



National Drought Management Authority
ISIOLO COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2019

August 2019 EW Phase

Drought Cycle Stage: Early Alarm



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The month of August was characterized by hot weather condition during the day. There were also strong winds.
- The 3-Month Vegetation Condition was stable, remaining in a severe vegetation condition.
- Condition as well as availability of pasture and browse ranged from fair to poor and on a deteriorating trend.
- Water availability in all sources ranged from fair to poor and on a deteriorating trend in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Body condition of small stock and cattle was ranged from fair to poor in all livelihood zones. Camels' body condition was good.
- Milk production was poor and on a declining trend in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zone.
- Crop yields were poor as a result of the poor rainfall performance.

Access Indicators

- Livestock prices stabilized while food prices increased over the period under review.
- Household milk consumption was poor over the period under review due to poor production.

Utilization Indicators

- Proportion of households that were unable to adequately meet their daily nutritional needs increased considerably.
- Malnutrition levels among children under five year's worsened significantly over period under review.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Pastoral-All Species	Alarm	Worsening
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Casual Waged Labour /Charcoal burning	Alert	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0 mm	>0.7mm
VCI-3month (Isiolo)	20	Below normal
Water Sources	3	5
Production Indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Fair to Good
Milk Production	1.0 Litres	>1.6 Litres
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No deaths	No death
Livestock Migration Pattern	Out migrations	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	55	>61
Milk Consumption	0.80 Litres	>1.6Litres
Return distance to water households	4.1 km	<6.8 km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	Ksh 4.00	<Ksh. 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Range/Value
MUAC	14.3 percent	<19.2 percent
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	11.5	<13.5
Food Consumption	52.6 Percent Acceptable	>71 Percent Acceptable

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains starts ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Migration to dry season area ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Migration to wet grazing areas ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Reduced pasture/water stress (Normal Scenario) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Increased distances to water and pasture ▪ Reduced water levels ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Community/HH coping measures taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting in Agro-pastoral LZ ▪ Migration from dry season area ▪ Increased milk yield ▪ Reduced pasture/water stress (Normal scenario) 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The month’s weather conditions were dominated by clear sky, long sunny intervals and hot day time temperature. There were also strong winds especially at night.
- No rainfall was received during the month under review.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The county did not receive any rainfall during the period under review.
- The long rains received in May and June were poorly distributed poorly in terms of space and time. The next rainy season is expected in October to December.

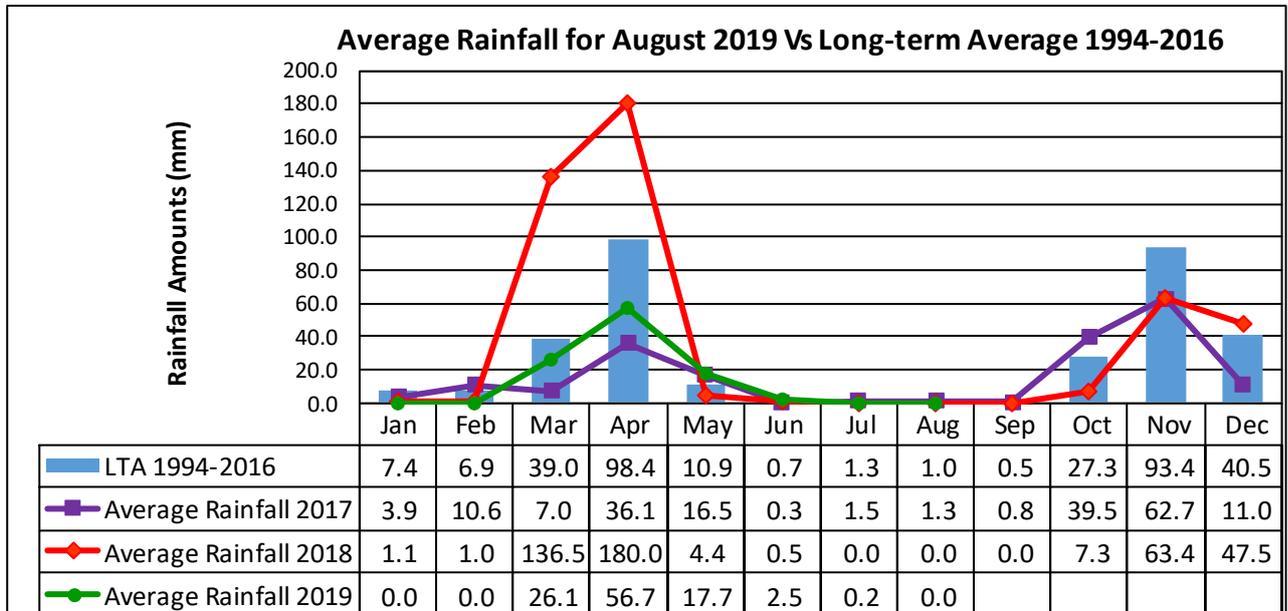


Figure 1a: A graph showing station rainfall performance for Isiolo County

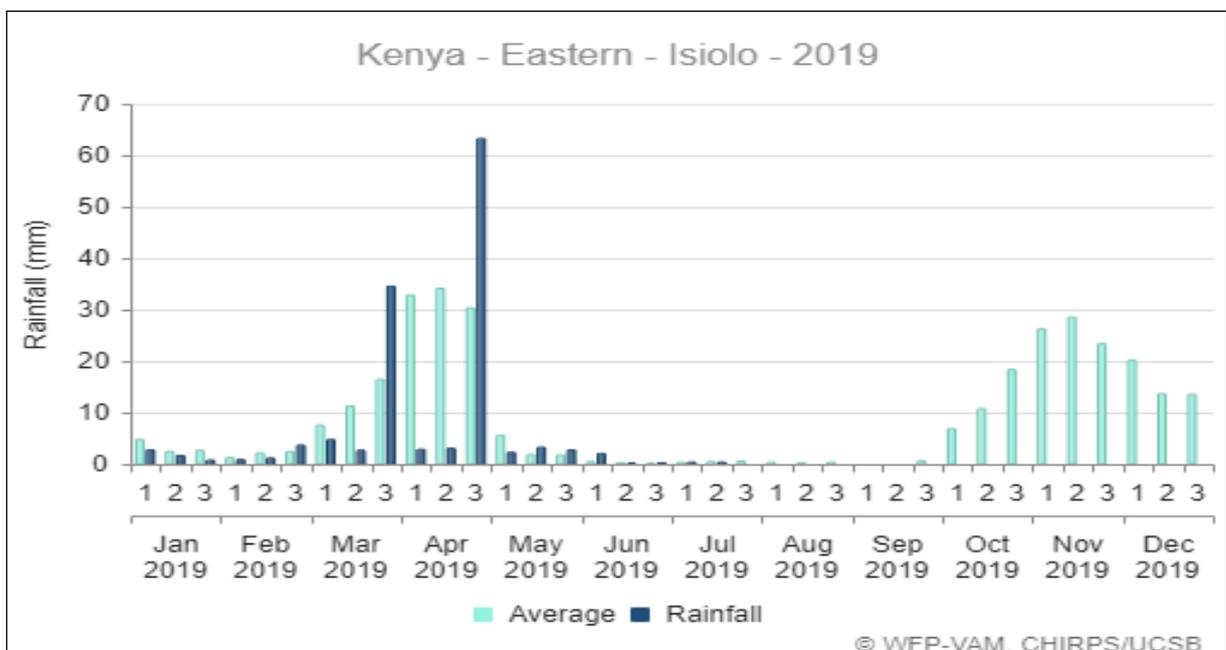


Figure 2b: A graph showing decadal rainfall performance for the current year compared to the long-term average. Source WFP-VAM,CHIRPS

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The matrix below illustrates August 2019 Vegetation Condition Index, classified as agricultural drought based on VCI thresholds. The chart shows a retrospective analysis of the vegetation condition as related to drought.

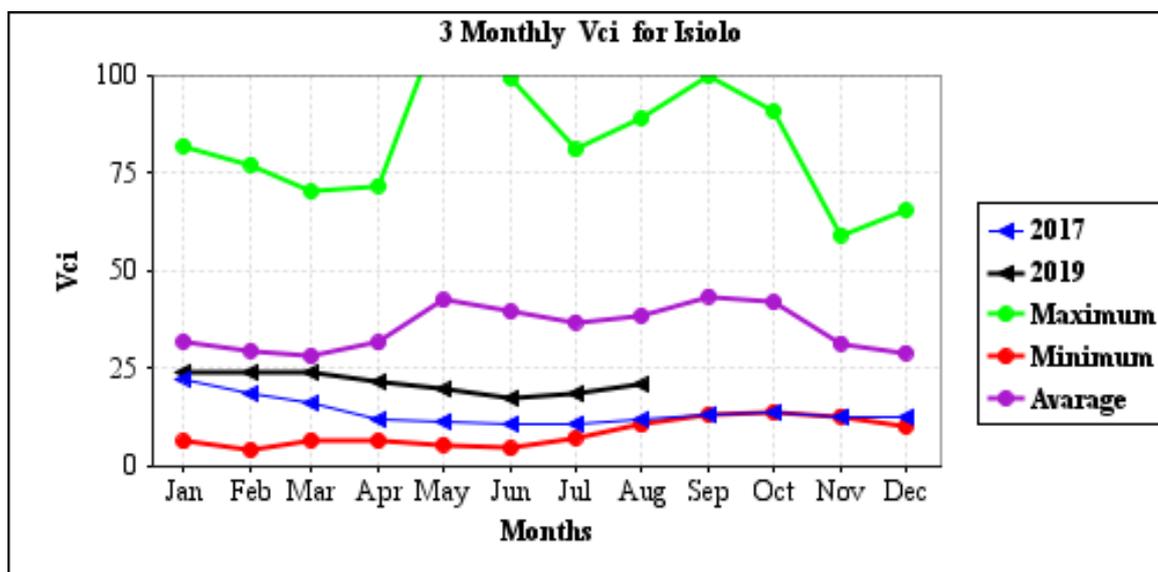


Figure 3: A chart of 3-Monthly Vegetation Condition Index

- County vegetation condition stabilized at a monthly index of 20 showing an insignificant increase from the previous month's index of 18. The county remained in a severe vegetation deficit on a worsening trend.
- The severe vegetation deficit state was attributed to the poor performance of rains during the long rains season that ended with low cumulative amounts being received across the county. The rains were also poorly distributed in space and time.
- There has been very poor and localized natural vegetation regeneration since March 2019 which has seen the vegetation condition for entire Isiolo North sub-county remain at severe vegetation deficit. The vegetation condition stabilized in Isiolo South Sub-county.
- Vegetation condition is expected to deteriorate further as we enter September and October which are the driest months of long dry season.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The general condition of pasture in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones was poor during the month under review. This was a cumulative impact of the poor performance of the previous short and the long rains seasons.
- There were very few pockets of the larger pastoral livelihood zone that had pasture during the month under review. This prompted further migration from the Garbatulla-Sericho stretch to Kom and Yamicha dry season grazing reserves.
- The only grazing fields with some significant amounts of pasture are the dry grazing reserves of Cherab ward where most of the animals are concentrated. Lactating herds were fed at the traditional grazing areas with acute feed challenges as majority of them are exhausted and bare.
- Overall pasture availability in the month under review was poorer compared to a long-term condition in a similar time of the year.
- There is a likelihood of pasture depletion in dry season grazing reserves towards the end of September 2019.

2.1.3 Browse

- The overall condition of browse in the zones was poor during the month under review. This is attributed to the poor performance of the previous short and long rains seasons.

- There are very few pockets in the larger pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zone with browse that would provide feed to the county's browsers' population to the end of September. Garbatulla, Kinna, and Sericho are some of the three wards with little browse.
- Overall browse availability in the month under review was poorer compared to the long-term condition in a similar period of the year.
- Near exhaustion of browse in traditional grazing is highly likely. This has prompted a considerable proportion of herders to migrate to the dry grazing reserves. More migrations will be experienced in the month of September as herders seek browse that can sustain their herds until the short rains are received as expected in the beginning of October.

2.2.1 Water Sources

- Main water sources during the period under review were rivers boreholes, shallow wells and traditional river wells.
- Availability of water in traditional river wells dug in sand dams was good in Oldonyiro and along River Ewaso Nyiro. However, the river flow continued to dry upstream.
- The yield in many boreholes was moderate across the county, mainly attributed to the low cumulative recharge that followed poor performance of rains in a number of past rainy seasons.
- The yield in shallow wells in Merti, Garbatulla and Sericho wards went down further due to over-reliance and resultant poor recharge. The yield is expected to worsen as the dry spell continues.
- Water access for households in established settlements remained stable where majority of them obtained the commodity from boreholes and distributed to homestead pipes and water kiosks close to their settlements.
- A good number of households in Cherab ward, in the pastoral livelihood zone fetched the commodity from River Ewaso Nyiro which took them more than 5 hours for one trip. This was to supplement the water received from water truck supplying water for household use in many settlements.
- Water availability in Sericho and surrounding settlements was a challenge as yields of the borehole in Sericho and Badana area went down significantly. This resulted in long queues when the rationed commodity is availed in limited hours of the day.

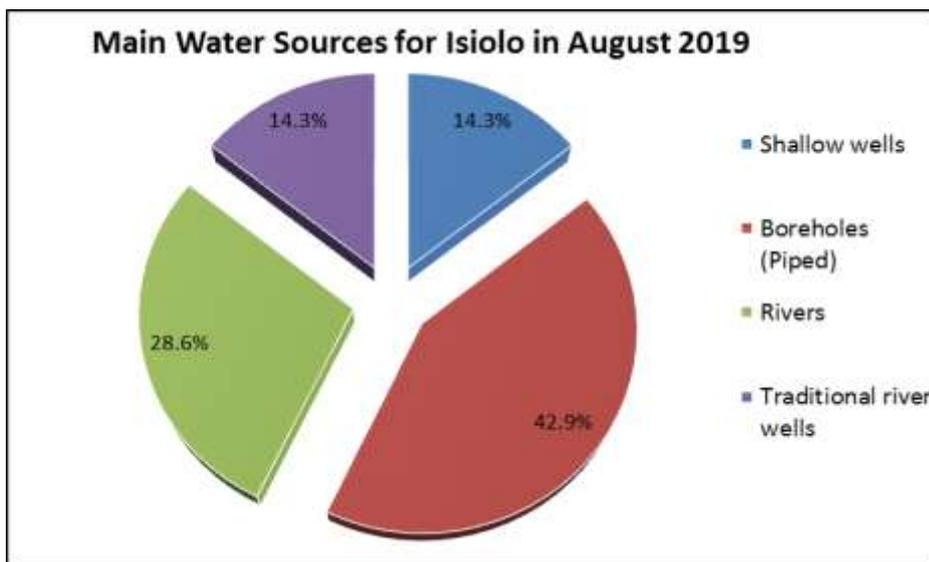
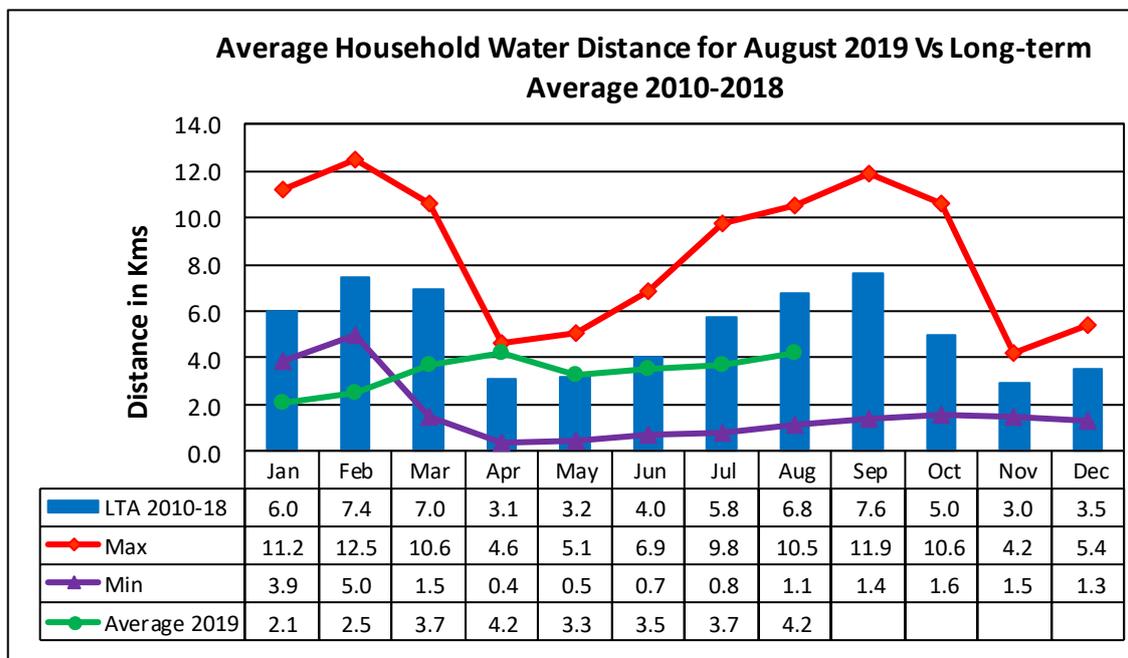


Figure 4: A chart of main water sources in the county

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- Household water access distance to main sources increased slightly to an average of 4.2km over the period under review from 3.7km in the previous month.
- Access was relatively stable in majority of the established settlements especially in the pastoral livelihood zone where the commodity is mainly sourced from boreholes. Moreover, there was a significant reduction in water levels of a good proportion of sand dams in Oldonyiro and traditional river wells in the dried parts of River Ewaso Nyiro. This resulted into partial deterioration in water availability during the month under review.
- However, water availability in majority of semi-permanent sources such as rivers, sand dams, traditional river wells and shallow wells that experienced partial recharge are expected to deteriorate and deplete early.



- A bigger proportion of households obtained water from community kiosks and homestead pipes sourcing water from rivers and boreholes. However, Cherab residents continued to trek long distances to supplement the amount delivered under the ongoing water trucking in the ward.
- The cost of water from piped distribution points (*kiosks*) was Ksh. 2.00 per 20 litre jerrican while in some settlements households were charge Ksh. 200.00 for an entire month.
- Waiting time at the source increased considerably in some pastoral settlements to a range of 20 to 40 minutes.
- The average water distance in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones was 3.5km and 5.7km respectively. The lowest average distance of about 0.5km was recorded in the casual-waged labour livelihood zone.

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Average distance to water sources from grazing areas in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones increased considerably to 16.2km over the period under review from 14.5km in the previous month.

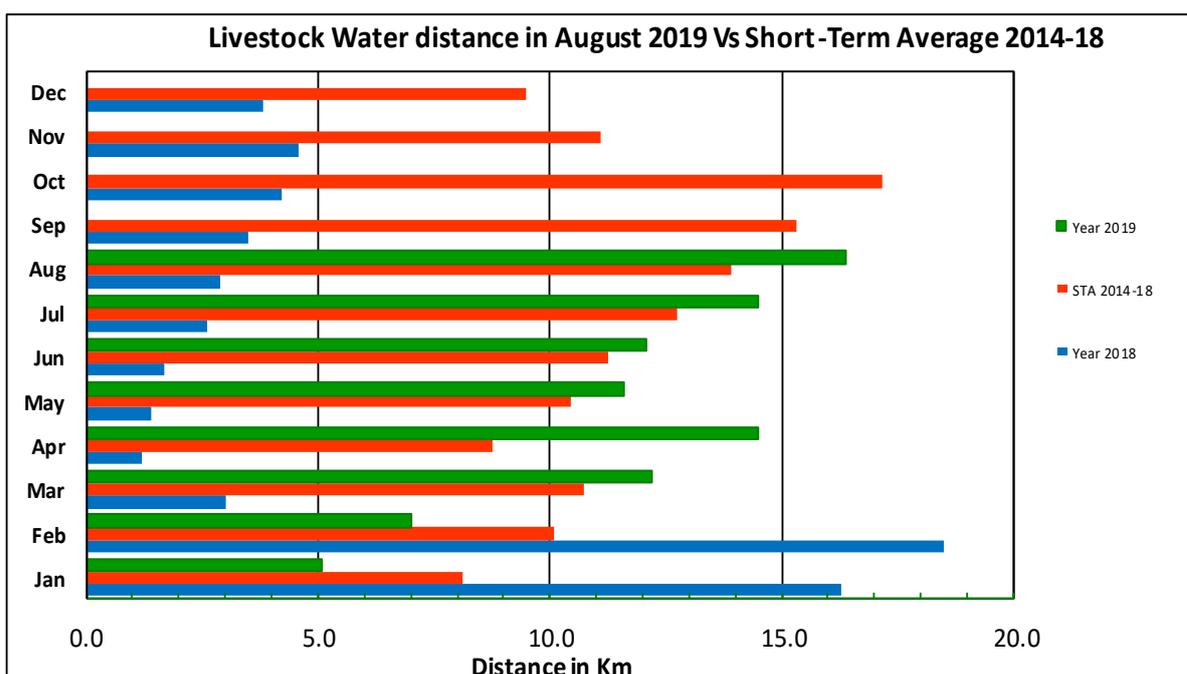


Figure 5: A graph of average distance for livestock water access

- The increase was mainly attributed to diminishing forage in majority of the county's grazing areas which forced herders to go further into the grazing areas.
- Majority of livestock are being watered at boreholes but a small proportion are depending on shallow wells and traditional river wells in Oldonyiro, Hawaye in Sericho and along the River Ewaso Nyiro. The shallow wells are steadily running deeper as there was no recharge at all during the past two seasons.
- Water access distance increased more in grazing areas of Garbatulla, Kinna, Merti and Sericho mainly due to deterioration of pasture and depletion of temporary sources.
- In general, livestock access to water for livestock remained a challenge due to the declining yield in boreholes and limited sources in the entire pastoral livelihood zone.
- The average distance to water sources is expected to increase with the deteriorating condition of forage and migrations into dry season grazing reserves such as Kom where watering points are scarce.
- Livestock watering interval was after two to three days for goats, sheep and cattle. Camels were watered at an interval of 7 to 10 days but could increase in the following months.

2.3 IMPLICATION TO FOOD SECURITY

- The cumulative impact of poor performance of the two consecutive rainy seasons, resulted into poor regeneration of natural vegetation as well as recharge to water sources and crop failure.
- There was a poor availability of forage in more than 80% of the county's grazing areas, necessitating migration into the small pockets mainly in Garbatualla sub-county but majority of them have moved on to dry season grazing areas.
- The concentration of local herds and those from neighbouring counties will expose the rangelands to high rates of depletion and prompt further migrations into dry season grazing reserves.
- Water availability too was poor as animals were forced to trek for longer distances to water points especially along Ewaso Nyiro. Livestock body are expected to get weaker as distances increase with continuation of dry spell conditions.
- The migration of livestock has affected marketing due to weakened animal body conditions and the ever increasing distances to livestock markets. Traders began taking advantage of the deteriorating forage and animal body condition by lowering prices with a direct impact on pastoralists purchasing power and which will have a negative impact on the household food security.
- Crop production suffered a blow due to massive crop failure in the rain fed set up, leaving the farmer with no food and income. Subsequently, this reduced food commodity supply to the markets that has led to an increase in food commodity prices.
- Therefore, earnings from crop and animal production dropped significantly and may decline further as animal production is projected to face a harder socio-economic times.
- There is a likelihood that more households would end up adopting severe consumption coping mechanisms as rate of food insecurity heightens.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Body condition for cattle, goats and sheep ranged from fair to poor while that of camel was good to fair. All were on a worsening trend in all the livelihood zones.
- All animals are at risk of malnutrition as the scarcity of feed continued with fast depletion of feed in local grazing areas following meagre regeneration of natural vegetation as a cumulative impact of poor performance of the short and long rains seasons.
- The risk is intensified by the diminishing availability of pasture and browse, low water levels in major resources and in-migration of livestock from neighbouring counties.
- The current livestock body condition is slightly worse when compared to the preview year.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No notifiable livestock diseases were reported during the month under review apart from endemic diseases including CCPP and PPR.

3.1.3 Milk Production

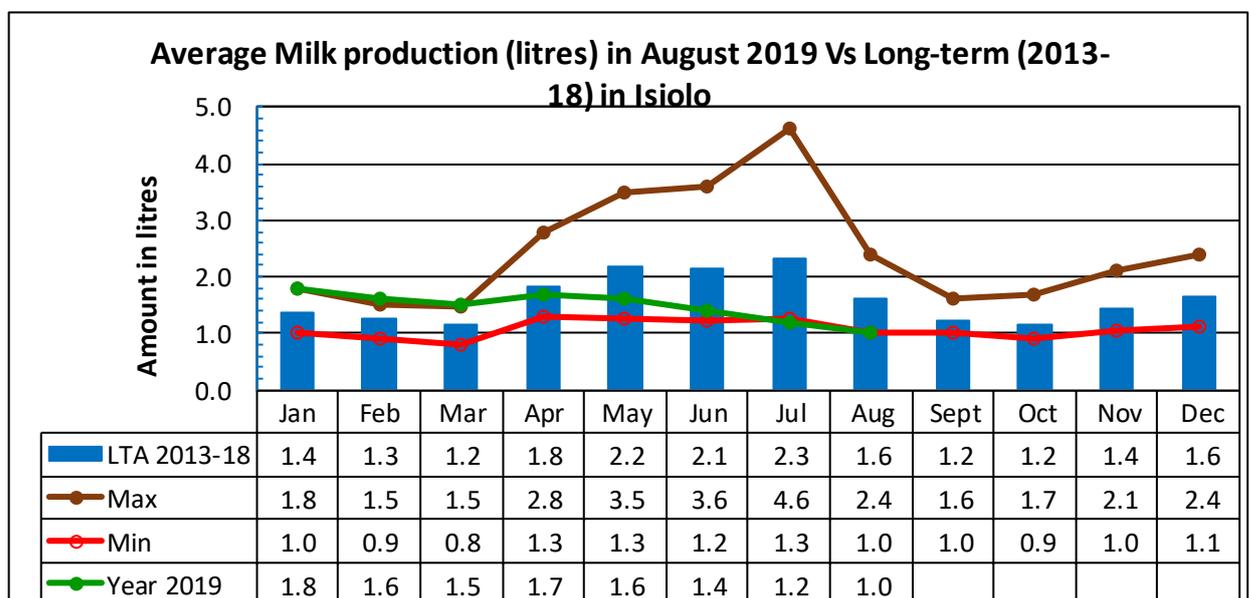


Figure 6: A graph of average milk production in litres

- Milk production in milking households reduced to an average of about 1.0litres during the month under review from 1.2litres in the previous month.
- Majority of the milk was produced in Kinna and Garbatulla wards where camel population is high when compared to other sites.
- The recorded decline in milk production was attributed to the weakening livestock body condition and poor status of range resources.
- The level of production is expected to reduce further as the long dry spell continues and likely worsen between August and October.
- Highest proportion of milk was obtained from camels as other species ceased to negligible amounts.
- Milk production per household was 48 per cent lower than the short-term average amount of 2.3 litres.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

- There were no crops in the farms under rainfed crop production during the period under review.
- Vegetable crops planted under small-scale irrigation included onions, tomatoes, and kales were in good condition but there are fears of underproduction as water levels continue to decline.

- Overall state of crop production was poor after a good proportion of food crops withering at early stages and thereby leading to little or no yield at the end of the season.

3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- The state of livestock body condition for small stock and cattle ranged from fair to poor and on a worsening trend in all livelihood zones as an impact of the poor performance of the long rains season. The trend is worsening gradually as shortage of forage worsens.
- As a result of worsening body conditions, livestock markets performance is gradually going down with initial impact being reduction in animals supplied to the markets as harders faced distance constraints as well as fear of deteriorating market prices. This is expected to worsen in the coming months.
- On the other hand, crop yields were poor with a ripple effect on the household stocks and subsequently market supplies, a factor that has led to a gradual increment in food commodity prices. Low sales led reduced income thereby eroding crop farmers' purchasing power.
- To this effect, majority of food items are being supplied from neighbouring counties at a higher price. Availability of fresh produce is not as vibrant as during a normal year as production reduced considerably due to reducing levels of water in rivers.
- The worsening production in the animal and crop would have negative impacts on farmers thereby eroding down their purchasing power implying that their food security situation would be stressed in the following months.
- The county's main livelihoods are therefore at a high risk of collapsing a situation that poses a threat to food security.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price recorded a slight decrease to Ksh 25,200.00 in the month under review from Ksh 26,000 in the previous month. The reduction could be partly attributed to the deteriorating body condition in the pastoral livelihood zone.
- The price remained relatively high and stable compared to the long-term average due to a sustained demand for cattle in local markets and neighboring counties.
- Cattle's price is expected to decline should their body condition weaken as expected in the long dry spell.
- The highest average price was recorded in Isiolo market at Ksh.30,000 while the least was Ksh.22,000 in Merti market.
- The period's price was almost 35 percent higher than the long-term average of Ksh.17,000 mainly attributed to fair body condition and a relatively stable demand.

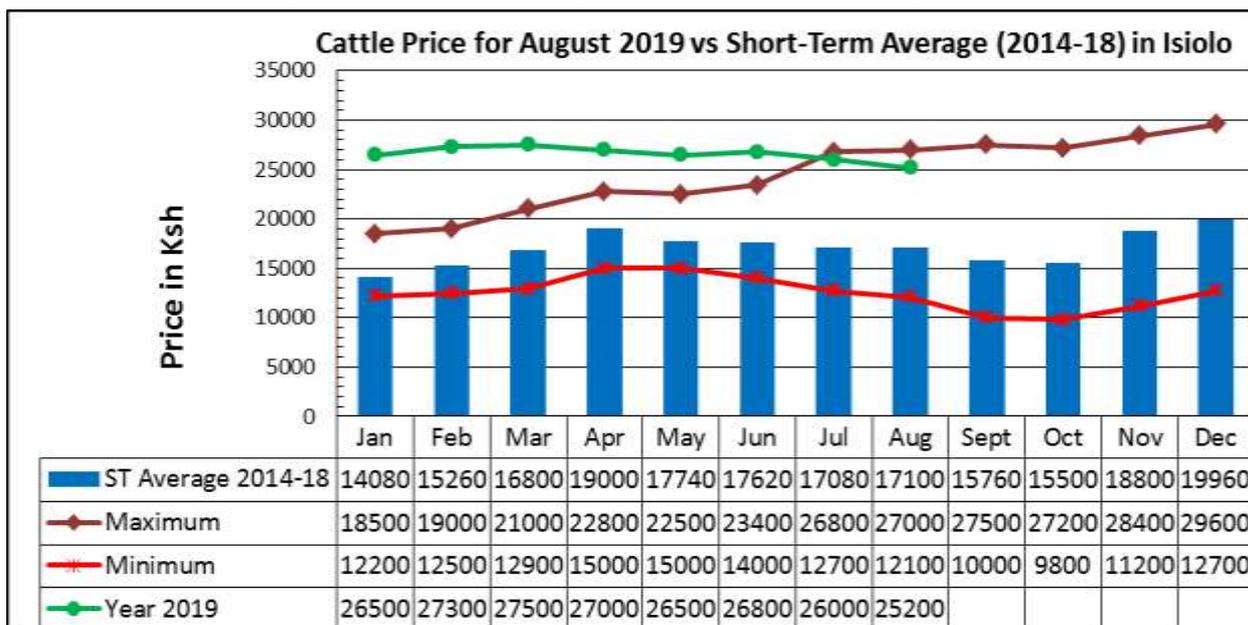


Figure 7: A graph of average market price of cattle

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat)

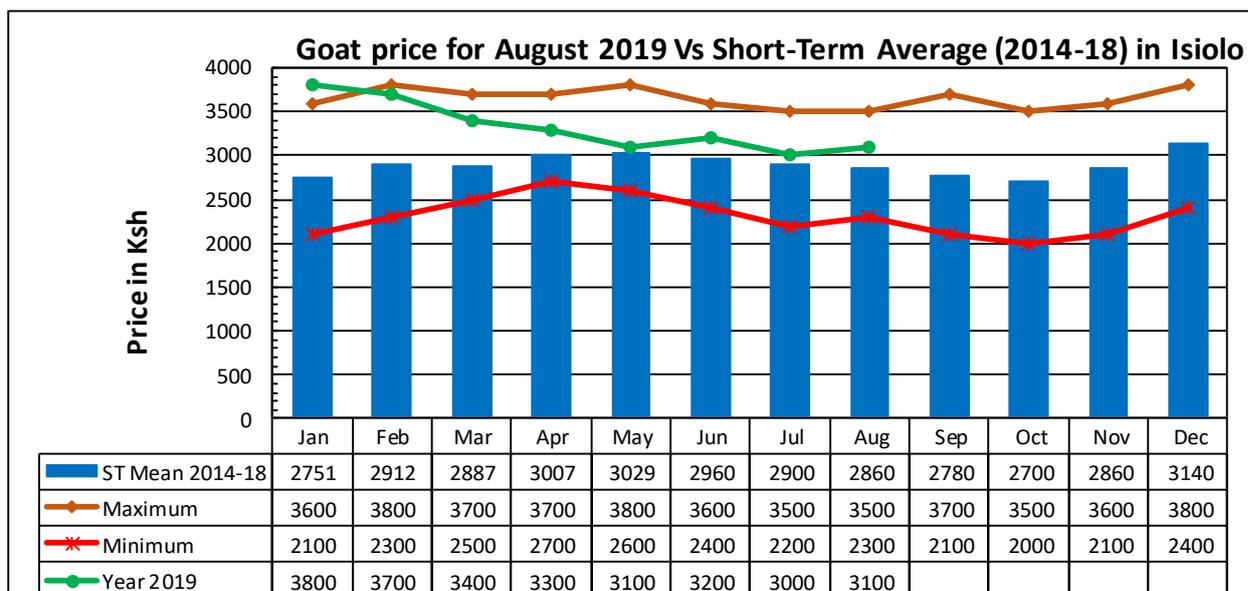


Figure 8: A graph of monthly average market price of goats

- Average goat price stabilized at Ksh.3,100 in the month under review. The stabilization of the small stocks' price could have been influenced partially by the Islamic celebrations that came during the second week of the month under review where demand for the small stock was highest.
- There is a likelihood of the prices deteriorating as more heads are expected to be supplied to the market as pastrolists get forced to sell more to sustain their households' food requirements as well as meet other basic requirements.
- Weakening body condition would also contribute to price reduction at the farm and market levels.
- The least and highest market prices recorded were Ksh 2,500 and Ksh.4,000 in Oldonyiro and Isiolo Central markets respectively.
- Average goat price was 11 percent higher than the short-term average of Ksh.2,800 and lower than the period's maximum price of Ksh. 3,500.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The market price of a kilogram of stabilized at an average of Ksh 56.00 during the month under review.

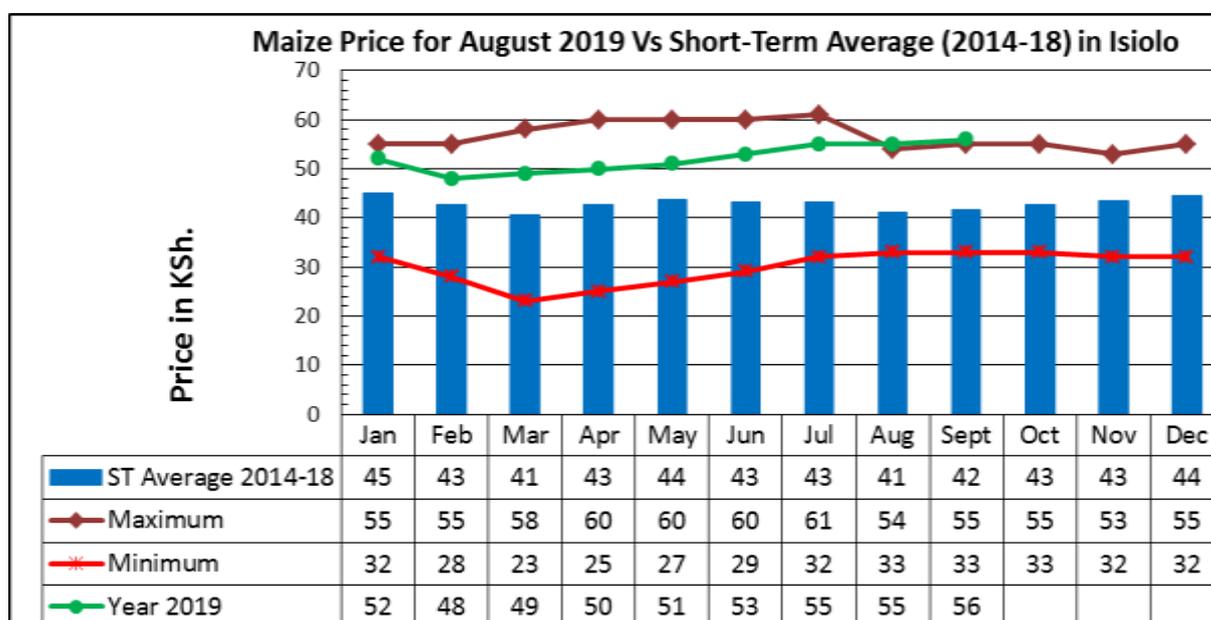


Figure 9: A graph of average maize (cereal) market price in the county

- The staple food commodity's price remained high for the third month in a row attributed to the diminishing stocks of maize in the county.
- Cereals lowest price was Ksh.50.00 in Isiolo town market and highest in Merti at Ksh.70. The cereal's price in rural markets including Merti, Bisan Biliqo and Sericho was relatively high as supplies were not consistent attributed to the long distances and community cereal preferences.
- The price remained relatively high in the main markets such as Isiolo as there were no stock additions from the farms following total to partial failure of the crop in the last season.
- The price is expected to increase further as stocks in the county and country at large decline.
- Average price of maize was 36 percent higher than the three-year short-term average of Ksh.42.00.

4.2.3 Beans

- The average price of beans stabilized at Ksh.120.00 in the month under review.
- The relatively high price was attributed to the poor harvests realized from the crops grown during the long rains season.
- The highest price was recorded in Merti market in Merti sub-county which lies in the pastoral livelihood zone at an average of Ksh 140.00 while the lowest price was in Isiolo Cetnral and Kinna at Ksh. 110.

- The price was 36 percent higher than the short-term average price of Ksh. 88 during a similar period of the year.

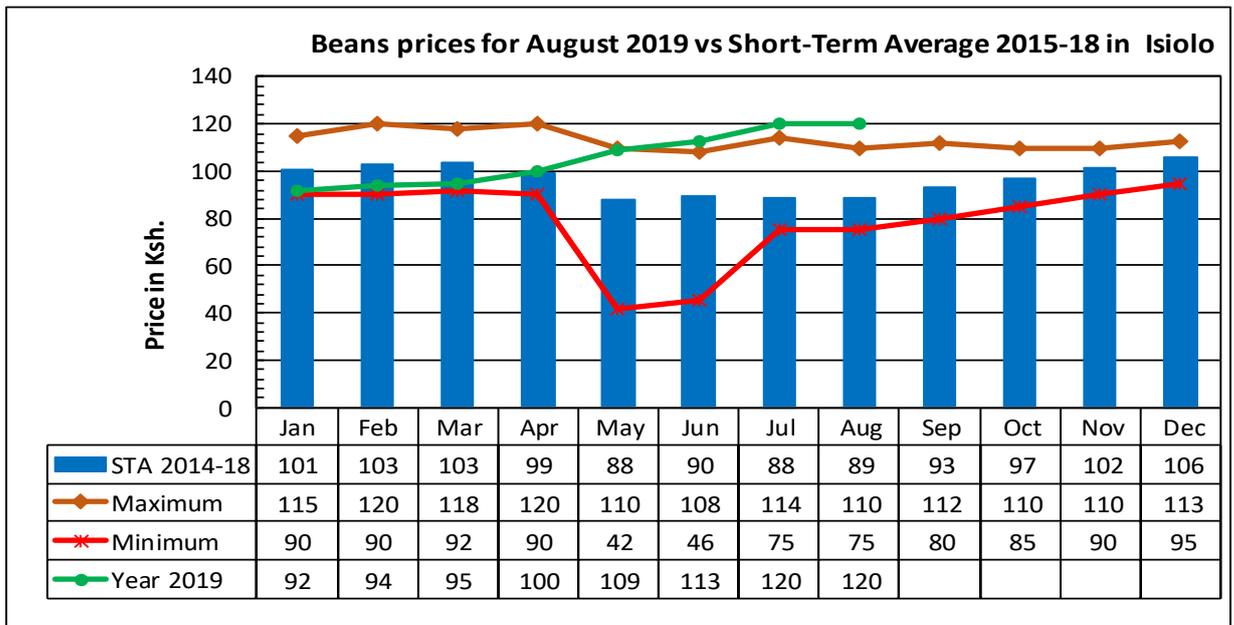


Figure 10: A graph showing average market price for pulses (beans)

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

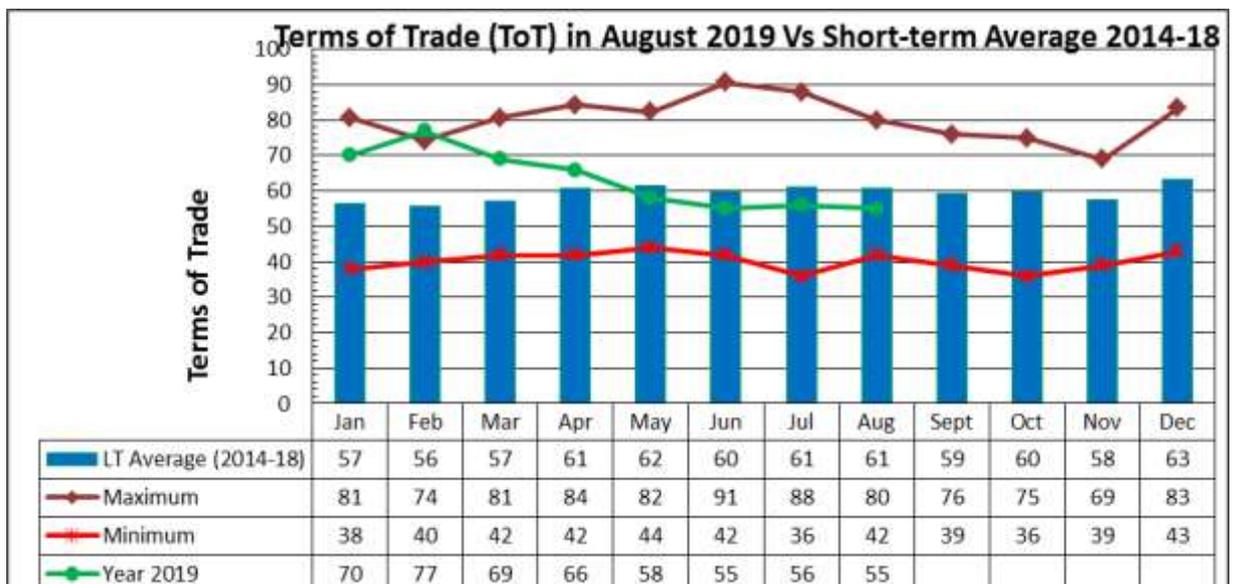


Figure 11: A graph showing the typical pastoralist households Terms of Trade in the county

- The Terms of Trade (the number of kilograms of maize a pastoralist would purchase after a sale of one goat) stabilized at 55kg/goat in the month under review.
- Purchasing power is expected to decline from the following month as livestock market prices go down amid a high price the maize prices.
- The period's decline in the level of purchasing power was mainly influenced by the decreased market price of small stock.
- The relative measure of purchasing power is expected to decline further in the month of September.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

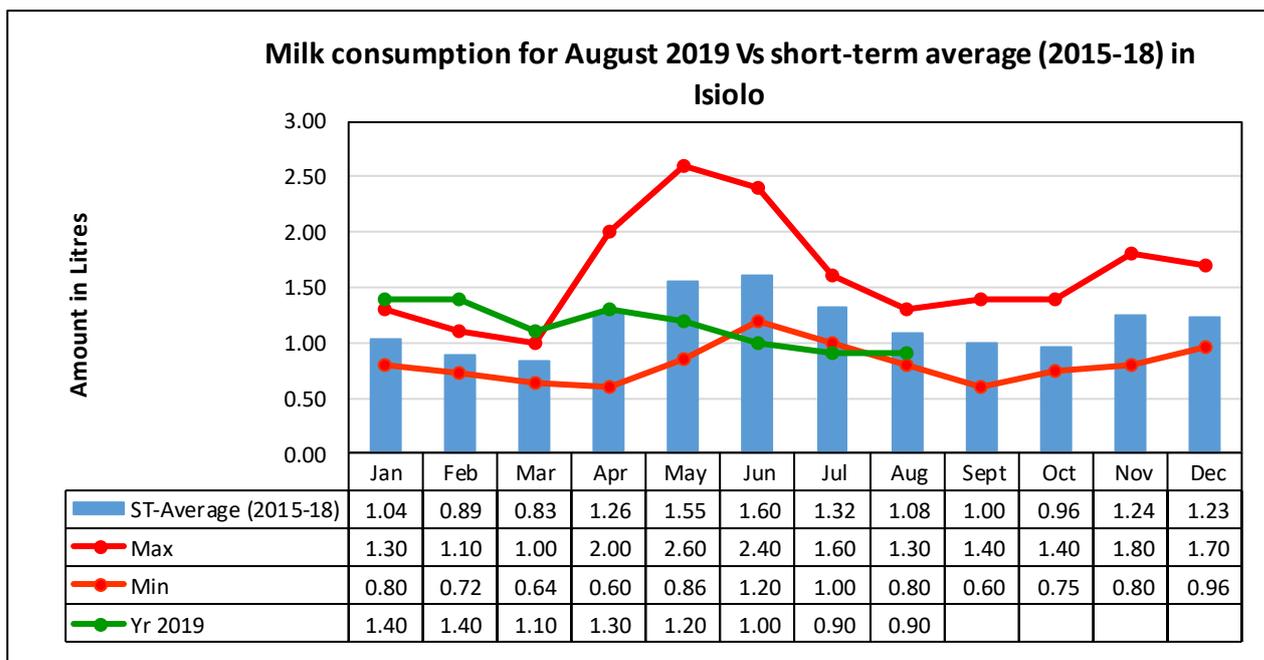


Figure 12: A graph showing the average milk production in the county

- Average milk consumption per household stabilized at 0.9 litres during the period under review.
- The low amount of milk consumed was attributed to the declining rate of production attributed to the poor quality and quantity of forage as well as water access.
- The average consumption was 31 percent lower than the short-term average of 1.1 litres.
- Majority of the milk consumed at the households was from camel as there was little production of milk from goats and cows.
- Consumption was high in the pastoral livelihood zone litres as compared to the other two zones.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The proportion of households who were persistently food insecure increased to 47.4 per cent in the month under review from 43.8 percent in the previous month.
- The relatively high proportion of households in the two categories is an indication of an overall poor access to and utilization of food commodities.

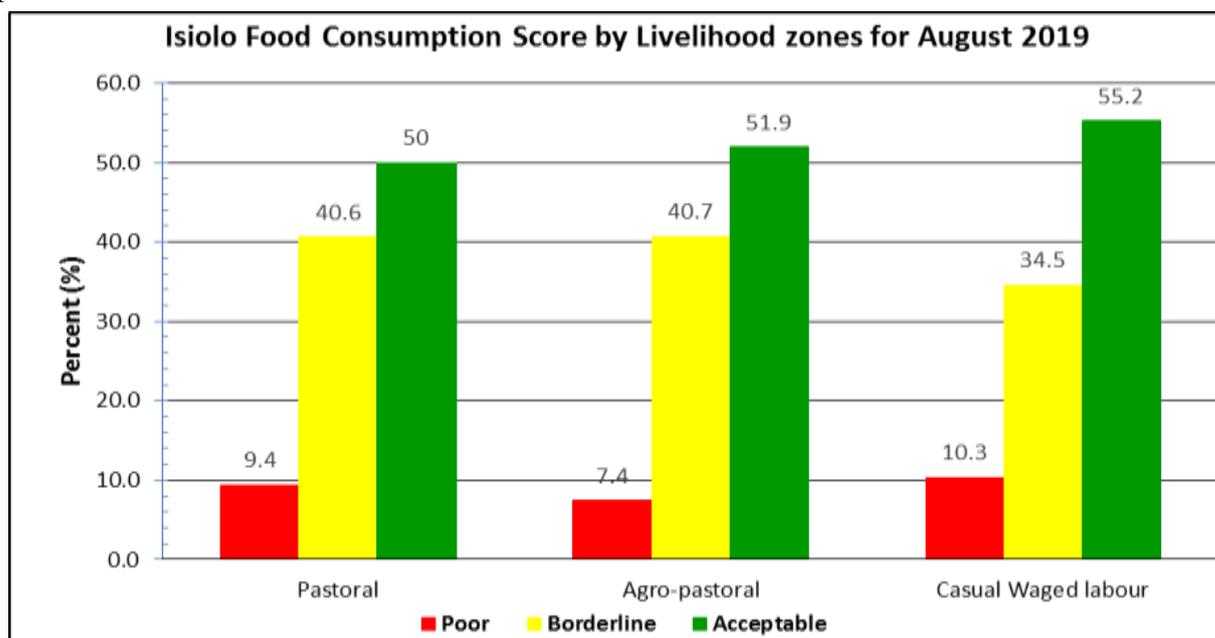


Figure 13: A graph showing the overall households' food consumption score

- There was an overall increase in the proportion of households that are unable to meet their minimum dietary requirements to about 44 percent.
- The poor food consumption pattern was attributed to the declining purchasing power implying that household had limited access to a diverse and consistent availability of key food commodities in their meals.
- Similarly, there was a significant decline in household milk consumption in all pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones following a reduction in the amount produced.
- Food consumption score is likely to worsen given the poor state of the production systems, especially the major livelihoods, livestock and crop production.
- “A poor score implies households are consuming staples and vegetables every day and rarely consuming protein rich food while borderline FCS imply that households consumed staples and vegetables every day accompanied by oil and pulse a few times in a week while the acceptable imply that households are consuming staples, vegetables every day, and frequently accompanied by pulses and some meat and milk”.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition (whose MUAC measurement was below 135.0mm threshold) increased significantly to 14.3 percent in the month under review from 12.1 percent in the previous month.
- The increasing rate of children at risk of malnutrition is attributed to poor food availability and access which has gradually affected utilization.
- A greater proportion of children at risk of malnutrition were victims of poor meal frequency, amount and shrinking dietary diversity. There was poor milk consumption as production continued to reduce. Incidence of endemic diseases such as rising cases of intestinal worms was also a major factor in children sliding into a risk of malnutrition.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was 23 percent lower than the long-term average of 19.2 percent indicating a better nutrition situation compared to the past.
- However, it should be noted that the situation is now worsening as food shortages bite in all the livelihood zones.

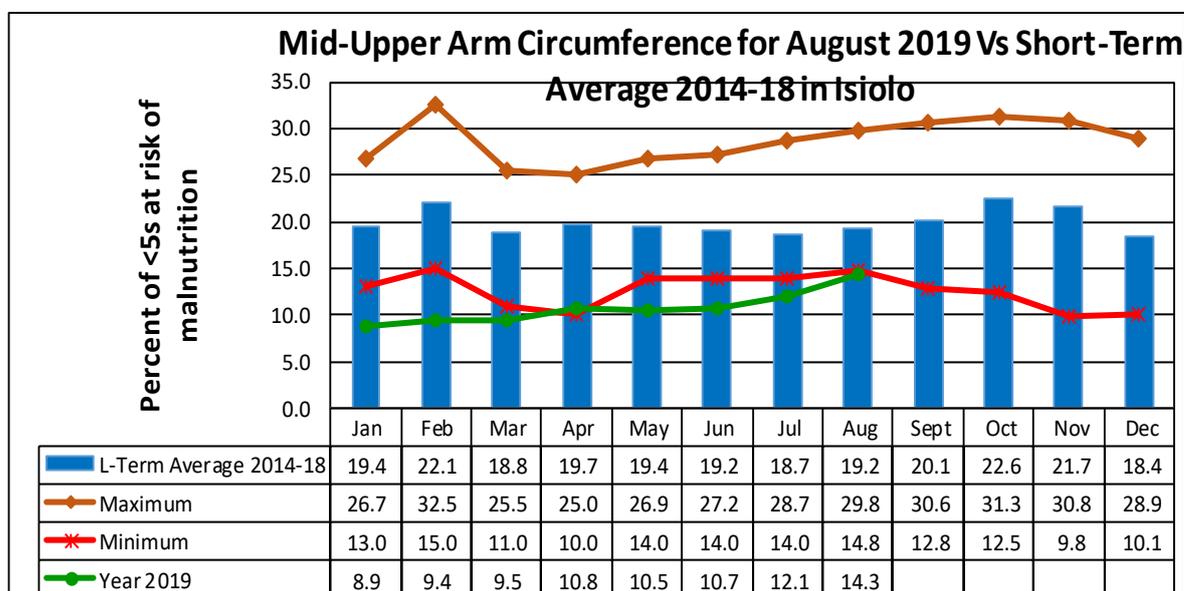


Figure 14: A graph showing the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference for children under 5 years of age

5.3.2 Health

- The general populations’ most prevalent diseases included acute upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), malaria, skin disease, urinary tract infections and rheumatism.
- Children under five years’ most prevalent diseases included the acute respiratory tract infections, pneumonia, malaria, intestinal worms and skin disease.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- Coping Strategy Index (CSI) increased slightly to 11.4 in the month under review from 10.6 in the previous month.
- The increment recorded in the index is an indication that households employed more coping strategies when compared to the previous month. This implies that the level of food security decreased considerably with a number of households across the county being forced to adjust their consumption patterns.
- The most commonly employed coping mechanisms over the period was reliance on less preferred and/or expensive food. Other commonly employed coping strategies are reduction of the number of meals, reduction in portion or size of meals, taking credit from shops and borrowing.

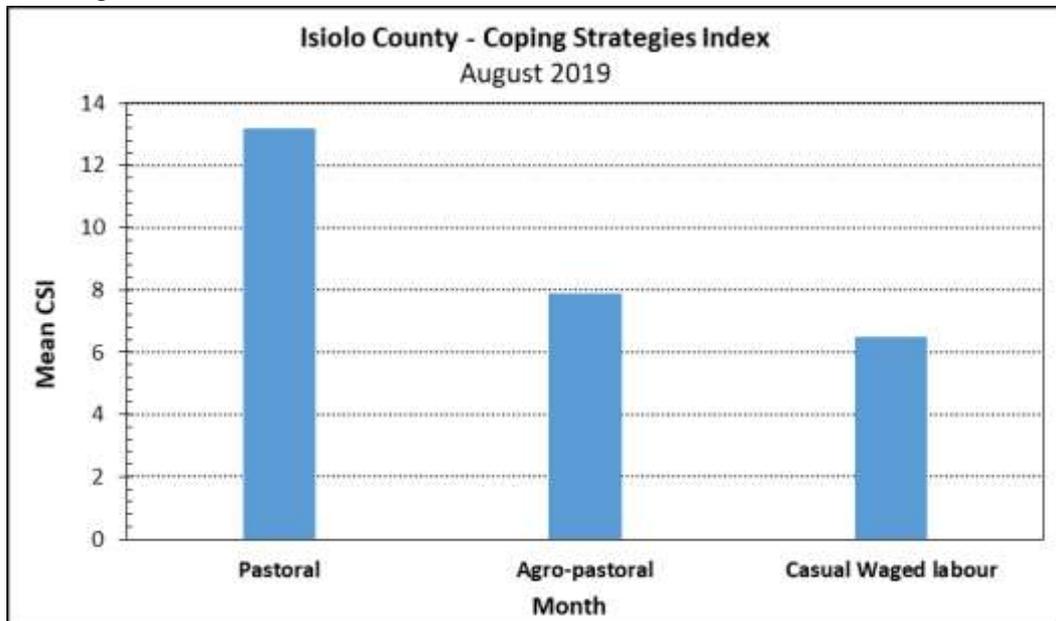


Figure 15: A graph showing the monthly reduced Coping Strategies Index

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTIONS)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

Table 1: A table showing the current non-food interventions in the county

Type of intervention	Ward	Sub-county	Action	Amount/ Targets
Peace talks in Kom Triangle, Sericho, Merti and Loruko	Charri, Sericho, Oldonyiro	Isiolo North Isiolo South	NDMA, GoK,	15,000
Provision of fuel subsidy to strategic boreholes	Cherab, Sericho and Burat	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	NDMA, County Government	100,000 goats and sheep and 50,000 cattle
Water Trucking in Cherab and Sericho	Cherab and Sericho	Isiolo South and Isiolo North	County Government NDMA	8,000 Households
Repair of boreholes	Lenguruma, Urura, Bisan biliqo and Godh rupa	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	County Government	2,700 Households
Drilling of 5 Boreholes	Cherab, Sericho and Oldonyiro	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	County Government DRSLP	3 in Cherab, 1 in Sericho and 1 in Oldonyiro
Cash Transfer programmes	Oldonyiro, Kinna, Burat and Ngaremara Garbatulla, Ngaremara, Burat, Oldonyiro	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	WFP (under SFSP) Kenya Red cross World Vision Kenya	6,600 Households 1,000 Households
Livestock feed	Garbatulla, Oldonyiro and Ngaremara	Isiolo South Isiolo North	Caritas Isiolo	2100 bags of drought pellet

6.2 FOOD AID

Table 2: A table showing the food interventions ongoing in the county

Type of Intervention	Ward	Sub-county	Implementer	Target/ Amount
Relief Food Distribution	All wards	Garbatulla, Merti and Isiolo	National Government	55,000 beneficiaries 500 bags of rice in Garbatulla, 500 bags in Merti and 900 bags in Isiolo sub-counties

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- Tension and conflict continued between Isiolo and Garissa county herders in Isiolo South.
- Pressure continued to build up in the area in Quri area, Sericho, where majority of animals from Cherab, Charri, Kinna, Garbatulla, Sericho are concentrated. Herders from the neighboring counties including Marsabit and Garissa are also seeking to feed their herds in the same region. Others are from Wajir West and South sub-counties, in Wajir County.
- The ensuing competition for the available pasture and water has a high likelihood of fanning recurrence of resource-based conflicts.

7.2 Migration

- A considerable proportion of herders have migrated to Kom and neighbouring dry season grazing reserves while some remained in Quri area, in Sericho ward.
- A considerable proportion of cattle herders in Oldonyiro have moved into Laikipia county ranches.
- A number of herders from Garbatulla sub-county moved to the Meru National Park and Tigania East.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The overall productivity of the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods was poor as occasioned by the poor performance of the long rains which resulted into insignificant forage regeneration and water availability in the entire pastoral livelihood zone.
- Productivity in livestock declined in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, where animal body conditions were observed to be worsening. There was a clear decline in milk production. This trend is expected to worsen as the long dry spell continues.
- Livestock markets performed dismally compared to a similar period in the previous year as a result of the declining body condition, a risky trend that is likely to erode households' purchasing power.
- Crop production especially under rain fed set up performed miserably following the poor performance of rains where very little to no harvest was realized in almost all agro-pastoral zones of the county. The poor performance of rains led to a downscaling of small-scale irrigation due to low water levels as a result of poor recharge in rivers and springs.
- Water availability in several parts of the county worsened after earlier than normal depletion of temporary sources. Water shortages are being experienced in Cherab and Sericho wards. Other areas with moderate water shortages are Garbatulla due to low yield in boreholes while Oldonyiro faced shortages as distances to sand dams increased after drying of some temporary ones.
- Access to food commodities was poor for a considerable proportion of households with the situation expected to decline gradually as the dry spell continues. The observed increment in coping strategies index was an indication of declining purchasing power compounded with challenges in access to basic food commodities. Dietary diversity also declined slightly as shown by the increasing proportion of households in poor and borderline consumption groups.
- Competition over the meagre range resources have in the recent past resulted into resource-based conflicts. Recurrence of the same will be a threat to livelihood sustainability and would be a threat to the already fragile food security situation.
- The overall county food security situation was fair and likely to deteriorate as the cumulative impacts of poor performance of rains in two consecutive seasons worsens given the already declining terms of trade, food consumption and utilization.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support peace building, conflict resolution and cohesion mechanisms in all sub-counties. Areas of major focus are Kom, Garbatulla, Burat, Sericho, Kinna and Oldonyiro where majority of herders have moved into to utilize the partially regenerating forage.
- Control of illegal abstraction of water in main river sources.
- Drilling of boreholes in Isiolo municipality.
- Provision of supplementary livestock feeds in all wards.
- Provision of fast moving spares.
- Purchase of water treatment kits.
- Support to water rapid response teams.
- Provide support for an active and continuous human and livestock disease surveillance for all possible disease pandemics.
- Scale up of water trucking in water shortage hot spots focusing on Cherab and Qurri which did not receive any rains.
- Continue the provision of relief food to the vulnerable households (those in Poor and Borderline consumption groups) in all wards.
- Support cash transfer programmes to vulnerable groups.
- Support pastoral communities in rangeland management to ensure that pastoral communities are able to utilize the available forage resources in organized grazing patterns and be able to prevent and control bush fires.
- Promotion of hygiene and sanitation practices especially the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).