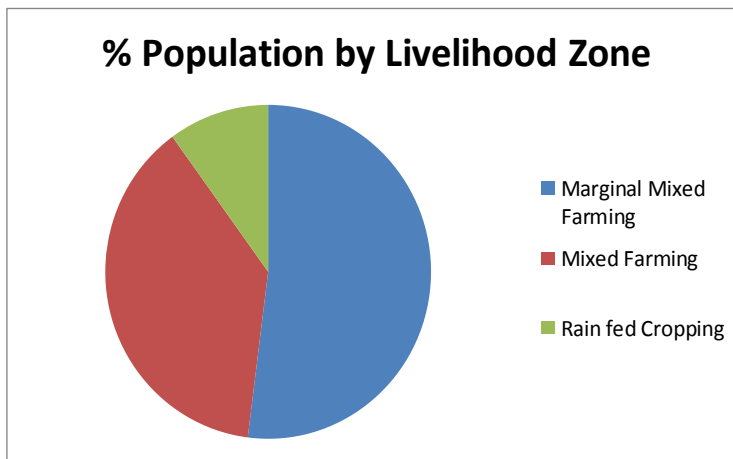


Figure 1: Tharaka Nithi County Population by Livelihood Zone

1.2 Current Factors Affecting Food Security

The current factors affecting food security in the county include;

- Poor performance of the short rains
- Poor quality pasture and browse
- Conflicts along the Meru-Tharaka borders
- Late planting as a result of late onset of rains.
- High maize prices.

2 COUNTY FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

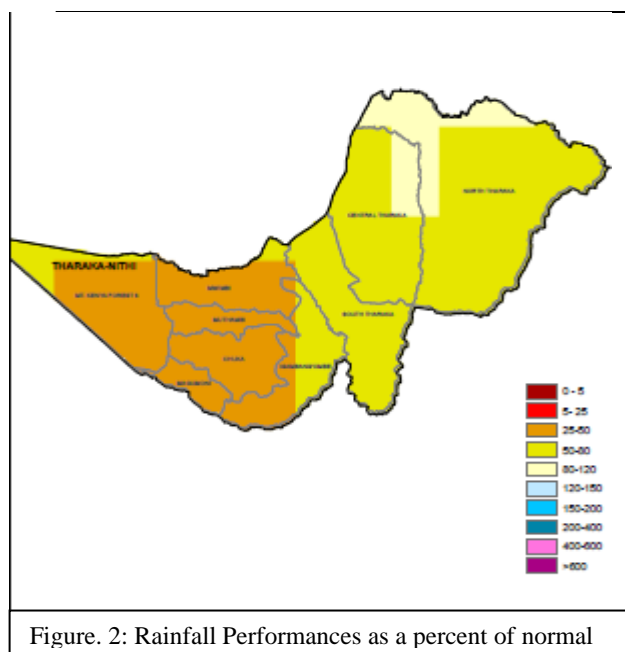
2.1 Current Food Security Situation

The current integrated food security phase classification (IPC) for Tharaka sub-county is stressed. Expected yield of maize in the sub-county is 22 percent below the long term averages (LTA). High food prices, declining terms of trade, fair to poor pasture condition which is quickly getting depleted. Water consumption per person per day has decreased from 20 litres per person per day to 15 litres. Households are consuming two meals per day and the dietary diversity is three food groups. The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition is 8.8. Milk availability and consumption is a litre per household in the rain-fed cropping livelihood zone, while in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones the consumption is 0.5 litres. The mean coping strategy score for December stands at nine.

2.2 Food Security Trends

The sub-county was classified under minimal phase for the rain fed cropping livelihood zone and stressed phase for the marginal mixed farming zone after the 2013 long rains assessment. The sub-county has however remained under stressed phase in the marginal mixed farming zones and deteriorated from minimal to stressed phase in the mixed farming and rain-fed livelihood zones. Performance of the 2013 short rains was below normal. Maize production has declined from 53,360 bags in the last season to the current 17,080 bags. Maize prices have gone up from Ksh. 26 recorded in August last year to the current Ksh. 40 per kilo. Terms of trade have declined by 24 percent compared to August 2013. Livestock body condition has not significantly changed since August last year. Water consumption has declined by 25 percent from 20 litres per person per day reported six month ago to 15 litres per person per day. Household food stocks stand at slightly above 7,000 bags compared to over 44,000 bags in August last year. Household dietary diversity has remained the same at 3-4 food groups with majority of households having 1-2 meals per day. Percentage of children at risk of malnutrition increased from 8.4 in August to 8.8 currently. Distances to water sources have increased from 4-6 km in the marginal mixed farming zones to 6-8 km and from 1-3 km in the mixed farming zones to 2-4 km as compared to the last six months.

2.3 Rainfall Performance



Tharaka Nithi County receives a bimodal rainfall but is a short rains dependant for both rain fed and irrigated agriculture as it recharges some of the furrows used for irrigation. The short rains contribute to 64 percent in terms of crop production in the county.

The rains onset was late; in the first dekad of November, compared to the first dekad of October. Rains received were unevenly distributed in space with the eastern part of the county covering Tharaka north, central and south receiving between 50-80 percent of normal. The western part of the county namely; Muthambi, Chuka, Mwimbi and Magumoni received between 25-80 percent of normal rains as illustrated in figure 2. Pockets in Tharaka north got normal to near normal amounts between 80-120 percent of normal rains. The

County's mean rainfall amounted to 224.72 mm during the period under review. Temporal distribution was poor with the county averagely having 13 wet days. The rains cessation was normal (third dekad of December).

2.4 Current Shocks and Hazards

Among the current shocks and hazards are; the prevailing conflict along the Meru-Tharaka border that hinder cross border trade thereby limiting access to food and non-food items from the neighbouring county, high temperatures that are accelerating the rate of evaporation in the open water sources, increased deterioration of the available pasture in quality and quantity and the off-season rains that are likely to cause aflatoxin thereby resulting in losses.

3 IMPACT OF RAINFALL PERFORMANCE, SHOCKS AND HAZARDS

3.1 Crop Production

Tharaka County is short rains dependant as they account for 64 percent of food production in the county. As such, farmers usually put more land into production as they anticipate good rains and better yields.

Major crops cultivated in the county are maize, sorghum and green grams under rain-fed agriculture and bananas, pawpaws and karella under irrigated agriculture. Green grams and cowpeas contribute 40 and 20 percent respectively to cash income in the marginal mixed farming zones, while okra and karella are the main crops contributing to cash income in the mixed farming zone at 36 and 15 percent respectively. In the rain-fed livelihood zone millet contributes 40 percent to cash income followed by green grams at 17 percent. The main contributor to food basket is maize at 50 percent in the rain-fed cropping livelihood zone and 40 percent in the mixed farming livelihood zone while in the marginal mixed farming zone, millet contributes 50 percent to food.

Table 1: Area planted under rain-fed production of three major crops

Crop	Area planted during 2013 short rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average area planted during the short rains seasons (Ha)	2013 short rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected/actual	Long Term Average production during short rains seasons (90 kg bags)
1. Maize	8,500	7,840	17,080	63,600
2. Sorghum	10,900	5,550	25,100	70,000
3. Green grams	8,650	7,625	20,400	65,150
Total	28,050	21,015	62,580	198,750

Under rain-fed agriculture, the area planted for maize was 108 percent of the LTA, 196 percent of the LTA for sorghum and 113 percent of the LTA for green grams. The huge increment in area planted especially for the sorghum is attributed to massive campaigns for gadam sorghum in the area by brewing industry. Green grams are the main source of income in the marginal mixed farming zones and hence the increment in the area planted as illustrated in table 1 above.

Production of Sorghum and Green grams under rain-fed declined and fell below the LTA at 64 and 67 percent respectively. Maize production upon harvest is expected to decline by about 73 percent based on projection against LTA. The low production is attributed to poor performance of the short rains that led to drying up of the crops at flowering stage especially green grams and maize.

Table 2: Crop production under irrigated agriculture

Crop	Area planted during the 2013 short rains season (Ha)	Short Term Average (3 years) area planted during short rains seasons (Ha)	2013 short rains production (90 kg bags) Projected / actual	Short Term Average (3 years) production during short rains season (90 kg bags)
1.Bananas	800	445	5,000 MT	9,000 MT
2.Pawpaw	320	240	800 MT	500 MT
3.Karella	30	20	740	730
Total	1,150	705	//////////////////// ////////////////////	//////////////////// ////////////////////

Area planted under irrigated agriculture equally recorded an increase compared to the short term average (STA). The increase is attributed to the expectation of good rains as the area is short rains dependant. Area planted for bananas, pawpaw and karalla was 180, 133 and 150 percent of the STA respectively. Production however, declined for bananas with 56 percent of the LTA realized due to water stress since most water pans and furrows supplying water had dried-up. There was a marginal increase in production for karella by one percentage, while pawpaw recorded 60 percent increase compared to the STA as shown in table 2 above. Increase in area planted does not match the corresponding increase in production due to the drying up of some of the furrows used for irrigation.

Table 3: Maize stocks in the county

Food stocks held by	Quantities of maize held (90-kg bags)	Long Term Average quantities held (90-kg bags) at similar time of the year
House Holds	7,400	39,000
Traders	2,700	4,300
Millers	-	-
NCPB	-	-
Total	8,100	43,300

There was recorded decline in maize stock held by different actors in the county. Household maize stock stands at 19 percent of the LTA which is partly carry over from the last season and purchases from the market as harvest is yet to take place. Traders are currently holding 63 percent of the LTA as stock. It is important to note that there are no millers and National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) in the sub-county and therefore the gap caused by the low yields is bridged by traders through the markets.

3.2 Livestock Production

Major livestock species kept in the sub-county are cattle, sheep and goats. Livestock Production (including meat, milk, hides, skins, and by products) contribute about 40 percent to food and income in the marginal mixed farming, 15 percent in mixed farming and 10 percent in the rain-fed cropping livelihood zones of the sub-county.

3.2.1 Forage Condition

Currently, the condition of pasture is fair and tending to poor in the marginal mixed farming zones and fair in both mixed farming and rain fed livelihood zones. Normally the condition would be good at this time of the year in all the livelihood zones. It is also deteriorating both in quality and quantity due to the prevailing high temperatures that lead to faster drying and scarcity. Browse condition is fair across all the livelihood zones but is below normal at this time of the year which is usually good. The forage is expected to last for 1-2 months across all the livelihood zones. Crop residue is supplementing livestock feed which is normal at this time of the year across all the livelihood zones. The off season rains of February are expected to regenerate pasture and browse.

3.2.2 Livestock Productivity

Livestock Body Condition

Apart from cattle which are in fair to good body condition in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, all other main livestock species are currently in good body condition across all livelihood zones. Livestock body condition is normal at this time of the year. The situation can be attributed to the hitherto fair pasture and browse condition. The trend is likely to deteriorate as the forage becomes poor both in quality and quantity and as the distance to pastures increase.

Birth Rate

Birth rates for the small stocks are high which is not normal at this time of the year. The situation has been caused by the late kidding/lambing attributed to delayed onset of the short rains season that affected the heat cycles.

Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs)

Average tropical livestock units per household are currently 2-6 compared to a normal of 2-8 held at the same time the previous year. A drop in TLUs means a drop in cash income from sale of the livestock and livestock products hence affecting household's purchasing power. The average household TLUs are currently 1.5 for the poor compared to the normal 3 and 3 for the middle class compared to 5.5 at the same period in 2010 which was considered a good year.

Milk Availability, Consumption and Cost

Milk availability at house hold level is one litre in the marginal mixed and mixed farming livelihood zones compared to the normal of 0.5 litres at this time of the year. In the rain fed cropping livelihood zones, the availability is three litres compared to the normal of 1.5-2 litres.

The current average milk consumption per household is one litre in both mixed farming and rain-fed zones compared to the normal of 0.5 litres at this time of the year. The increased availability of milk at household level has led to more milk for consumption. A litre of milk is currently selling at Ksh. 40 per litre at farm gate which is the normal price at this time of the year. Demand for milk is increasing and the supply from the county cannot sustain the demand forcing traders to source it from outside the county and sell at Ksh. 60 per litre.

3.2.3 Water for Livestock

Current sources of water for livestock are permanent rivers, boreholes, shallow wells, pans and piped water, which are the normal sources. The current trekking distances are 6-8 kilometres in the marginal mixed farming zones and 3-4 kilometres in the mixed farming zones. The distances are normal at this time of the year. The distances are likely to increase as more open water sources dry up due to high day time temperatures. Currently, the frequency of watering is once per day for all livestock species across all the livelihood zones.

3.2.4 Migration

Currently, there is no out migration of livestock into or out of the county. Normal dry period grazing patterns are going on in the marginal mixed farming zones. The situation reported is normal at this time of the year.

3.2.5 Livestock diseases and mortalities

Currently, there is no disease outbreak and unusual livestock mortalities reported. The main endemic diseases in the two districts are Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Trypanosomiasis and Heart Water disease which are commonly found in the marginal Mixed farming livelihood zones affecting majorly Cattle and Goats. Other common diseases are Helmenthiasis, Pneumonia and Anaplasmosis. In poultry, the common diseases are Fowl typhoid and Infectious bronchitis.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

3.3.1 Major Water Sources

Water sources for domestic use are rivers, shallow wells and piped water systems. Normally, other sources such as springs, dams/pans, sand dams and water harvested from rock and roof catchments are also used at this time of the year.

2013 long rains recharged all the water sources in the county, however, due to the prevailing high daytime temperatures, only the permanent rivers, shallow wells some dams and pans and piped water systems are operational. The marginal mixed farming livelihood zones have low areas of water point concentration, due to drying up of most of the sources. These water sources serve about 35 percent of the population. Water in the dams and pans is expected to last until the end of February compared to normally when it lasts up to March.

3.3.2 Distances to Water Sources

The current distance to water points for domestic purpose varies from 6-8 km in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone compared to the normal of 4-6 km. The distances range from 2-4 km in the mixed farming zone compared to the normal of 1-3 km at this time of the year. In the rain fed livelihood zones, the distances increased from the normal of 2 km to 4 km. The increase in distances has led to a decline in the consumption per person, as the number of trips made to the water points has reduced.

3.3.3 Waiting time at the source

The current waiting time varies between 15 and 30 minutes at the shallow wells and piped schemes compared to the normal of 13-20 minutes across the livelihood zones. However, there is no waiting time at the rivers. Water usage has not been affected by waiting time at the source.

3.3.4 Water consumption and cost

Currently water consumption per person per day is 15 litres compared to the normal 20 litres in all the livelihood zones. However, some areas Kathangacini in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone have recorded the lowest consumption of 10 litres per person per day. The drop in consumption can be attributed to increased distances to water sources. Reduced water consumption has a direct implication on food security as less water is available for drinking and food preparation which affects food utilization.

The current cost of water ranges from Ksh. 3-5 per 20 litres jerry-can at the water kiosks and boreholes in the mixed farming and rain-fed cropping livelihood zone. However, vendors sell water as high as Ksh. 10 per 20 litres jerry-can in the rain-fed livelihood zone of Nkondi and up

to Ksh. 35 per 20 litres jerry-can in the marginal mixed farming zones of Kathangacini. The cost is normal at this time of the year. Households obtain water for free from the perennial rivers.

3.3.5 Hygiene and Sanitation

Water contamination has been reported in the mixed farming livelihood zone of Karocho location especially where typhoid and amoeba have been reported. About 30 percent of the households in the region practice open defecation which contaminates the open water sources when it rains predisposing the households to water borne diseases.

Water treatment chemicals are not available at household level across all the livelihood zones. Only about 30 percent of households in the mixed farming and rain fed zones treat their water and about 10 percent boil the water. In the marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, about 45 percent of the households boil water for drinking. Food handling and hygiene practices in the community remain poor. Over 50 percent of the households in all the livelihood zones do not wash their hands after visiting latrines. There is a direct relationship between the current prevalence of water borne diseases, sanitation and hygiene practices as they are caused by upstream water contamination. Latrine coverage is currently at 67 percent.

3.4 Markets and Trade

3.4.1 Market Operations

The main markets in county are Chiakariga, Marimanti, Gatunga, Kathangacini and Tunyai. There were no market disruptions and the operations are normal. The situation is likely to remain stable in the next six months.

3.4.2 Market Supply and Traded volumes

Market supply sources for livestock and livestock products are from within the county with 80 percent from farmers within the county while 20 percent is from the traders from the various sub counties. Due to the below normal maize harvest, traders are bridging the gap with imports from Meru County. Commodity supply in the market is declining and so are market provisions in the three livelihood zones. No distress sales were reported in all the livelihood zones. The traded volumes for both livestock and staple food stuffs including maize and cow peas are low across all the livelihood zones compared to normal. Livestock and green grams sales are driven by search for school fees.

3.4.3 Commodity demand

Livestock demand is lower than normal partly due to low purchasing power and the fact that most of the farmers are taking their livestock to the market for school fees. The Foodstuff commodity demand is higher than supply. Over 90 percent of the households in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone are buying their food from the market compared to 60 percent normally, whereas in the mixed farming livelihood zones, 40-50 percent of the population is buying food from the market compared to the normal of 20-25 percent. In the rain fed zones 80 percent of the households are purchasing their food from the markets compared to the normal of 40-50 percent.

3.4.4 Market Prices

Goat Prices

Price of a goat has increased marginally across all the livelihood zones from October 2013 to the present. The average price of a goat as of December 2013 was Ksh. 2,630 which is 70 percent above the LTA of Ksh. 1,548 as shown in figure 3. The marginal mixed farming livelihood zone reported the highest price at Ksh.2,700 as compared to Ksh.2,420 in rain fed cropping livelihood zone and Ksh. 2,500 in the mixed farming livelihood zone.

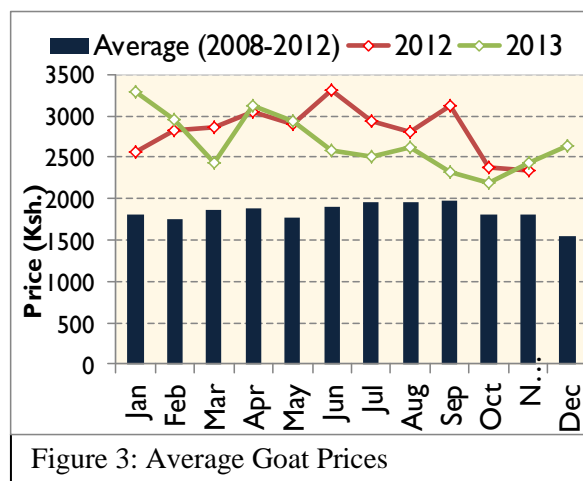


Figure 3: Average Goat Prices

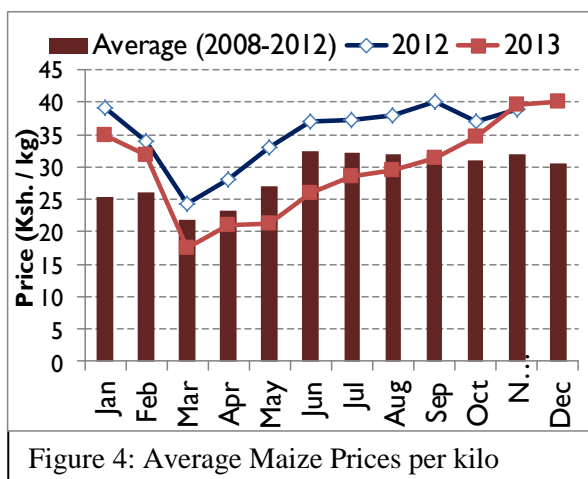


Figure 4: Average Maize Prices per kilo

Maize Prices

Average maize price is Ksh. 40 compared to Ksh. 35 same period last year per kilogramme and 29 percent above the LTA of Ksh. 31 as indicated in figure 4. In the mixed farming zones where harvest has started, the price is Ksh. 38 compared to the normal Ksh. 33 per kilo.

3.4.5 Terms of Trade

The current terms of trade are unfavourable and continue to decline from the month of April but are almost with the LTA. The declining terms of trade is attributed to the rising maize prices. Currently, the sales of one goat can purchase 66 kg of maize compared to 149 kg of maize in the last season in April as shown in figure 5. The terms of trade are expected to worsen in the next three months as the prices of maize are expected to rise due to the low yields expected.

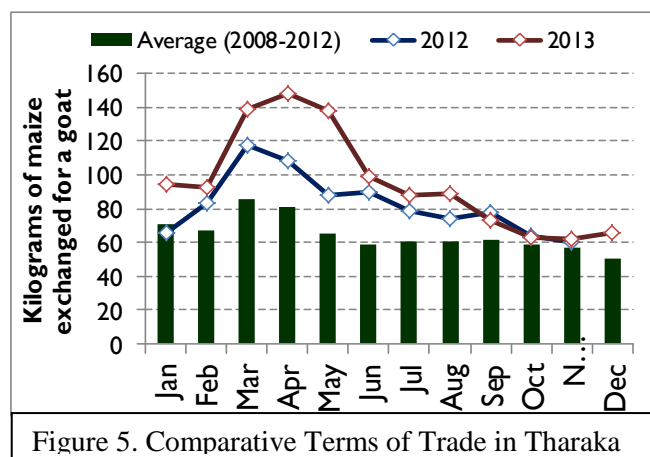


Figure 5. Comparative Terms of Trade in Tharaka

3.5 Health and Nutrition

3.5.1 Morbidity and Mortality Patterns

Five top common diseases affecting the general population are: malaria, respiratory infections, rheumatism and joint pains, wounds and eye infections. The major causes of morbidity for under

five are: diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory diseases, pneumonia, worms and diseases of the skin. There were several cases of measles outbreaks in the sub-county which is due to some religious doctrines (*Kabonokia Faith*) and many hard to reach areas.

3.5.2 Immunization and Vitamin A Supplementation

Coverage for the fully immunized children (FIC) in the County increased from 23 percent to 41 percent for the period between July to December 2013, compared to same period in 2012. The increase is attributed to more health seeking behaviour from the community. Vitamin A supplementation for 6 to 11 months has improved by 58 percent from 1,184 to 1,876, while for children aged 12 to 59 months improved by 41 percent from 2,720 to 3,848 compared to the same period in 2012. The increase is attributed to immunization campaigns against polio and measles; where the supplement is provided in addition.

3.5.3 Nutrition Status and Dietary Diversity

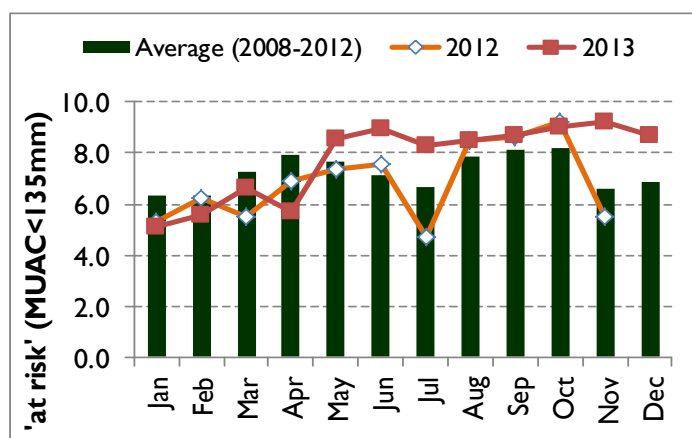


Figure 6: Percentage of Children at Risk of malnutrition (MUAC)

Nutrition status of under-five has slightly declined. The percentages of children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC data) for December is at 8.7 percent compared to the LTA of 6.9 percent as shown in figure 6. The declining trend is attributed to decreased food accessibility and high incidences of infectious diseases namely; intestinal worms and diarrhoea. Highest proportion of children at risk was recorded in the marginal mixed farming at 17.7 percent while lowest was in mixed farming livelihood zone at 3.4 percent.

3.6 Education

Table 4: Trends of School enrolment, attendance and drop out in Tharaka sub-county

Indicator	Term I-2013		Term II-2013		Term III -2013		Term 1-2014		Please elaborate on data for each indicator
	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	Boys (Nos.)	Girls (Nos.)	
Total School enrolment	19504	19026	19831	19832	19683	20279	19773	20394	
School attendance	19304	18806	19750	19731	19480	20061	19713	20314	
School dropout	200	220	81	101	203	218	60	80	

3.6.1 Enrolment

Tharaka sub county which comprises Tharaka North and Tharaka South districts have a total enrolment of 40,165 pupils in school comprising of 19,773 boys and 20,394 girls. The number of girls enrolled in school exceeds that of boys but as they progress to upper primary more girls than boys drop out of school. Enrolment improved slightly by 4.1 percent compared to same period last year where only 38,530 pupils were enrolled.

3.6.2 Drop Out

Dropout rate is very minimal at 0.3 percent recorded for boys while girls recorded slightly higher rates than boys at 0.4 percent. More girls tend to drop out of school as they approach upper primary due to early pregnancies and search for quick cash where they engage in cheap domestic labour. In some instances there were reported cases of transfers from one school to another. Among the reasons cited for the transfers were; presence of school meals programmes in some schools which attract more pupils especially during drought, school performance and staffing of teachers.

3.6.3 Transition

Transition from Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) to primary is good at 90 percent while that of lower primary to upper primary stands at 70 percent. Transition rate from primary to secondary has improved but still low and stands at 50 percent. The low transition rates to secondary were attributed to lack of school fees and the difficulties in accessing the bursaries.

3.6.4 School Meals Programme

There 65 schools in the county that are under home grown school meals programme (HGSMP) targeting 20,210 pupils. Some pupils were reported to miss meals in schools due to delay in fund disbursement, delay in delivery of food and poor road networks which hinder access.

3.7 Coping Mechanisms

The county's current mean coping strategy score measured for the non-beneficiaries in December is 13 compared to 15 same period in 2012. The common coping mechanisms employed by households include; reduced meal ratios, increased reduction in number of meals, and borrowing from friends and relatives.

3.8 Current Interventions

3.8.1 Food Interventions

- School Feeding Programme targeting 20,210 pupils in the county.
- Iron folate supplementation among pregnant women
- Food fortification

3.8.2 Non-Food Interventions

Table 5: Ongoing non-food sectoral interventions

Intervention	Objective	Specific Location	Cost (Ksh.)	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation Time Frame	Implementation stakeholders
Agriculture						
Promotion of dry land farming technologies	Promotion of drought tolerant crop varieties and water harvesting technologies	Thiiti, Ntoroni	15 M	2800 Farmers	December 2014	MOA/KARI
Livestock						
Livestock Insects Pests Management & Control supported	Reduction in cases of Vector-borne diseases and mortalities caused by the Vector-borne diseases.	Marimanti, Nkondi Chiakariga Gatue Mukothima	0.74 M	523	Continuous	Community Livestock Spraying groups , KenTTEC DVO
Up grading of Poultry for meat and eggs production	Improved egg production, availability and growth rates hence positive impact on nutrition and economy.	Marimanti Nkondi	Kshs.1.2 M	90	February, 2014 to January, 2015	Livestock production department and KARI Katumani
Sensitization of farmers on better animal husbandry	Improve milk, eggs and meat production.	Gatue and Mukothima	Kshs.0.6 M	2,500	Feb 2014-Jan 2015	Livestock production department and other stakeholders
Health and Nutrition						
Vitamin A Supplementation	Reduced childhood illness	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Nkondi Chiakariga	0.55 M	21,690 children U-5	March-May 2014	MOH
Zinc Supplementation	Reduced childhood illness	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Nkondi Chiakariga	0.45 M	6106 children	Continuous	MOH
Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	Reduced malnutrition cases	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Nkondi	0.7 M	7,000 children and adults	Feb-May 2014	Ministry of Health

		Chiakariga				
IYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementary Foods)	Reduced childhood illness	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Nkondi Chiakariga	0.35 M	7,080	Feb-June 2014	MOH, APHIA PLUS KAMILI PLAN Kenya
Iron Folate Supplementation among Pregnant Women	Reduced maternal mortality rates	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Nkondi Chiakariga health	1.5 M	3,000 women of productive age	Continuous	MOH, APHIA PLUS KAMILI PLAN Kenya
De-worming and food fortification	Reduced intestinal worms, malnutrition and other diseases	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Nkondi Chiakariga	0.6 M	6,000	Feb-March 2014	MOH

3.9 Divisional Ranking

Table 6: Ranking of division in order of food insecurity severity.

Sub-county	Divisional Ranking (1=Most food insecure,7=Least food insecure)	Main food security threats
Gatue	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Rainfall performance • Poor pasture • Poor road Network • Poor crop performance leading to low yields • Low stocks • Increased trekking distances to water points • Increased food prices • Late delivery of funds for the SMP
Tharaka South	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor pasture • Poor Rainfall performance • Poor road Network • Poor crop performance leading to low yields • Low stocks • Increased trekking distances to water points
Tharaka Central	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor pasture • Poor Rainfall performance • Poor road Network • Poor crop performance leading to low yields • Low stocks • Increased trekking distances to water points
Turima	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border conflicts • Poor Rainfall performance

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor road network • Infestation of aphids
Tunyai	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Rainfall performance • Poor road network • Infestation of aphids
Nkondi	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Rainfall performance • Low yield • Infestation of aphids
Mukothima	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor road network • Infestation of aphids • Poor Rainfall performance

4 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

Prognosis assumptions are based on the following facts:

- Performance of the long rains will be normal or near normal.
- Cereal prices will go up due to below normal harvest expected.
- Market operations will be normal with no disruptions.
- Expected harvest will be only 22 percent of the long term averages.

4.2 Expected Food Security Outcomes: First 3 and last 3 months

The food security situation in the county is projected to deteriorate across all livelihood zones but will remain in the stressed phase. Households' dietary diversity is projected to drop to 2-3 food groups with most household consuming 1-2 meals per day. No major livelihood change is expected in the next six months but most households especially in the marginal mixed farming zones are expected to employ insurance coping mechanisms like skipping meals, reduction in meals portions among others. Nutritional status is projected to worsen in the first three months as milk availability at household level reduces. As distance to water increases and frequency of watering reduces, the livestock body condition are expected to deteriorates leading to low productivity and low market prices. Less or no livestock product will be available at the household level affecting the nutrition especially of the under five children. Low livestock prices coupled with increase in cereal prices will lead to unfavourable terms of trade thus affecting purchasing power of most households.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion statement

5.1.1 Factors to Monitor

- Market prices for both food and livestock prices.
- High diurnal temperatures resulting to faster drying up of open water sources
- Conflict along Meru –Tharaka border.
- Off season rains that are likely to affect crops causing aflatoxin.

5.2 Summary of Recommendations

- Promotion of post harvest grain management and preservation at community level

- Repair, rehabilitation and revival of dams and irrigation schemes.
- Vaccination of Goats against CCPP, PPR and poultry against NCD and Fowl typhoid
- Sensitization of Farmers on better Livestock Husbandry and alternative livestock enterprise.
- Sensitization on the importance of fodder preservation and controlled grazing.
- Upgrading for Meat and Milk in Cattle and Goats through Artificial Insemination and purchase and distribution of Galla and Toggenburg goats.
- Rehabilitation and power installation of Nkondi Solar shallow well.
- Construction of pipeline (3km) from Ngonya secondary school to Nkundi primary school and extension of Karaani-Makomongo-Mwerera Primary pipeline (15km)
- Polio and Measles Surveillance at all high Load facilities and ECDE Centers
- Support to Mobile outreach immunization
- Sensitization on hygiene and sanitation at household level
- Growth Monitoring Sites of 7 community Units
- Expansion of School Meal Programmes
- Provision and installation of water storage tanks to 5 primary schools
- Junior Farmer’s Field Site (JFFS) - Kitchen garden green houses food supplement projects)

6 ANNEXES

6.1 Annex 1: Food Interventions Required

Having assessed the impact of the short rains on various sectors, the team recommends increasing the current number of the beneficiaries, to range from 0 to 10 percent of the county population. The modes of intervention proposed are food for assets (FFA) and general food distribution (GFD).

Table 7: The percentage range of the population in need of food assistance

S/No.	Sub-County	Population in need (% range min – max)	Proposed mode of intervention
1.	Gatue	5 - 10	FFA/GFD
2.	Tharaka South	5 - 10	FFA/GFD
3.	Tharaka Central	5 - 10	FFA/GFD
4.	Turima	5 - 10	FFA/GFD
5.	Tunyai	0 - 5	FFA/GFD
6.	Nkondi	0 – 5	FFA/GFD
7.	Mukothima	0 – 5	FFA/GFD

6.2 Annex 2: Non-Food Interventions Proposed

Table 8: Proposed Cross Sectoral Non-Food Interventions

Division	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Agriculture							
Tharaka North	Promotion of post harvest grain management and preservation at community level	Gatue Mukothima	12144	MOA, NDMA County Govt, PLAN Kenya WFP, RIDEP Compassion Int. EUCORD	Kshs 0.5M.....	Technical personnel, vehicles	Feb-March 2014
Tharaka North	Rehabilitation and revival of Ngongoaka irrigation scheme	Ntoroni, Mukothima	11,500	MOW County Govt, CDF UTa NRMP	Kshs...1.5M Kshs 6M.....(Works)	Technical personnel, vehicles	2014/15
Livestock							
Tharaka South&North	Sensitization of farmers on Livestock Management (On-farm destocking) and better livestock husbandry	Chiakariga Marimanti Gatue	1,200	County Government, Veterinary Department, Caritas Meru, NDMA, CDF	Kshs. 4.0M	Personnel	February to April, 2014
Tharaka South&North	Vaccination of Goats and sheep against CCPP, PPR	Marimanti Nkondi Chiakariga Gatue Mukothima	6,000	County Government, DVO, NDMA, CDF	Kshs.2.7M	Personnel	February to April, 2014
Tharaka South &North	Sensitization of Farmers and Traders on better Livestock and crop marketing strategy through formation of associations, cooperatives and market linkages.	Mukothima Gatue Chiakariga Nkondi Marimanti	270	-County government -Livestock Production -Ministry of trade ,Industrialization and cooperative development -NDMA -ASDSP	Kshs. 1.1 M	Personnel	2014/15
Education							

Tharaka North	Water Trucking to schools and Institutions	Gatue	16,953	County Govt NDMA CDF PLAN Kenya	Kshs 4.05M		Feb-May 2014
Tharaka North	Provision and installation of water storage tanks (24,000ltrs) to 5 primary schools	Gatue	2,000	County Govt NDMA CDF PLAN Kenya	Kshs 2.0 M		Feb-May 2014
Tharaka North	JFFS(Kitchen Garden Green Houses Food Supplement Projects)	Mukothima	6,000	County Govt NDMA CDF PLAN Kenya	Kshs 0.8M		Continuous
Tharaka North	Energy Saving Jikos in schools	Gatue	6,000	County Govt NDMA CDF PLAN Kenya	Kshs 3.0M		Feb-April 2014
Health and Nutrition							
Tharaka North& South	Polio and Measles Surveillance at all high Load facilities and ECD Centers	Gatue Mukothima Marimanti Chiakariga Nkondi	35,000	County Govt, MoH, NDMA, Plan Kenya DEO	Kshs 1.25M	Personnel Transport	April-Dec 2014
Tharaka North& South	Support to Mobile outreach immunization	Gatue Mukothima Kamanyaki, Karocho, Mbachacha	40,000	County Govt, MOH, PLAN Kenya APHIA PLUS KAMILI CHILD FUND	Kshs 1.95M	Personnel Vaccines	Feb-Dec 2014
Tharaka North	Growth Monitoring Sites of 7 community Units	Gatue Mukothima	4,000	County Govt, MOH, PLAN Kenya APHIA PLUS KAMILI	Kshs 0.8M	Personnel Transport	2014/15
Tharaka South	Supplementary feeding for severely malnourished children	Marimanti Chiakariga Nkondi	3.7-5 % of population	County Govt, MOH, PLAN Kenya	Kshs 3.6M	Vehicles Motorbikes	Feb-May 2014

Tharaka South	Nutrition survey	Marimanti Chiakariga Nkondi	3.7-5 % of population	County Govt, MoH, NDMA PLAN Kenya Aphia-Plus Kamili, Red Cross	Kshs 3.5M	Personnel Transport	Feb-April 2014
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