

# Overview of Kenya's food Security Situation

By

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# Food Security-Definition

- Food security is a major macro and micro problem and hence its inclusion as a goal in the SDGs 2030 through the first three goals;
- Ensure no human being suffers from any form of poverty and hunger and attaining good health and wellbeing for all respectively (United Nations, (UN, 2015)).
- Food security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2010).
- Dimensions of food security; the availability of food, access, stability and utilization (FAO, 2008).
- Malnutrition and undernourishment are of great concern globally and Kenya in particular.

# The Right to Food

- Article 43 (1 ) ( c) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, on the Social and Economic Rights states that '**every person has a right to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality**' thus providing for a human rights based approach to food security in Kenya.
- Food is an economic and social right under the Kenyan constitution. Ensuring food security is, therefore, an objective of devolution – helping people access and realize their rights.
- Kenya has several food policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks to guide its human and economic development agenda.
- They include the National Food and Nutrition Policy and its implementation framework (2017-2022).

# The Right to Food

- County governments execute these national strategies through their integrated development plans.
- These are expected to be more attuned to the needs of local communities and households.
- The national food policy covers the four dimensions of food security: availability, access, use and stability. Kenya has various programs and interventions that address each of these elements.
- These interventions include enhancing irrigation and water management systems, improving linkages between research and industry, and boosting production and marketing of smallholder produce.

# Staple Foods

- Maize is the staple food of most Kenyans.
- Others are beans, wheat, cassava, rice, sorghum, Irish and Sweet potatoes.
- Fish and Livestock production are other components of food production and together with food crops constitute food security in Kenya
- Malnutrition and undernourishment are of great concern globally and Kenya in particular.

# Number of undernourished people in in three East African countries; Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda-1999-2018

Year	Number of people undernourished (million) (3-year average) in Ethiopia	Number of people undernourished (million) (3-year average) in Kenya	Number of people undernourished (million) (3-year average) in Uganda	Number of people undernourished (million) (3-year average) in Tanzania
1999-2001	34.6	9.8	6.7	12.5
2000-2002	33.5	10.3	6.8	13
2001-2003	32.9	11	6.8	13.3
2002-2004	32.1	11.3	6.6	13.7
2003-2005	31.3	11	6.5	13.7
2004-2006	30.5	10.2	6.9	13.6
2005-2007	30.3	9.8	7.6	13.6
2006-2008	30.1	9.7	8.6	13.9
2007-2009	29.6	9.9	9.4	14.8
2008-2010	28.8	9.9	10	15.4

# Current Food Security Situation

- Decline in rainfall has led to deteriorating food security situation in Kenya.
- In February 2022, there were approximately 3.1 million food-insecure people in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas, a 48% increase since August 2021.
- From July to September about 3.5 million people (24% of the ASAL population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity
- In October to December 2022, the food security situation is likely to worsen, and more people may require urgent action to reduce food gaps and protect their livelihoods.
- About 4.4 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity .
- After scaling up of the Emergency Hunger Safety Net Program in Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, and Mandera, Samburu, Baringo, Meru North, Kitui, etc, 25% of all households are receiving Ksh.5,400 every two months, along with humanitarian assistance.
- Reliance on rain fed agriculture has resulted in a decline in crop production

# Cause of Food Insecurity in Kenya

- Persistent drought, coupled with high commodity prices, poor trade conditions, COVID-19 and high inflation continue to impact food insecurity in Kenya
- Russia/Ukraine war and inflation are at the core of food insecurity in both the urban and rural centers of Kenya.
- The high cost of staple foods has made it difficult for Kenyans to eat their usual three meals a day.
- In the arid and semi-arid northern regions, many people have no food at all.
- In urban areas, the main challenge is the inability to be able to buy food, but also, the food prices have been out of reach.
- Main food crops with relative importance in the whole country are maize, wheat and rice (GoK, 2009).
- Crop production of these crops is below the demand



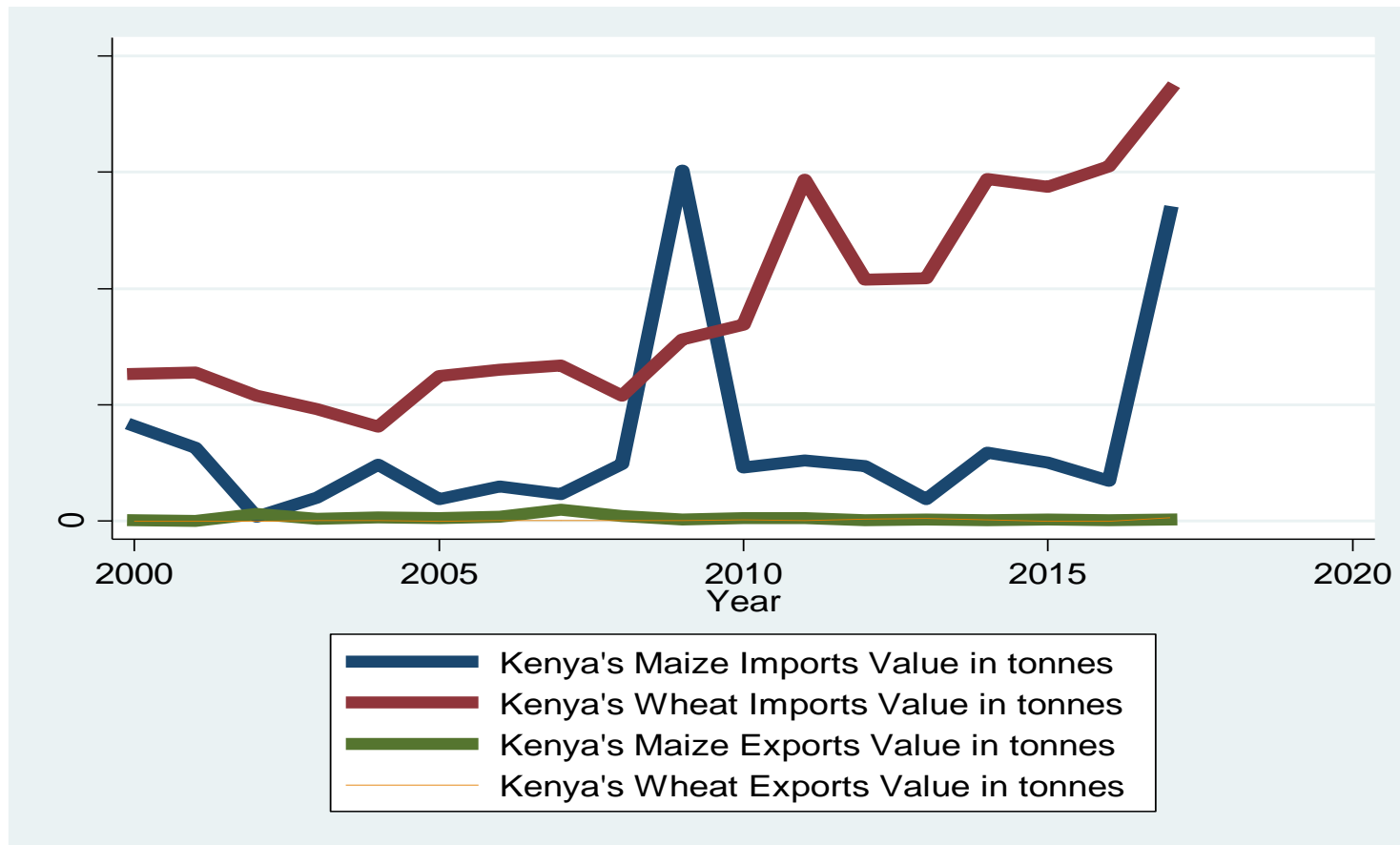
# Kenya's Production of Maize, Potatoes, Rice and Wheat over 2005-2018 (Tonnes)

Year	Maize	Potatoes	Rice	Wheat
2005	2,905,559.00	2,640,600.00	62,677.00	368,879.00
2006	3,247,200.00	2,415,080.00	64,840.00	329,193.00
2007	2,928,793.00	2,192,280.00	47,256.00	322,320.00
2008	2,367,237.00	2,900,000.00	21,881.00	336,688.00
2009	2,439,000.00	2,299,086.00	42,202.00	219,301.00
2010	3,464,541.00	2,725,936.00	85,536.00	511,994.00
2011	3,376,862.00	2,365,263.00	111,229.00	268,482.00
2012	3,749,880.00	2,915,067.00	138,204.00	441,944.00
2013	3,592,688.00	2,192,885.00	125,256.00	449,641.00

# Consumer Food Imports

- Maize and wheat imports have been on a high rise and are much higher than exports of the same crops.
- The increased importation can be an indicator of the deficit of domestic production to meet local consumption.
- Importation of consumer food is on an upward trend a clear indication of the deficit in Kenya

# A trend analysis of Kenya's Maize and Wheat Imports and Exports (2000-2018)



# Kenya's Total Imports of Consumer Foods and Fish Products

Year	Total Import of Consumer-oriented foods and Fish Products from the World (in million US\$)
2014	286
2015	309
2016	310
2017	442
2018	460
2019*	500

*Source: United States Department of Agriculture \*represents estimated value*

# Agriculture Sector

- The agriculture sector in Kenya is robust but productivity is below its potential (FAO, 2015)
- Need to address the critical issues ailing the sector to promote and boost productivity and be able to satisfy the food demand of the growing population.
- Investment into the sector is one way to combat the problems the sector faces
- Public expenditure has been below the committed level agreed under the Maputo Declaration of 10%.
- The national budget allocation to agriculture in the financial year 2015/2016 was 3.6% and in 2016/2017 was 2.8 % (GoK, 2018).

# How can Kenya improve its food security situation

- Provision of agricultural inputs, tools and equipment
- Livestock off-take program restocking and animal feeds
- Fish stocking, cold storage facilities, fishing keeping equipment
- Provision of water tanks, borehole rehabilitation, de-silting water pans and dams
- Purchase and distribution of relief food
- Provision of health and nutrition packages
- Cash transfers to the vulnerable

**END**

● **THANK YOU**