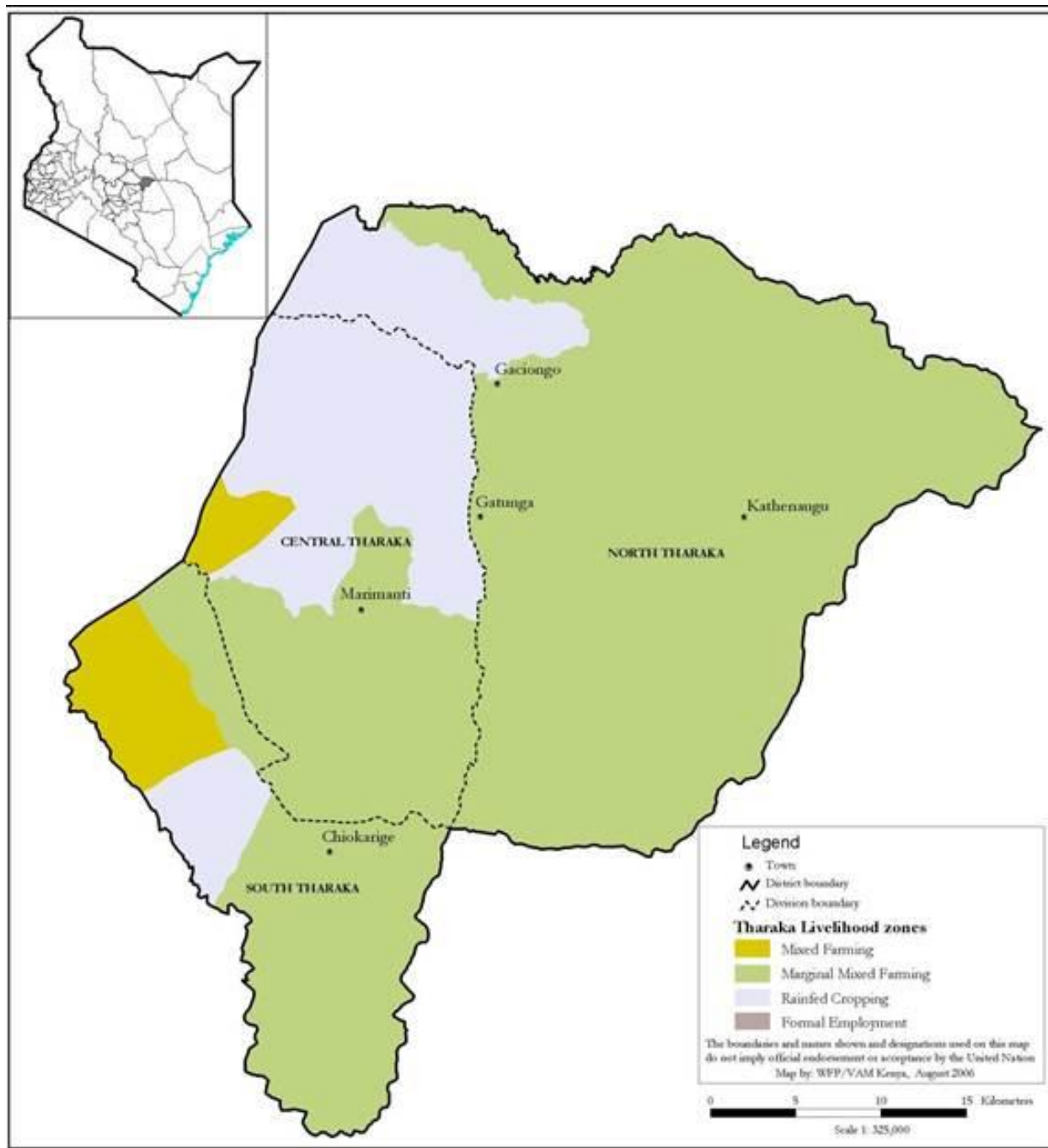


THARAKA NITHI COUNTY (THARAKA NORTH AND SOUTH) 2014 SHORT RAINS FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



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

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 County Background Information

Tharaka-Nithi county is located in the Eastern Kenya and lies latitude 00° 07' and 00° 26' South and longitudes 37° 19' and 37° 46' E. It borders 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. This assessment covered Tharaka constituency comprising of Tharaka North and Tharaka South sub-counties which are semi-arid. Tharaka constituency covers an area of 1,569 square kilometres (km²) with a total population of 130,098 people (2009 census). The constituency borders Meru north to the north, Mwingi/Kyuso to the East, Meru/Imenti central to the west and Meru South and Mbeere to the south.

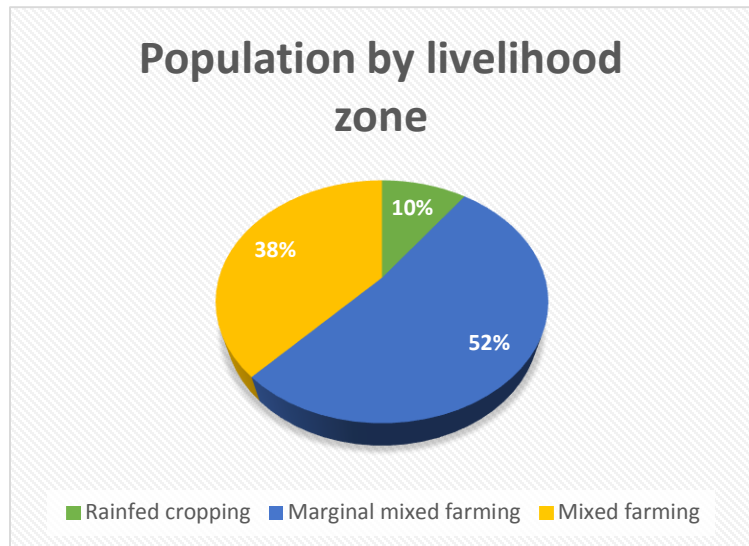


Figure 1: Population proportion by livelihood zone

Rainfall in Tharaka county ranges between 500mm and 1000mm. Temperatures in the lowland area ranges between 22° to 36° Centigrade. There are three livelihood zones; mixed farming, marginal mixed farming and, rain-fed cropping. Marginal mixed farming represents 52 percent of the total population while 10 and 38 percent is in the rain-fed cropping and mixed farming livelihood zones respectively. The region is traversed by several rivers, which originate from Mt. Kenya and Nyambene Hills, flowing eastwards as tributaries of Tana River. They include Mutonga, Thingithu, Kathita, Thanantu, Thangatha and Kithinu. The region comprises of low, hilly, stony and sandy marginal lowlands with fair forest cover.

1.2 Current Factors Affecting Food Security

The current factors affecting food security in the sub-county include;

- Low livestock prices
- Poor performance of the short rains
- Poor quality of pasture and browse
- Poor crop production
- Inadequate water for irrigation, livestock and domestic use
- Poor range management practices

2.0 County Food Security Situation

2.1 Current Food Security Situation

Current, integrated food security phase classification for Tharaka county is none or minimal (IPC Phase 1) for marginal mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zones. Rain fed livelihood zone is at stressed (IPC Phase 2). The current terms of trade are 79 kilogram of maize/goat which is 9 percent above the Long Term Average (LTA). Distance to domestic water sources have increased by an average of 2 kilometres (kms) across all livelihood zones. Prevalence of

underweight children has gone down to 10 from 13 percent in 2013, while the children at risk of malnutrition who's Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement was below 135mm maintained a stable trend from 7.2 in November to 7.7 in December. Livestock body conditions are good while trekking distances have increased from the normal of five, to eight kilometres. Milk production has reduced by an average of one litre. Livestock watering frequencies are currently done on alternate days. Expected yields are 18 - 46 percent for cereals and 20 - 50 percent for legumes compared to the LTA.

2.2 Food Security Trends

The sub-counties were classified under minimal phase for rain fed cropping livelihood zone and stressed phase for the marginal mixed farming zone after the 2013 short rains season. During the 2014 long rains assessment the food security phase classification was none or minimal (IPC Phase 1) for the rain fed livelihood zones and stressed (IPC Phase 2) for the marginal mixed farming and mixed farming zones. The assessment of 2014 short rains season performance classifies rain fed as stressed (IPC Phase 2) and marginal mixed and mixed farming as minimal (IPC Phase 1). However there are possibilities of the latter deteriorating to stressed phase in the next one month due to the following factors; drying up of rivers and water holding structures, breakdown of operational water points due to over use, low milk production, increase in distances to watering points and deteriorating terms of trade. The prevalence of malnutrition has been on decrease compared to 2013.

Rainfall Performance

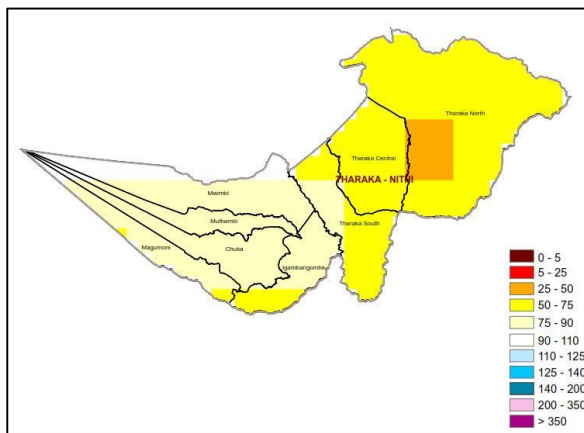


Figure 2: Short Rains Performance

Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties receive a bimodal rainfall. The short rains season is more dependable to crop production as compared to long rains season. There was a false start in the second dekad of October that was followed by a dry period to the last dekad of the month. Rains resumed in the first dekad of November followed by another dry period. The cessation was early in first dekad of December as opposed to the normal third dekad. The season was therefore characterized by poor temporal distribution and total amounts remained between 50 – 75 percent of normal in most parts as highlighted in figure 2.

2.3 Current Shocks and Hazards

The current shocks and hazards affecting Tharaka County (Tharaka North and South) are

- Illegal abstraction of rivers by upstream users
- Drop in season crop yield
- Congestion at water points and long distances in search of water for livestock and domestic use

3.0 Impact of Rainfall Performance, Shocks and Hazards

3.1 Crop Production

The main crops are maize, sorghum, green grams, millet and cow peas across all livelihood zones. Maize contributes eight and 20 percent food in marginal mixed and rain fed zones respectively while green grams contribute 40 percent income and 10 percent food in marginal mixed zones. The season crops performed poorly for early planters across all livelihood zones, where crops wilted before maturity at podding stage for pulses and booting stage for cereals. Expected harvests are between 18 - 46 for cereals and 20 - 50 percent for legumes. For late planters, pulses were lost at flowering stage while cereals at knee height. Early planted legumes in localised areas of Kibunga, Gatunga and Maragwa are currently being harvested in small scales.

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

Crop	Area planted during the 2014 Short rains season (Ha)	Short Term Average (STA) area planted during the Short rains season (Ha)	2014 Short rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected/Actual	Short Term Average production during the Short rains season (90 kg bags)
Maize	7950	7840	11938	63600
Sorghum	9750	5550	31950	70000
Green grams	10800	7625	15600	68550

Achieved acreage for the season recorded approximately 1.4, 76 and 42 percent increment above the STA for maize, sorghum and green grams respectively. Improved acreage was in anticipation for a good season as outlined by 2014 short rains season weather outlook. Some private firms had previously provided ready market for sorghum products thus encouraging more farmers to shift to sorghum farming while good prices was the reason for green maize farming uptake. Projected season yields of about 19, 46 and 23 percent of STA are expected for maize, sorghum and green grams respectively. The yields were affected by poor season rains and use of uncertified seeds. Short rains harvest, expected yield will be low by 30 and 24 percent for maize and green grams and high by 27.3 percent for sorghum respectively compared to 2013.

Table 2 Crop production under irrigated agriculture

Crop	Area planted during the 2014 Short rains season (ha)	Short Term Average (3 years) area planted during Short rains season (ha)	2014 Short rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected/actual	Short Term Average (3 years) production during 2013 Short rains season (90 kg bags)
Banana	1000	445	8000	9,000
Papaya	400	240	1000	500
Maize	500	300	1200	730

Irrigation uptake in the region increased by 25 percent for bananas and 67 percent for papaya and maize compared to the STA. Papaya is mainly an intercropping crop. Rise in acreage was in anticipation for good fruits and green maize markets.

Projected yields from irrigated agriculture are expected to be good at 89 percent for bananas, papaya by two fold while maize will exceed that of the Short Term Averages (STA) by 64 percent. However, irrigation programs and schemes might be affected by drop in river flows due to over abstraction upstream and rationing. Main irrigation schemes are Nguru gakhirwe, Kamatungu sithigiri, Turima and Ruungu/Karocho.

Table 3 Maize stocks in the County

Maize stocks held by	Quantities held currently (90-kg bags)	Short Term Average quantities held (90-kg bags) at similar time of the year
House Holds	1700	39000
Traders	1600	4300
Millers	0	0
NCPB	0	0
Total	3300	43300

Stocks held accounted for 4.4 and 37 percent of STA for households and traders. Reported stocks were low by 82.6 and 84.6 percent respectively compared to August 2014. Poor harvests after the 2014 short rains contributed to low stocks held by both households and traders.

3.2 Livestock Production

Cattle, goats and sheep are the main livestock in the region contributing to 25, 50 and 75 percent income sources in mixed farming, rain fed and marginal mixed farming zones respectively. The main livestock products are meat, milk, hide and skin and other by-products. Poultry is also available across all livelihood zones.

Pasture and Browse

Pasture and browse condition is good and adequate across all livelihood zones consisting of natural grass in marginal mixed zones and crop residues coupled with natural grass in rain fed zones. Crop residues in rain fed zones supplement on feeds. The sub county realized 80 percent of the expected short rains which was sufficient to support regeneration. Available pastures are adequate to last until long rains onset even though they are on a deteriorating trend due to ongoing hot and dry conditions though there is currently no observed or reported hindrances to pasture access. Current season had good pasture conditions compared to six months ago when it was poor in marginal mixed zones and fair in rain fed zones and could barely last for one month.

Livestock body condition

Body conditions were good for all species which is normal for the period under review. Current conditions are attributed to access and adequate good quality pastures. However, it was noted that drying of major rivers in marginal mixed zones, led to congestion at functional water sources like boreholes and water kiosks. For this reason, water needs for the swelling livestock volumes could hardly be met resulting to increased trekking distances for watering. Such unprecedented conditions will impact on body conditions negatively. During the long rains season of 2014,

body conditions were worse with cattle having fair to poor conditions and shoats had good to fair conditions.

Milk Availability

Milk production for the month was 0.5 - 1 litres in mixed farming, 1.5 litres in rain fed and three litres in marginal mixed farming zones compared to three, 3 - 4 and 5 - 6 litres in mixed farming, rain fed and marginal mixed farming respectively. A litre of milk was selling at Ksh 40 at farm gate which is normal while at markets the cost was Ksh 60 up from Ksh 50 normally.

Milk Consumption

Household consumption has slightly reduced to 0.5 - 1 litre in mixed farming and 1.5 litres in rain fed zones down from three litres normally. Marginal mixed livelihood zones had normal consumptions of three litres. Consumption is mainly pegged on production and ability to purchase. During the long rains season of 2014, consumption of 0.25 - 0.5 litres was reported.

Tropical Livestock Units (TLU)

Tropical livestock unit for the sub county was 2.5 down from three normally. In marginal mixed zones holding of 2 - 20 cattle and 15 - 80 shoats was reported. However, about 30 percent of the household had no livestock. Rain fed zones had holding of 1 - 5 cattle and 4 - 10 shoats.

Water for Livestock

Major water sources for livestock were rivers and piped water in rain fed zones and traditional river wells, rock catchments and boreholes in marginal mixed zones. Over abstraction of rivers by upstream users led to low or no flows downstream forcing majority of rain fed livestock to join those of marginal mixed zones at various shared watering points. There has been congestion and over use of various water points which has led to break down of some and longer waiting time in others. The current, return distance stands at 8 - 10, 4 - 6 and 2 - 3 Kms in marginal mixed farming zone, Rain fed zones and mixed farming zone respectively. Watering is currently being administered in intervals of two days as compared to daily normally. Current distances were low as compared to 10 - 12 kilometres and approximately two kilometres in marginal mixed farming and rain fed zones respectively six months ago. Waiting time at the water points in the marginal mixed farming zone has increased from 45 minutes to an hour depending on livestock volumes and yields. No livestock migration was reported during the period under review.

Birth rates, Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

Birth rates are normal however few as it is currently off season for kidding, calving and lambing. There were no disease outbreaks in all the livelihoods. However tick borne diseases were more prevalent which include; anaplasmosis, babesiosis and helminthiasis in cattle, pneumonia, heart water and helminthiasis in goats and ectoparasitism and coccidiosis in poultry.

3.3 Water and Sanitation

Major water sources for domestic and livestock use in marginal mixed farming are rivers, boreholes, piped water, water dams/pans, sand dams and water harvested from rock catchments. In rain fed livelihood zone the main water sources were; rivers, boreholes, shallow wells, piped water system and roof catchment. Although boreholes, shallow wells, rock catchment, dam and

pans had water, they were not sufficiently recharged following poor performance of the short rains. Rivers such as Thingithu, Gakuuru and Thanantu have dried up due low recharge levels and further worsened by over obstruction by upstream users for irrigation purposes.

Distance to water sources

In Tharaka North, current distances to water sources are 2 - 4 Km in marginal mixed farming zones compared to the normal two. Areas mostly affected are Gatue, Kathangachini, Maragwa and Kanjoro locations. Distances in rain fed zones not covered by piped water increased from normal of one, to two kilometers while those with piped water coverage maintained a normal distance of 0.2 - 0.5 km. In Tharaka South distance to water sources in both rain fed and MMF zones is 4 - 6 km compared to normal 2-4 km. Areas hard hit in marginal mixed farming zones were Kamarandi, Kamanyaki, Gakurungu, Nkondi, Turima and Tunyai in rain fed zones. Increased distances are attributed to drying up of water sources.

Waiting time and Cost of water

In Tharaka South, waiting time at water sources increased from normal of 20 - 25 minutes. In Tharaka North, waiting time increased from normal 10 - 20 minutes to 30 - 40 minutes. Maximum waiting time was 40 minutes in Mwanyani, Marimanti, Gituma, Nkondi and Matakiri boreholes due to competition between domestic and livestock use. The cost of water was Ksh 15 - 20 per 20 litre jerrican compared to normal of Ksh 10 in rain fed livelihood zone while in marginal mixed farming was Ksh 20 - 40 per 20 litres compared to normal Ksh 10 - 20. Increase in prices is due to scarcity.

Water consumption

In Tharaka North average water consumption decreased from normal 25- 30 liters per person day to 20 - 25 litres per person per day while in Tharaka South consumption decreased from 20 litres to 16 litres per person per day. The decline was attributed to increase in cost of water and distance to water sources.

Hygiene and Sanitation

Latrine coverage increased to 63 from 59 percent in 2013. The increment was attributed to active WASH programme in the region. Water treatment and hand washing was practiced in at least ten percent of the households.

3.4 Markets and Trade

The main markets in the region are Kathangachini, Gatunga, Marimanti, Chiakariga, Mukothima and Tunyai. All markets dealt in both livestock and foodstuff. Main livestock in the markets were cattle, sheep, goats and chicken while food was maize, sorghum, millet, cowpeas and green grams. Market operations were normal during the period under review.

Market Supply and Traded volumes

The main source of maize was imports from neighbouring county of Meru. Meru markets sourced the commodity from Busia and Kitale serving as intermediary to Tharaka. Sorghum, millet, cowpeas and green grams were sourced locally from farmers. Livestock volumes were normal while locally produced foodstuff was low due poor harvest during the short rains season.

Maize volumes were high due to high imports from Meru County. Livestock volumes in the market are expected to increase in the next three months as farmers in lower zones dispose of their livestock to purchase food. Maize volumes are expected to remain high as traders continue to import from neighbouring counties to meet local demands. Over 90 percent of households across all livelihood zones were purchasing maize using returns from sale of local produce, compared to the normal 60 and 40 - 50 percent in marginal mixed farming and rain fed livelihood zones respectively.

Green grams prices

Retail price of one kilogram of green grams increased to Ksh 110 from Ksh 90 in December. However farmers relied on middlemen who acted as intermediaries to outside market despite offering low prices. As a result more was being sold to meet household needs thus depleting household stocks faster than normal.

Maize Prices

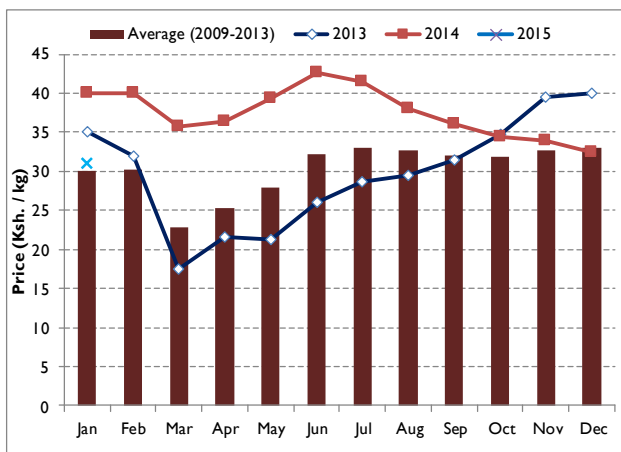


Figure 3: Trends in Maize Prices

Figure 3 shows the trends in prices of maize in 2013 and 2014 compared to the LTA. Prices in 2014 were higher than both LTA and 2013 prices until November when prices declined further to stabilize in December. Current price is Ksh 31 which is normal at this time of the year. Decline in prices over the short rains season was attributed to increase in market volumes.

Goat Prices

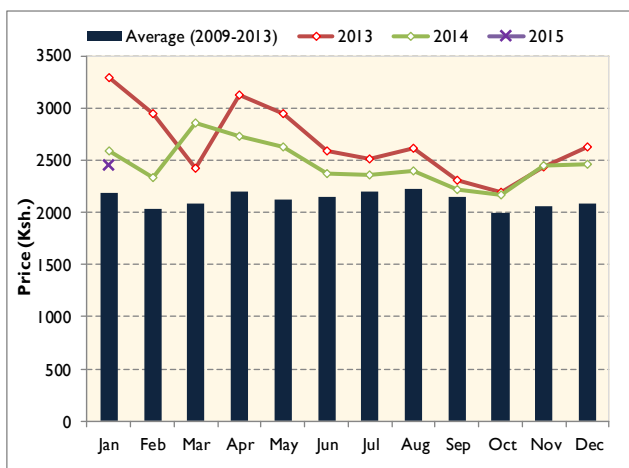


Figure 4: Trends in Goats' Prices

Figure 4 shows trends in goat prices in 2013 and 2014 compared to the LTA. In both 2013 and 2014, prices were above the LTA. Prices were on an increasing trend from October to November after which prices stabilized at Ksh 2,500 per goat. Current average price of an average size goat is Ksh 2,453 which is normal at this time of the year.

Terms of Trade

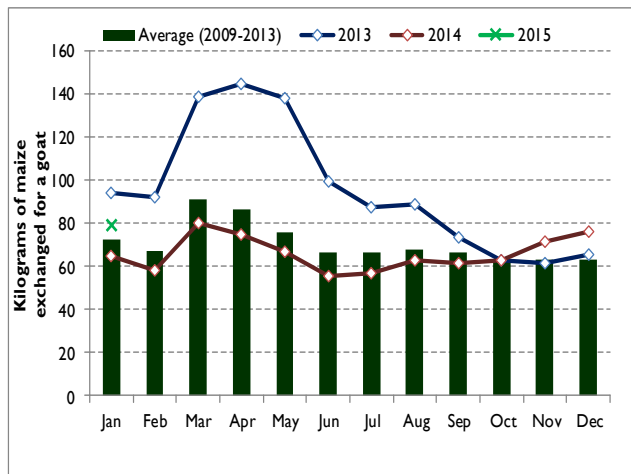


Figure 5: Trends in Terms of Trade

Figure 5 shows the trends in terms of trade in 2013 and 2014 compared to the LTA. Terms of trade in 2014 were lower than 2013 and LTA respectively until October when they were on an increasing trend. The current term of trade is a goat for 79 kg of maize which is nine percent above the LTA. The increment is attributed to a decline in maize prices

3.5 Health and Nutrition

Morbidity and mortality patterns

Top five diseases reported for the under-fives both in 2014 and 2013 were Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI), diarrhea, pneumonia, confirmed and clinical malaria. Disease incidences were on the rise except for pneumonia which decreased by 38 percent. Common ailments were URTI, skin infection, clinical malaria, rheumatism and diarrhea among the general population. Skin infections and URTI reported over 60 percent increase in 2014 compared to 2013 while cases of rheumatism reduced by 14 percent. No disease outbreaks were reported although typhoid cases increased from 809 to 1032. The county did not have any unusual deaths as reported during the focus group discussion.

Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation

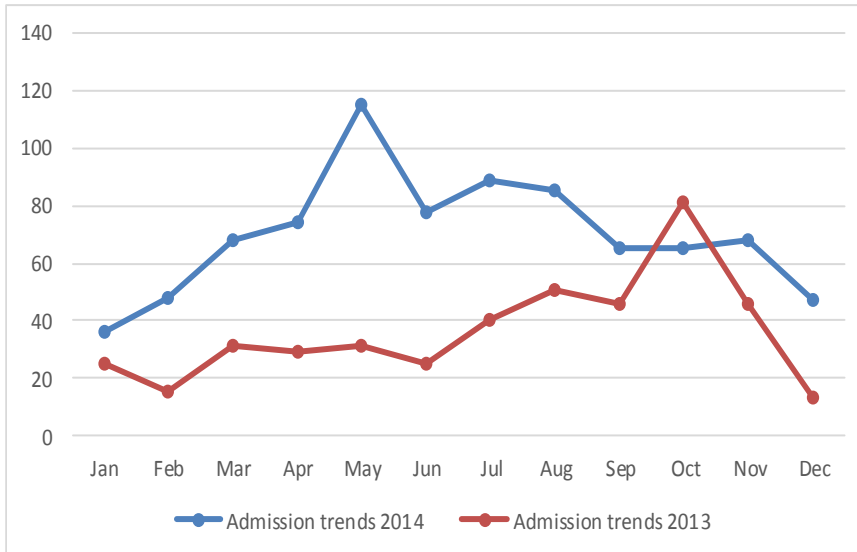
Fully Immunized Child (FIC) coverage and Vitamin A supplementation decreased to 67 and 14 percent in 2014 from 83 and 22 percent in 2013. Immunization and routine Vitamin A supplementation were below national targets of 80 percent, which could be attributed to poor documentation and two set of reporting tools in the health facilities. However during the time under review two integrated polio and vitamin A supplementation were carried out countrywide whereby 90 percent of children aged six to 59 months were supplemented and 95 percent under five vaccinated against polio.

Nutrition Status and Dietary Diversity

According to the District Health Information System (DHIS), chasis report on the prevalence of underweight children under five years in 2014 decreased to seven from nine percent previous year. Tharaka South and North sub counties had shared prevalence of 10 percent in 2014 from 13 percent in 2013 above the county average. Surveillance data from National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) similarly shows a stable trend in the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition from 7.23 in November to 7.7 in December 2014. This is attributed to active

case finding, supplementary feeding support from the health institutions and milk availability. Highest proportion of children at risk were recorded in the marginal mixed farming zone of 15.4 percent, with exception of Kanjoro and Ciakariga at 38.60 and 27.2 percent respectively. The mixed farming livelihood zone at 1.9 percent and rain fed livelihood zone at 6 percent which is above normal compared to the long-term average of 6.9 percent.

Selective Feeding Data admission Trends (SFP) Admission Trends on OTP



In selective feeding programs Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), admission trends increased by 90 percent in 2014 compared to the previous year as shown in figure 6.

The average number of meals per day for the county was 1 - 2 in all livelihood zones. The meals had low dietary diversity of 3 - 4 food groups consisting of cereals, pulses and vegetables.

Figure 6: Out Patient Therapeutic Programme admission trends

Exclusive breastfeeding is not practiced and early complementary feeding is started at two months by approximately 50 percent. Food security outcome monitoring December 2014 report indicates that Food Consumption Scores (FCS) at household level (south eastern marginal region) is currently at three percent, five percent and 92 percent for poor, borderline and acceptable levels.

3.6 Education

Enrolment

In 2014 gender equity was realized in enrolment of both boys and girls in primary schools at 49 and 51 percent respectively. Gradual increase of pupils was noted in both second and third term, this can be attributed to the continuous campaign on girl child education, enforcement of laws for free and compulsory primary education coupled with school meals programme last year. However in 2015 it is anticipated that there will be a drop due to poor harvests and irregular disbursement of Home Grown School Meal Programme (HGSMP) by the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Drop out, Attendances and Transition

School attendance was at 98 percent with drop out of two percent for both boys and girls. Drop outs is attributed to lack of School Meal Programme (SMP) in 95schools coupled with child labor and early pregnancies and marriages. Transition rates from Early Child Development Education Centre (ECDE) to primary has been stable however transition from primary to

secondary schools is likely to be negatively affected due to increased school fees and poor harvest.

School meals programme

Implementation of HGSMP targeting 65 schools in two sub counties has been ongoing targeting 13 and 52 schools in Tharaka South and Tharaka North respectively with 19,684 beneficiaries. There is need to expand the HGSMP to cover areas that have been adversely affected by poor harvest especially Maregwa and Kathangachini. Delays in disbursement of funds by the Ministry of Education, shortage of water for domestic use and firewood and non-payment of cooks by parents have led to interruption of programme. However, HGSMP has impacted positively on accessibility, retention and completion rates in local schools

3.7 Coping mechanisms

The coping strategy in the southern marginal region has improved to 23 in December 2014 from 17 in 2013 as reported in the FSOM.

3.8 Current interventions

Food Interventions

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

Non-Food Interventions

Sub County	Intervention	Specific Location	No. of beneficiaries	Implementation stakeholders	Objective	Cost	Implementation Time Frame
Agriculture							
Tharaka North	Promotion of traditional high value crops	all	2800 FARMERS	MOA/KARLO	Promotion of drought tolerant crop varieties and water harvesting technologies	5M	December 2014
Tharaka south	Relief seeds DTC	District wide	All farmers	MOA, County Government	For now implementation is very low, impact not documented	-	-
Livestock							
Tharaka North	Artificial Insemination	Mukothima	100	Veterinary Department and private sector Community Livestock Spraying groups and KenTTEC through District	Increase in Milk production, Meat production and improved income. Main goal of this intervention is to reduce cases of Vector-borne diseases and reduce mortalities	100,000	Continuous Continuous
Tharaka North	Livestock Insects Pests Management & Control through Livestock Spraying by 13 Livestock Spraying	Gatunga	347			403,000	

	groups supported by Kenya Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Council (KenTTEC) formerly PATTEC through the District Veterinary Office			Veterinary Office.	caused by the Vector-borne diseases. This has an impact in better income that can be used to purchase food. The income generated is from sell of milk and sell of Live animals that have better body conditions.		
Tharaka North	Upgrading Goats for Milk production (continuous)	Mukothima	50	Ministry of agriculture, livestock thro. NMK, Compassion Kenya, Ridep	It will improve production and availability of Milk per Household which has an impact on Nutrition of the Households	300,000.00	February, 2014 to January, 2016
Tharaka North	Upgrading local goats for meat production	Gatunga	48	WHY united	Improve production and availability of meat per household which will have impact on nutrition of the household	200,000	continuous
Tharaka North	Upgrading local chicken	Gatunga and Mukothima	214	Min. Agriculture thro. NMK	It will improve production and availability of meat and eggs per Household which has an impact on Nutrition of the Households	300,000	One year
Tharaka North	Pasture establishment and management	Gatunga	20	Upper tana natural resources management thro. FFS	Increase pasture availability hence improve body conditions	155,000	Jan-Dec. 2015
Tharaka North	Vaccination of chicken against Newcastle disease	Mukothima	2000	Individual farmers, veterinary, livestock production and TOS	Reduce deaths of chicken during this dry season since chicken major source of income for majority Tharaka community	30,000	continuous

Tharaka North	Sensitization of farmers on better Livestock husbandry	Gatunga and Mukothima wards	10000	Livestock production, plan international	Improve milk meat and egg production	300000	continuous
Health and Nutrition							
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Vitamin A Supplementation and Deworming and zinc supplementation	all	All children under 5 in sub county	MOH	Reduced deficiency of vitamin a		Twice a year
Tharaka sub-counties	Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	all	All children qualifying for management	MOH	Reduced death cases of malnutrition		continuous
Tharaka sub-counties	MIYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Introduction of complementary Foods) Iron Folate supplementation among pregnant women	all	All infants and pregnant women	MOH	Improved maternal outcomes		continuous
Tharaka sub-counties	Food Fortification		All Household members		Reduction of micronutrient deficiencies		continuous
Water							
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Rehabilitation of boreholes shallow wells 7No	Chiakariga-4No Marimanti-3 Nkondi-2	600	NDMA	-Reduced distance to water source	300,000	-
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	- Rehabilitation of boreholes/shallow wells	Chiakariga-14No Marimanti	4,200	International Aid Services	Reduced trenching distance to water source.	1.5 million	2weeks

	28No	– 9No Nkondi 5No					
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Construction of Ura-Kathangacini Water Project	Mukothima , Kathangacini, Gatue	2000 6000 1000	National Government Through Tana Water Service Board	Domestic water	400million	6 Month
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Rehabilitation of boreholes	Mukothima 8, Gatue 4,	1800	International aid services	Reduce distance to water source	600000	

3.9 Sub- County Ranking

Ranking of Sub-Counties in order of food insecurity severity

Sub County/ Ward	Food security rank (1-10)	Main food security threat (if any)
Tharaka North	1	crops failure, depleting pasture and browse, minimal household food stock, long distances to water points, drying of main water sources, poor livestock markets
Tharaka South	2	Depleting pasture and browse, minimal household food stock, crop failure, poor rainfall performance
Chuka/Igamba Ngombe	3	Over reliance on Rain fed agriculture, minimal sale of cereals stocks
Maara	4	Over reliance on Rain fed agriculture, minimal sale of cereals stocks

4.0 Food Security Prognosis

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

Hot and dry conditions are expected to persist until onset of the long rains by mid-march. Also it is expected that low river flows will continue being reported. Household purchasing power is expected to reduce as livestock prices drop although food commodity prices are expected to remain stable with ongoing imports from outside the sub county. Milk production, food stocks, number of meals taken per day and dietary diversity are expected to reduce. If the long rains come on time, food production will still be affected as majority of farmers will not afford certified seed thus recycling previous season yields. Markets will remain the main source of food supplies to majority of the households until the long rains season harvests are realized by August/September 2015.

4.2 Food Security Outcomes from March to May

Even though food security situation is normal, it is expected to worsen with time. No much is expected in agriculture sector as the season crops have failed. Households will therefore depend on markets for food supplies. Livestock sector will continue being affected as pastures deteriorate, walking distances to watering points increases, drop in milk production and market prices. In water sector, it is expected that as dry conditions continues, river flows will reduce and in some instances dry up, congestions and conflicts at water sources as livestock and human compete for scarce water commodity and breakdown occasioned by overuse. Cases of absenteeism in schools will increase as pupils skip school days to assist in household chores, search for food and water. Reduced meals per day as well as reduced dietary diversity will directly impact on the nutritional status of under-fives, aged, vulnerable and lactating mothers.

4.3 Food Security Outcomes from June to August

With the assumption that the long rains onset will be on time, above highlighted factors will be reversed. Also it is expected that high river flows will be reported. Household purchasing power is expected to increase as livestock prices rise. However food commodity prices are expected to remain stable. Milk production, food stocks, number of meals taken per day and dietary diversity are expected to increase. Households will depend on farm production as the main source of food supplies after long rains season harvests are realized in August/September 2015.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion Statement

Although the region experienced a near total crop failure, expected yields can sustain the region for 1 – 2 months. Livestock market will equally play a role to complement household purchasing power. However, a number of indicators need close monitoring. These include food stocks, prices of food and livestock, supplies at the markets, cost of water at kiosks in rain fed zones and in marginal mixed zones factors to be monitored are livestock body conditions, pasture and browse condition, resource based conflicts, migratory routes and distances to water sources for both human and livestock. Nutrition surveillance for both under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers in both livelihood zones.

5.2 Summary of Recommendations

- Accelerated livestock off take
- Repair of broken down boreholes
- Demo sites establishment on mechanized agricultural practices
- Agro forestry
- Provision of relief food to vulnerable households and the aged
- Peace building initiatives in conflict prone zones.
- Extension of school meals programme.
- Provision of water treatment chemicals
- Livestock disease surveillance
- Sensitization on hygiene and sanitation at household level
- Water user committees should be strengthened so as to reduce on delays in repairs and proper handling of water sources.

- Promotion of pastures management and conservation training at the community level.
- Increased surveillance on malnutrition and disease and conduct nutritional survey in Chiakariga and Kanjoro sentinel sites

6.0 Annexes

6.1 Annex 1. Food Intervention Required

Proposed population in need of food assistance

Ward	Population in the Sub-County	Pop in need (Percent range min – max)	Proposed mode of intervention	Remarks
Gatue/ Gatunga	25,703	20-25	FFA/GFD	Maragwa,Kathangachini, Kanjoro,Gatue,
Chiakariga	34,679	19-22	FFA/GFD	Chiakariga,GakurungaKamarandi,
Central/Marimanti	29,869	18-20	FFA/GFD	,Turima, ,Marimanti,Gituma
Mukothima	24,273	8-10	FFA/GFD	Ntoroni,Mukothima
Nkondi	15,574	8-10	FFA/GFD	Matakiri,Nkondi,

6.2 Annex II. Non-food Interventions Recommended Interventions

Division/Ward name	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Agriculture							
Tharaka North	Promotion of post-harvest grain management and preservation	all	12144	MOA,NDM A, County govt.	Fuel facilitation allowances, stationary, demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of Mar 2015
Tharaka North	Training on storage, utilization of locally produced foods	all	12144	MOA,NDM A, County govt.	Fuel facilitation allowances, Stationary, demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of Mar 2015
Tharaka North	Promotion of crop method demonstration sites(farmer field schools)	all	6500	MOA,NDM A, County govt.	Fuel facilitation allowances, Stationary, demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicloes	End of May 2015

Tharaka North	Promotion of water harvesting structures	all	12144	MOA,NDM A, County govt.	Fuel facilitation allowances, Stationary, demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of Mar 2015
Tharaka North	Construction of grain store	Gatue, mukothima	12144	MOA,NDM A, County govt.	Fuel facilitation allowances, Stationary, demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of Dec 2015
Tharaka North	Promotion of post-harvest grain management and preservation	all	12144	MOA,NDM A, County govt.	Fuel facilitation allowances, Stationary, demonstration materials	Technical personnel, vehicles	End of Mar 2015
Livestock							
Tharaka North	Livestock Insects Pests Management & Control	Mukothima and Gatue wards	149	County govt, MOALF	Ksh.217,000	Nil	Continuous
Tharaka South	Artificial Insemination	Turima, NkondiTun yai	300	Veterinary Department	Kshs. 250,000.00	Technical personnel, Vehicle	Continuous
Tharaka North	Livestock Disease and Pests Management & Control	Mukothima and Gatue wards	149	Livestock Spraying groups	Ksh.217,000	Technical personnel, Vehicle	Continuous
Water							
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Construction of check dams	Chakariga (Mtonga) Marimanti (Thingithu) Nkondi (Thanantu)	10,000	NWCPC NDMA County govt. International Aid Services Plan Kenya and other financial Agencies.	Funds 500 million	Skilled labor	1-12 months
Tharaka North and South	Rehabilitation of 20 boreholes	Chakariga 8, Marimanti 6, Nkondi	15,000	NWCPC International Aid Services	1 million	Skilled labor	1-3 months

		6		Plan Kenya and other financial Agencies			
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Construction of water pan	-Marimanti 9, Chakariga 9, Nkondi 3	6000	NWCPC NDMA County Government National Government International Aid Services PLAN KENYA	36 million	Skilled labor	2months
Tharaka North and South sub-counties	Pipeline extension	Maragua	2000	GOK County Government Donors	100,000	Skilled labor	2015-2016
Education							
Tharaka South	Water Trucking	Kamanyaki	2084	PLAN Kenya NDMA GOK	1.1M	Human resources	July-Oct 2014
Tharaka North and South	School Meal Programme	Gatue Mukothima Chiakariga Nkondi Marimanti	25900	County Government MOE	4M	Human Resources	July-February 2015
Tharaka North and South	Kitchen Garden Green Houses Food Supplement	Chiakariga Nkondi Marimanti Gatue Mukothima	14,000	County Govt NDMA CDF GRADIF RIDEP IAS	2M	Human Resources	Continuous
Tharaka North and South	Provision and installation of water storage tanks	Gatue Mukothima Chiakariga Nkondi Marimanti	14,000	County Govt NDMA CDF	5M	Human resources	July-Dec 2014
Health and Nutrition							
Tharaka North	Surveillance	Tharaka central Tharaka south	25,000	County Government MOH NDMA	1,400,000	Personnel Transport	July-dec2014

		Nkondi TurimaGatu e Mukothima		Plan Kenya DEO			
Tharaka North	Integrated outreach health services	Tharaka central Tharaka south Nkondi TurimaGatu e Mukothima	200 00	County Government MOH PLAN Kenya APHIA PLUS KAMILI	1.5M	Personnel Vaccines	July- dec2014
Tharaka North	Water treatment (aqua tabs) and sanitation at household level	-Tharaka central -Tharaka south -Nkondi -Turima - Gatue Mukothima	530 00	County Government MOH MOW NDMA PLAN Kenya Aphia-Plus Red Cross	1.0M	Aqua Tabs Personnel	July- dec2014
Tharaka North	Deworming and Vitamin A Supplement at ECD and Primary Schools (public private)	Tharaka central Tharaka south Nkondi Turima	78, 000 .	MOH County Government NDMA PLAN Kenya Aphia-Plus Kamili Red Cross	0.5M	Personnel Transport	July- dec2014