



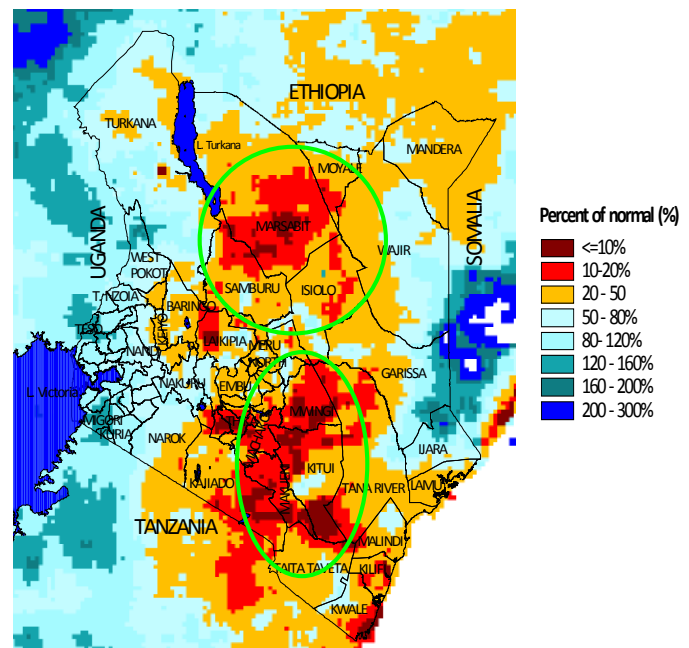
in the southeastern and coastal lowlands is precarious: The impacts of poor rains in several areas, food prices that are well above normal, and livestock loss due to conflict and disease, if not mitigated, could cause a severe deterioration in food security. Proposed food and non-food requirements need to be resourced substantially so as to avoid an upsurge in numbers of highly food insecure, and in some instances, extremely food insecure households. That said, crop production is expected to be favorable in key growing highlands that supply over 80 percent of national maize output.

### The 2009 long rains begin poorly in significant areas of marginal agricultural and pastoral areas

The 2009 long-rains season is now underway across the country. However, substantial rainfall deficits have been reported in the southeastern and northern pastoral areas, through the end of April (see green circles in Figure 2). Although the long rains is the minor season in the southeastern cropping lowlands, the failure of the just-concluded short-rains season, in addition to three or four successive poor seasons before that, make a good long-rains season necessary to avert a serious decline in food security. Rains have also been poor and below average in many parts of the pastoral areas, with a few localized exceptions of fair rains in the east and northwest. Poor rains in the pastoral areas will not only cause deterioration in food security, but will likely promote conflict, as competition for scarce grazing resources intensifies. The Kenya Meteorological Department's analysis of likely rainfall amounts for the March-May period suggests that the western and coastal corridors are likely to experience normal to above-normal rains in May, while the rest of the country will receive normal to below-normal rains.

However, rains have been fairly good in the west, around Lake Victoria, in the adjacent Rift Valley highlands commonly referred to as Kenya's grain basket. Rains also increased in the highlands around Mt. Kenya, from mid-April, through the second week of May.

**Figure 2. Rainfall Anomalies: March 11 - April 30, 2009**



Source: FEWS NET - USGS

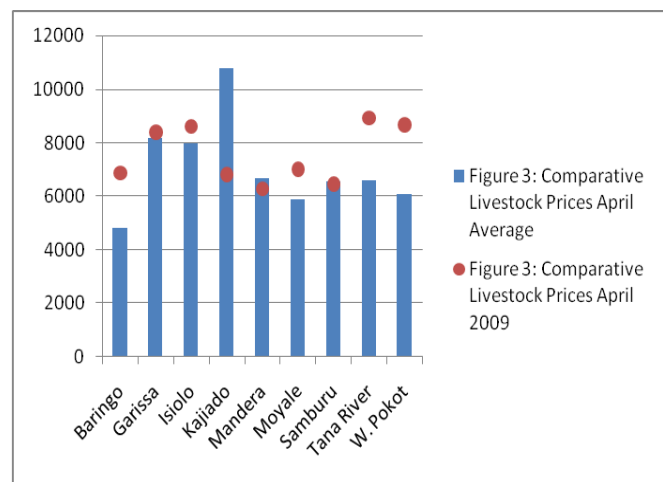
### Pastoral food insecurity likely to accentuate in drought, livestock disease, and conflict areas

The food security prospects for pastoralists in substantial areas remain worrisome. The long rains have been well below normal in several areas, with localized exceptions. The Arid Lands and Resource Management Project (ALRMP) reported at the end of April that most water sources are below their normal capacities, while browse has regenerated in the few areas where rains were received. Germination of pasture is poor in all areas largely because of prolonged drought periods that have led to the loss of viability of grass seeds. The poor condition of the pastures suggests that cattle will be the most affected, and could rapidly deteriorate in condition. The ALRMP has reported that grazing resources are unlikely to last for more than one month in the areas that have received rains, if the rains fail to continue through May; normally, these areas provide graze through August, at least. Already, pastoralists are clustering around a few areas that include the pastoral areas of West Pokot, parts of northern and eastern Garissa, southwestern Samburu, southwestern Tana River, central parts of Kajiado, northern Moyale, northern and western Mander; and northern and western Turkana, adjacent to southern Sudan and Uganda, respectively. Concentrated migrations bring to the fore the probable upsurge in livestock disease; increased likelihood of conflict over scarce resources, and rapid deterioration in resources, calling for close monitoring.

While the price of livestock — namely cattle, sheep, and goats — are on a downward trend in most pastoral districts, the prices remain above average across most of the pastoral livelihood. Livestock prices, particularly those for cattle, have declined by margins ranging 4-20 percent in most pastoral district between April 2008 and March 2009, but remain 3-40 percent above average in most of the pastoral districts except in Mandera and Samburu, where current prices are just under five percent below average. However, the decline in prices is more pronounced in the agropastoral areas of Laikipia and Kajiado, where prices are up to 40 percent below their respective averages (see Figure 3). Pastoralists tend to hold on to their livestock at the onset of any one rainy season in anticipation of improved prices. It is likely that livestock prices could quickly decline if rains are poor through the first week of June. Terms of trade are steeped against pastoralists because the price of maize is 50-180 percent higher than average in most of the pastoral districts. For example, 4.5 goats are required to purchase one 90-kg bag of maize, instead of the normal sale of 1.5 goats to purchase one bag of maize in Baringo district. The severe erosion of pastoral purchasing capacities suggests that the pastoral livelihood is hardly self-supporting at the moment.

Conflict in the northwestern pastoral districts of Turkana, Marsabit, West Pokot, and Samburu has worsened food insecurity. Pastoralists remain displaced from conflict epicenters in northern Samburu, the border areas of Turkana district, northern and eastern West Pokot, and northern Marsabit. In April, nearly 400 head of cattle were raided from Turkana pastoralists in one of an increasing number of incidents. Unfortunately, insecurity in the northwestern pastoral areas has limited recovery: markets and grazing resources remain inaccessible while delivery of interventions (food interventions, supplementary feeding programs, and school feeding programs) is severely impeded. The raids have accentuated food insecurity and slowed down recovery because the inability to access season grazing areas has forced migration into Uganda, southern Sudan, and Ethiopia. Most of the migration is unwelcome and is not supervised, promoting conflict and susceptibility to trans-boundary diseases.

**Figure 3.** Price (Ksh) per head of cattle in pastoral areas



Source: ALRMP

The proportion of children classified as “at-risk” of malnutrition (MUAC<135mm) rose in most of the pastoral districts between March and April according to ALRMP surveillance data, but tended to remain lower than average levels, with the exception of Samburu, Isiolo, and Garissa districts (Table 1). Results from a nutrition assessment carried out in Mandera and Garissa districts by Action Against Hunger in March, reported a global acute malnutrition rate of 28 percent among children under five years of age (LQAS methodology, GAM = WHZ < -2 SD) in vulnerable pastoral areas of Mandera. While this was higher than rates reported in December 2008, March is the typical hunger season in these areas and increased levels of acute malnutrition are typical. In Garissa, the GAM rate was 13 percent, a decline since December. Detailed nutrition surveys have been planned in Turkana, Marsabit, Baringo, Samburu, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, and Kwale by World Vision and the Ministry of Health (MoH), while Merlin, Save the Children UK, and the MoH will conduct a similar survey in Wajir.

Pastoral food insecurity is likely to accentuate if rains fail to establish. However, poor rainfall is but one factor exacerbating food insecurity. Other critical factors include continuing conflict that is leading to loss of lives, productive capacities and displacement; incomplete disease-control measures, especially with respect to the *Peste de Petits Ruminants* and the contagious Caprine and Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia; exceptionally high food prices that are increasingly prohibitive since livestock prices are not keeping up with the rise in cereal prices; and increasing likelihood that food and non-food interventions may not be resourced to required levels. The probable final outcome of the season will become clearer toward the tail end of the season, in early June.

## Food insecurity set to deepen in the southeastern and coastal lowlands due to likely crop failure

The southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural cropping lowlands, outside the coastal strip, have experienced very poor rains through the first week of May, with some exceptions. While the long-rains are highly unreliable, a succession of three to four poor seasons has resulted in deteriorated household food security. Cropping zones, unlike pastoral areas, are highly sensitive to the timing of rains. The absence of rains at critical development stages, such as germination, tasselling, flowering, and grain-filling usually signal substantial crop loss. Of additional concern is the fact that the next harvest is not anticipated until March 2010. Although the long-rains harvest contributes only 30 percent of total annual output in the lowlands, a series of crop failures coupled with high food prices have combined to erode household purchasing capacities. Figure 4 illustrates the increase in maize prices in nine southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural district markets. Maize prices were 80-200 percent higher than average in all nine districts in April 2009, affecting the inability of households to meet food needs, as all other income sources have declined or remained static.

Unfortunately, livelihood strategies intended to mitigate the shortfall in production and bridge the food gap are slowly eroding and increasingly detrimental. Some of the strategies that were first employed when significant gaps in food access opened up in the third quarter of 2008, are maintained still today. They include increased charcoal production, sending children into the labor force (especially in the coastal lowlands), reducing the number of meals to mostly one a day instead of three, and selling livestock at low prices to facilitate the purchase of food. Despite these strategies, as shown in Table 1, rates of child malnutrition are rising and higher than average in most of the drought-hit lowlands.

Nearly one million people are currently estimated to be highly food insecure in the marginal agricultural districts of Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Mbeere, Mwingi, and Tharaka, and an additional 300,000 in the coastal districts of Kilifi, Malindi, Lamu, Kwale, and Taita Taveta. These numbers represent 32 and 15 percent of the population of the southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, respectively. While a comprehensive set of interventions has been proposed, the resourcing level is less than 10 percent for non-food interventions and uncharacteristically low for food interventions. The following section expounds on the ongoing food intervention.

## Food insecurity for drought and conflict-affected areas likely to worsen, as a pipeline break is anticipated

The joint WFP/GoK Emergency Operation for populations affected by drought and post-election violence in Kenya finished at the end of April. The approval of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is expected in the second half of

**Table 1:** Trends in the proportion of children (12-59 months) at risk of malnutrition in selected districts

District	Proportion of children (12-59 months) at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135)				Time period for district average
	April MUAC and change compared to March 2009		April average MUAC and change in April 2009, versus the average		
<b>PASTORAL</b>					
Turkana	25.1	↑	25.9	↓	'00-'04
Samburu	21.8	↓	21.2	↑	'01-'08
Marsabit	21.5	↓	23	↓	'00-'08
Isiolo	20	↑	16	↑	'06-'08
Mandera	17.4	↑	22	↓	'05-'08
Baringo	15	↑	17.1	↓	'00-'08
West Pokot	11.4	↑	12.7	↓	'05-'07
Laikipia	11	↑	9	↑	'03-'05
Kajiado	12.8	↑	13	↓	'03-'07
Trans Mara	4.5	No Change	5.3	↓	'04-'08
Garissa	11.9	No Change	10.7	↑	'01-'08
Tana River	13.1	↓	16.34	↓	'03-'07
<b>MARG. AGRIC.</b>					
Kitui	10	↓	12	↓	'04-'07
Makueni	16.9	↑	13.3	↑	'08
Mwingi	16	↑	15	↑	'06-'08
Tharaka	11.6	↑	6.07	↑	'04-'08
Meru North	16.6	↓	11.5	↑	'07-'08
Malindi	8.3	↑	6.3	↑	'06-'08
Lamu	5.5	↓	6.33	↓	'06-'08
Kilifi	6.3	↓	9.3	↓	'06

Source of Data: ALRMP

May. Under the new operation, WFP will feed some 3.5 million beneficiaries, including 2.6 million people affected by drought, 150,000 by the post-election crisis, and 850,000 in the expanded school feeding programme. Pre-positioning of food for the expected scale-up is underway.

The operational scale-up has an increased number of beneficiaries and wider geographic coverage, from 1.2 million in 17 districts to 2.6 million people in 26 districts. The re-targeting exercise is currently ongoing in the districts that were previously under the EMOP, although the process is especially challenging in the nine additional districts to be included in the new PRRO: cooperating partners are being selected and trained, and the targeting and registration of beneficiaries need to be completed.

WFP continued to fill the critical gap in the cereals pipeline and has applied for an internal loan to buy imported maize in the port of Mombasa. In addition, it received 9,921 MT of in-kind contribution of cereals from the GoK, which contributed to reducing the deficit. The six-month shortfall from May through October is

130,000 MT, valued at USD 115 million. The operation has an internal debt of USD 10 million advanced out of WFP emergency funds. WFP has thus far received contributions from the following donors: Australia, USD 695,900; Brazil USD 50,000; Greece, USD 383,600; Japan, USD 4 million; Kenya, USD 3.2 million; Spain, USD 4.2 million; Sweden, USD 1 million; Switzerland, USD 861,300; Turkey, USD 1 million; U.K., USD 7.9 million; and USA, USD 20 million - awaiting confirmation. WFP has sent a follow-up alert to the donor community in Kenya to urgently provide much-needed contributions of about USD 16 million for PRRO and the refugee operation in Daadab and Kakuma, which also faces food shortages.

In April, WFP delivered food to selected health facilities in the drought-hit marginal agricultural districts of Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, and Mwingi, coupled with staff training in readiness for the implementation of the supplementary feeding program for children under five years of age, and pregnant and nursing mothers, under the technical guidance of UNICEF and implemented by Ministry of Public Health Services.

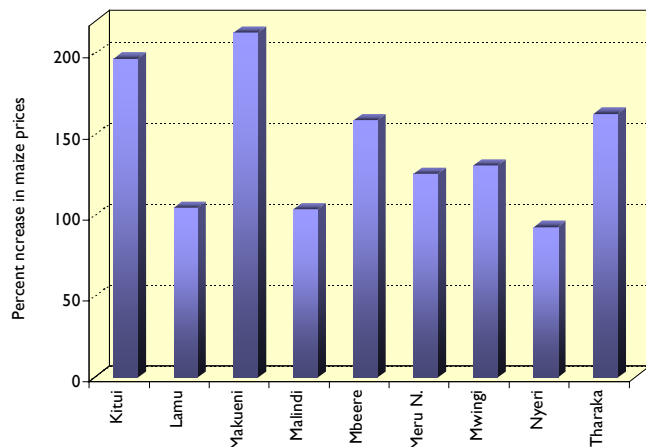
In Mandera, WFP and nutritional partners agreed to expand admission to children under five and pregnant/nursing mothers at risk from malnutrition. In addition, household rations were provided in the urban centers of El Wak and Mandera to families of children targeted under the supplementary feeding, but not covered by general food distributions. The activity is a pilot intended to assess the impacts of household food rations and supplementary feeding programs, running simultaneously, among children, and pregnant and nursing women.

### Maize supply tightens even further as prices escalate

The 2009 long-rains cropping season, which accounts for up to 85 of national maize output, is underway in most areas of the country. Traditionally, rains begin in the middle to the end of February in the western cropping and lakeshore areas, mid-March in the north Rift and Central highlands, and toward the end of March in the drought-prone southeastern and coastal areas. However, rains began one to two weeks late in the southwest and southeast. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has indicated that an estimated one million hectares have been put to maize, which is 83 percent of the five-year average. However, planting is continuing in the Rift Valley highlands and is expected to continue through most of May.

It is very likely that there will be significant crop failure in the southeastern, coastal, and central lowlands due to the poor start of the season and the legendary unreliability of the long rains in these areas. However, a good crop is anticipated in the Nyanza, Western, and Rift Valley highlands. Most seasonal forecasts and updates suggest that normal to above-normal

**Figure 4.** Percent increase in April 2009 maize prices in southeastern and coastal lowlands, relative to April averages



Source: ALRMP

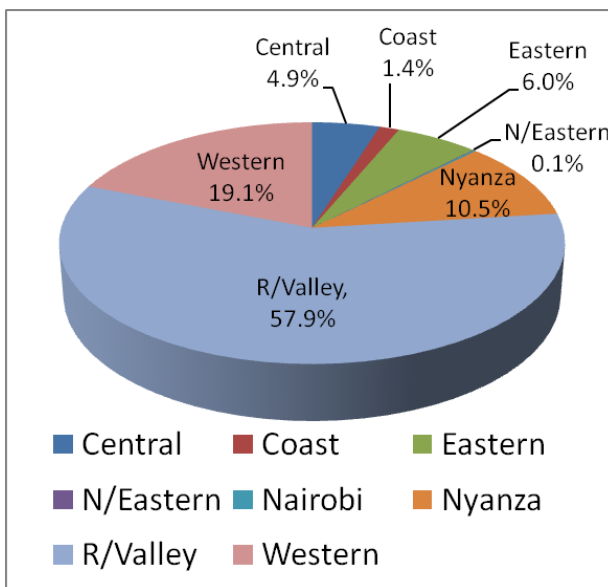


rains will be received, at least through June. However, the prognosis could change, since the long rains normally extend through August, particularly in the Rift Valley highlands, the country's grain basket. Long rains production in the Rift Valley, Western, and Nyanza highlands determine, to a large extent, national output due to the highlands' overwhelming contribution to total national maize output. Figure 5 illustrates the contribution of the cropping areas of each of the seven provinces to national maize output. The Rift Valley highlands are by far the most critical maize growing area of the country, as shown in the figure. Although the southeastern lowlands contribute less than four percent to national output, likely crop failure could result in a severe deterioration in household food security, due principally to the failure of the more important October-December short rains and the long waiting period to the next harvest.

The MoA has also reported that the country holds an estimated 720,000 MT of maize — a sufficient supply for the next two and a half months, or through mid-July. Nearly half is held by farmers in the Rift Valley highlands and may not be readily available in the market, suggesting that the maize supply is even tighter than the stock levels might suggest. While cross-border imports and early harvests from the southwest, west, Nyanza, and Central highlands could ease the tightened market toward the end of July, the quantities are not significant enough to cause a meaningful reduction in prices in the deficit urban, pastoral, and marginal agricultural areas. The most significant harvest is expected in the market toward the end of October through January 2010.

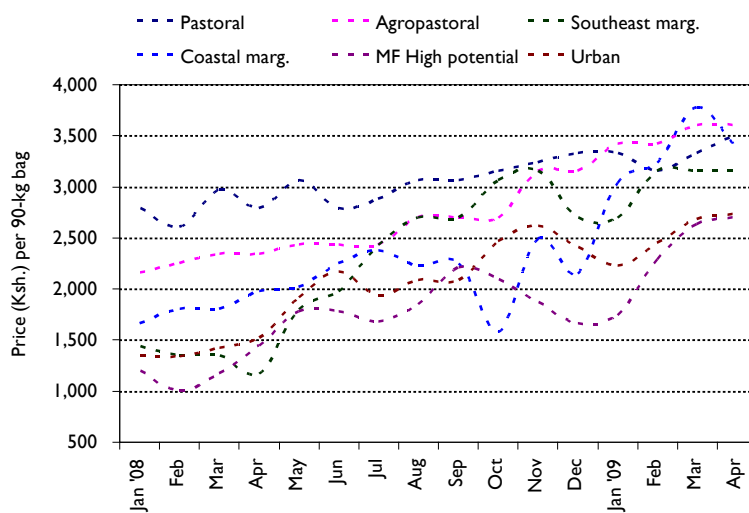
Maize prices are already responding to the tightened national supply, as the price of maize has risen steadily through the past 18 months across the country. Figure 6 illustrates the high and rising prices: Mandera market represents the pastoral livelihood; Kajiado, the agropastoral livelihood; Eldoret, the high-potential mixed farming livelihood; Kitui, the southeastern marginal agricultural livelihood; and Malindi, the coastal marginal agricultural livelihood. Of growing concern are the record maize prices in key urban centers, which are exacerbating food insecurity among the highly to extremely food insecure urban dwellers. The overwhelming population in informal settlements (or slums) in particular, depends on maize purchases for nearly all their food needs, suggesting that the continued rise in maize prices has compromised severely their access to normal quantities of food and other non-food needs. Civil unrest is simmering and the population in informal settlements is consistently protesting the high food prices, the latest protest occurring during Labor Day ceremonies.

Figure 5. Contribution to long-rains maize output, by province



Source: MoA

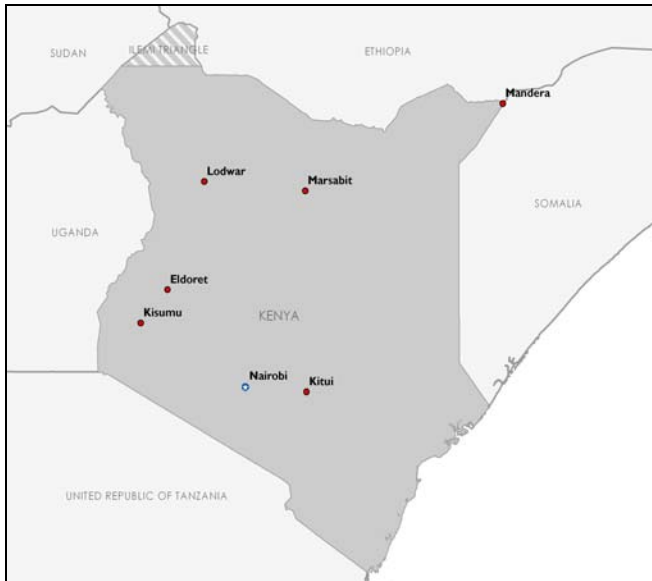
Figure 6. High maize prices across livelihood zones



Source: ALRMP and MoA

**Conclusion**

The next month, through the first week of June is one of the most critical periods of this year's food security calendar. Continued poor rains in the marginal, agropastoral, and pastoral areas could signal a severe deterioration in food security if planned food and non-food interventions are not instituted. Specific areas within these zones that are experiencing a fair season are already under significant pressure as most clustering of livestock is concentrating in such areas. In contrast, crop production outside the marginal agricultural areas is likely to be favorable — continued normal to good rains have been forecast. However, the growing season runs through January 2010 and will require close monitoring. A good cropping season is critical, as it would dampen the unprecedented maize price increases being experienced in most areas of the country.



Maize and beans are the most important commodities consumed, with maize availability considered synonymous with food security. Beans are very often consumed with maize. The Nairobi market is indicative for urban consumers. Eldoret is a producing area and located in the “grain basket zone.” Kisumu is a large market located in a deficit area with marginal agricultural productivity. Kitui is prone to droughts and is a marginal producing area. Lodwar market is located in Turkana, a highly food insecure pastoral district which is poorly integrated with other markets. Manderla is a food insecure area and cross border market with inadequate trade infrastructure. Marsabit is a conflict affected area that is highly food insecure and poorly integrated with other markets.

Monthly prices are supplied by FEWS NET enumerators, local government agencies, market information systems, UN agencies, NGOs, and other network and private sector partners.

