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### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Low production estimates for 2011 long-rains cereal output in marginal agricultural areas and coastal lowlands
- Food insecurity likely to improve in northern agro-pastoralist areas and in marginal cropping lowlands in coming months following favourable rains
- Sharp decline in maize prices from last July's record levels improving food access for poor households

### Aggregate maize production decline in 2011 compared to last year

Harvesting of 2011 "long-rains" season maize crop is complete in south Rift Valley, Nyanza and parts of Western provinces, while it is underway in the main growing areas of north Rift Valley and Western provinces and will continue through January. The seasonal maize production is officially estimated at 2.25 million tonnes, about 18 percent below last year good output due to dry weather conditions. The 2011 "short-rains" season started in mid-October, two-three weeks earlier than normal, and is likely to be abundant in most areas improving soil moisture and benefitting crops and livestock. During the second half of October, some flash floods have been reported in northern districts of Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit and Moyale, and in some areas of southern coastal districts.

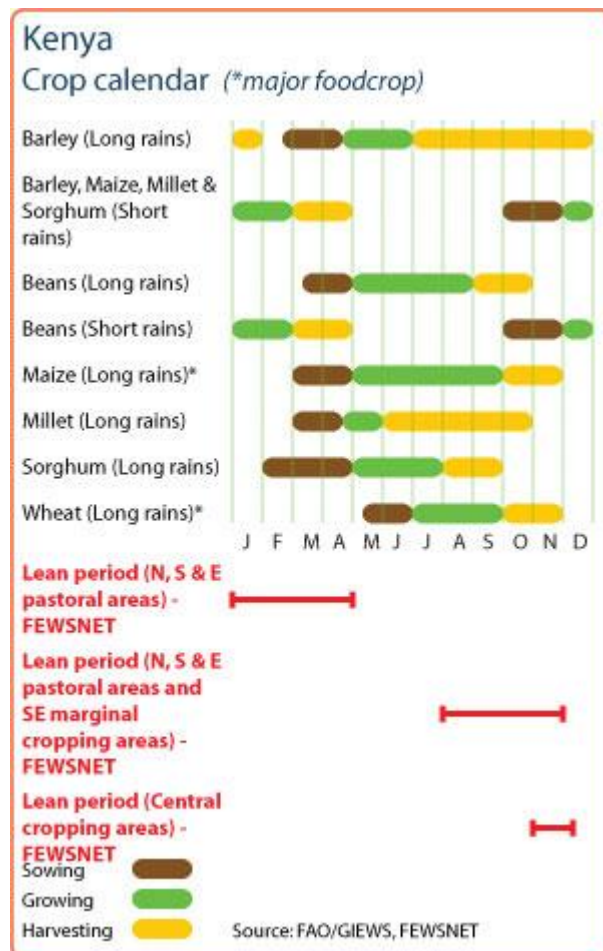
Aggregate cereal production for 2011 (assuming a favourable performance of short rains for the remaining of the season leading to an above-average production to be harvested in March/April 2012) is put at about 3.3 million tonnes, similar to last five years average. Cereal import requirements for 2011/12 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 2.3 million tonnes (about 37 percent up on last year), including one million tonnes of maize, 830 000 tonnes of wheat and 400 000 tonnes of rice.

### Maize prices declining but still at high levels

Prices of the main staple maize, which increased sharply in the first semester of 2011 reaching record levels in most markets during July, declined in all monitored markets (up to 42 percent from July to October) as a result of the newly harvested crops supplying markets, cross-border inflows and sales of relief food in pastoral areas. Nevertheless, in October 2011, in main wholesale markets of Nairobi and Mombasa, maize was traded at about USD 330 per tonne, respectively still 54 and 92 percent higher than one year before. Further reductions in cereal prices are expected until March 2012 due to the favourable prospects for the production of the 2011 "short-rains" season crops.

### Favourable short rains expected to improve food security in pastoral and southern cropping areas

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is currently estimated at 3.75 million, more than double the levels in January 2011. Most of the highly food insecure households are in agro-pastoralist areas in northern and north-eastern districts that experienced the



**Kenya**  
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	2 777	2 900	2 700	-7
Wheat	283	252	230	-9
Sorghum	130	220	190	-14
Others	169	148	143	-3
Total	3 359	3 520	3 263	-7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.  
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

negative effects of two to three consecutive dry weather seasons. In these areas, livestock losses due to the prolonged drought (and the recent floods in some areas) are estimated at about 8 million animals.

Food security situation in drought-affected areas is expected to improve during the 2011 short-rains season (October-December). The positive early onset of rains is already bringing some relief to northern and north-eastern pastoral areas, improving water and pasture conditions and reducing trekking distances. In south-eastern and coastal cropping areas, household food security is expected to slightly improve from November with harvesting of short-cycle crops, including vegetables and legumes. Further improvements are expected during the first quarter of 2012 with harvesting of “short-rains” crops that represent about 70 percent of annual production in these areas.

The drought-induced flux of Somali refugees into Kenya has significantly declined in recent weeks. However, according to UNHCR data, the total number of hosted refugees in several camps in Garissa district has reached the unprecedented figure of about 520 000 people, with limited access to basic needs such as food, shelter, water and sanitation, and increasing risks for proliferation of diseases. Recent floods affected parts of Dadaab camps, hampering aid delivery and increasing risk of waterborne diseases outbreaks.

