

National Drought Management Authority

KAJIADO COUNTY

DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING BULLETIN – MARCH 2020



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



MARCH EW PHASE		Early Warning Phase Classification			
<p>Drought Status: NORMAL</p>  <p><i>Shughuli za kawaida</i></p>		LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS	
		PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE	
		AGRO-PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE	
		MIXED FARMING	NORMAL	STABLE	
		COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE	
<p>Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification</p> <p>Biophysical Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The onset of the short rain was on the 4th week of March. The rainfall was well distributed in time and space. This was normal for this time of the year. ✓ Vegetation condition was above normal, water was adequately available and accessible for both livestock and domestic use. <p>Production and Access Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Livestock body condition was very good and in their normal grazing fields. ✓ Livestock prices were stable and above short term average while milk production was below the long term average probably due to low tropical livestock units. ✓ The yield for maize was above normal due to good rains, planting was ongoing. <p>Access indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The terms of trade were good above long average for the month. ✓ Household milk consumption was slightly above the long term average probably due to improved production. ✓ Return distance to water sources both for domestic and livestock use were below long term averages. <p>Utilization Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Most households (92%) were consuming acceptable diet. ✓ The risk of malnutrition for under-fives was 14.3% below the normal range for this time of the year. ✓ Household were accessing food with less difficulty at the time of data collection. 		Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA	
		State of water	Adequate	Adequate	
		3-monthly VCI	105.8	>35 - 50	
		Pasture condition	Very good	Good	
		Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range	
		Cattle body condition	Very good	Good	
		Household daily milk production	3.6 litres	> 4.15 litres	
		migration pattern	No migration	No migration	
		Access Indicators	Observed Value	Normal/LTA	
		Terms of trade	104 kg of maize/goat	>55.6 kg of maize/goat	
		Household daily milk Consumption	3 litres	>2.7 litres	
		Distance to water source	Livestock	4 km	<5.59 km
			Households	3.3 km	<4.9 km
		Utilization indicators	Value	Normal Range/LTA	
		MUAC (% <135 mm)	7.2%	<8.40%	
Coping Strategies Index	4.66	<5.0			
Food Consumption Score (Acceptable)	92%	>35.5%			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvest Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH food stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High calving rate Milk yields increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvest A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH food stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall

- Originally, the onset of the short rains season was in the 3rd to 4th week of March, however in the

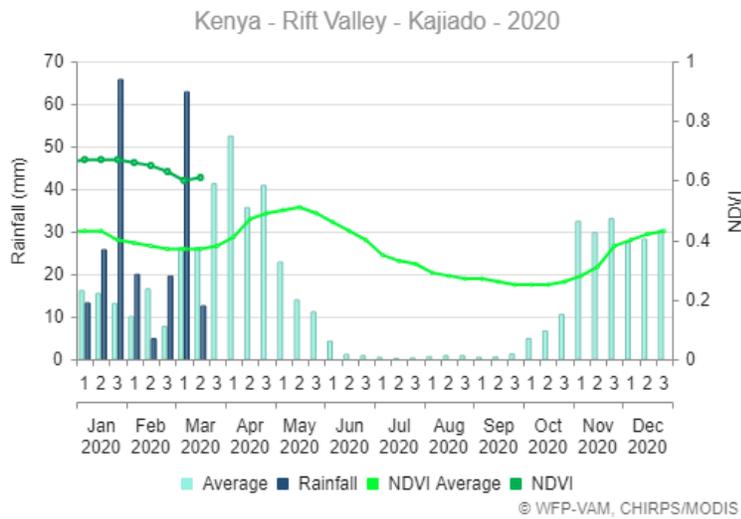


Figure 1: Trend in Rainfall performance for Kajiado County

current year 2020, this was expected in the 2nd to 3rd week of March; onset of a rainy season depends on the use. The meteorologists' reported the occurrence of tropical cyclone occurring around the same time hence the dry period during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of March (Figure 1).

- The 2020 short rains onset occurred on the 4th week of March

and cessation projected to be on the 2nd to 3rd week of May 2020, this is normal.

- Rainfall amount was enhanced with good distribution in both time and space; again, the emergence of Tropical cyclone is expected to distort the rainfall distribution and amounts from time to time.

1.2 Other Events

1.2.1 Floods

- Due to heavy rainfall that the County is expected to be receiving going forward, parts of the County may experience flash flooding. Residences are advised to avoid driving/walking through moving waters. Precautions to be taken before crossing seasonal rivers.
- Areas marked for floods include those along Olkeria river (Mashuuru/Selenkei, Kajiado River, (Kajiado), Olekasasi River (Kisamis), Ngataatek and Partimayo Rivers (Matapato).
- Other floods spot areas include, Pakase and Kamukuru (Magadi), Lenkism, Isinya and informal urban settlements including Nkaimurunya.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The condition of vegetation has remained stable in the County since November 2019, this was attributed to the good rains received through the season.
- In March, the County vegetation greenness improved to reach its maximum of 105.8; this was far above normal at this time of the year (Figure 2).

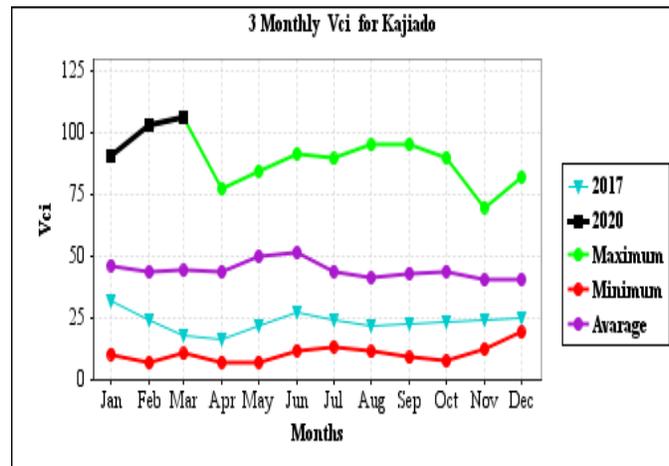


Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado, 2001 - 2020

2.2 Pasture and Browse Situation

- Pasture and browse conditions in the County was very good and stable across all the livelihood zones. The availability and stability in pasture and browse was attributed to the accumulative effect of the substantial rainfall received since the onset of the 2019 short rains to 2020 long rains.
- The current pasture and browse is expected to last for at least five months in all livelihood zones.

2.3 Water Sources

- The main water sources both for domestic and livestock use were pans / dams, boreholes/shallow wells and traditional river wells (Figure 3). Rivers, piped water and rainwater harvests also served as other sources of water.
- The quality and quantity of the open surface water sources was good.
- These are the usual water sources at this time of the year.

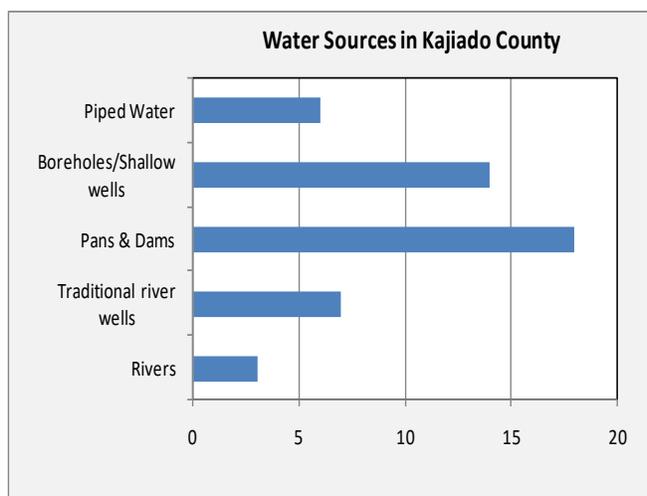


Figure 3: Water sources in Kajiado County, March 2020

2.4 Households Access to Water

- Households continued to enjoy short waiting time and distances to water sources. The current return distance to water source for domestic use was 3.3 km; this was 33 percent below the long-term average at such a time of the year (Figure 4).
- Water sources continued to have full volumes of water as the onset of long rains followed a hundred percent recharged during the short rains.
- There was no significant variation in distance covered across the livelihood zones with the current open water sources expected to last for a period of 4-6 months across the livelihood zones.

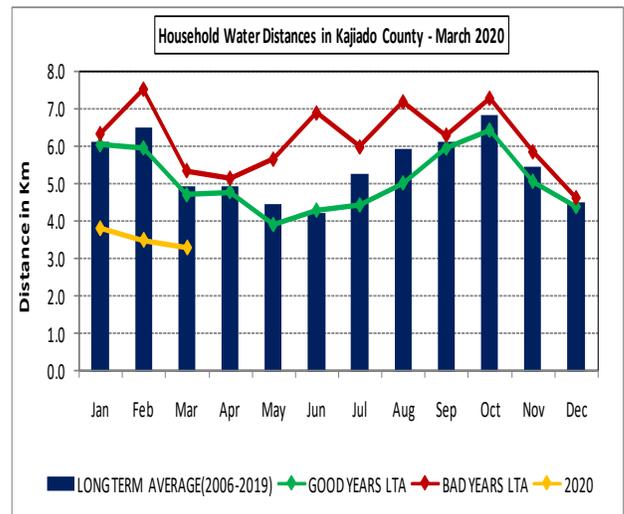


Figure 4: Average household return distance to water source

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- The average return distances to water sources from the grazing field was 4.0 km with no significant variation across livelihood zones (Figure 5).
- The distance was shorter than the long-term average of 5.6 km at this time of the year.
- All the livestock species continued to be watered daily in the open water sources including pools of water on the grazing fields.
- The available water could last three to five months across the livelihood zones.

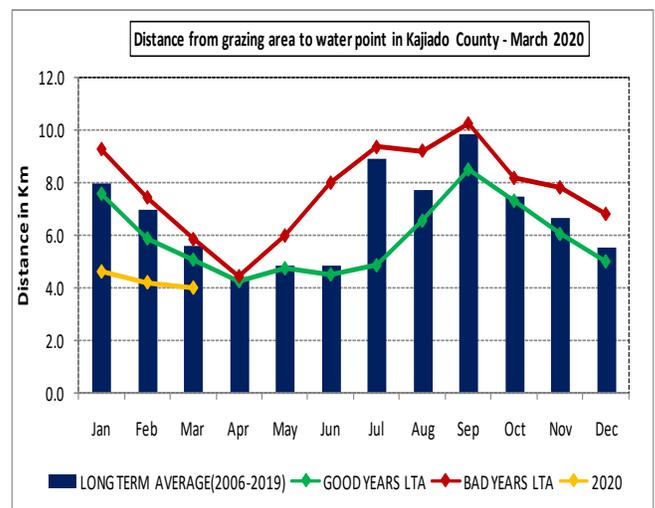


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing field to water sources

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Due to the availability of pasture and browse coupled with easy access to water, the body condition for all livestock species were still good smooth in appearance in all the livelihood zones.
- The good body condition is expected to continue for the next four to five months.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- Suspected cases of Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) were reported in Kajiado South and West while Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Sheep and Goat pox, Contagious Bovine Pleurapneumonia (CBPP) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were reported across the County.

3.3 Livestock Migration

- There were no reported cases of livestock migrations during the month of March. The situation is expected to remain so for the next five months.

3.3 Milk Production

- Milk production in all the livelihood zones have increased by 20 percent since January 2020.
- The current milk production was 3.6 litres (Figure 6); this was 13 percent below the long-term average due to low livestock tropical units at household level.
- The current milk production compared with that of a bad year at 3.59 litres.
- In pastoral livelihood zones, milk production was 4.5 litres and 3.1 litres in agro-pastoral.

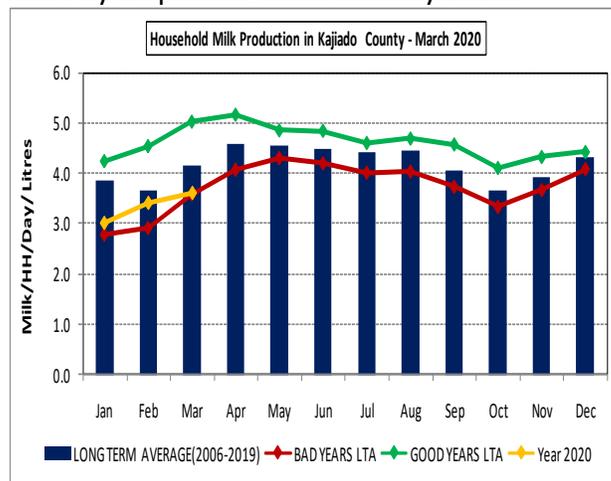


Figure 6: Average household milk production per day in litres

3.4 Crop Performance

- Farmers had finished harvesting maize. The yields were good above normal productions. Mainly planting and in a few places land preparation for the long rains season were ongoing.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- All the main livestock markets in the county namely; Shompole, Ilbisil, Kimana, Rombo and Kiserian operated normally up to the 3rd week of March when they were closed to curb further spread of Covid 19; Corona Virus. Data collection was within the period of normal operations.

4.1.1 Prices of Cattle

- In March, the average price of cattle remained stable on the upward trend by 2.9 percent from the

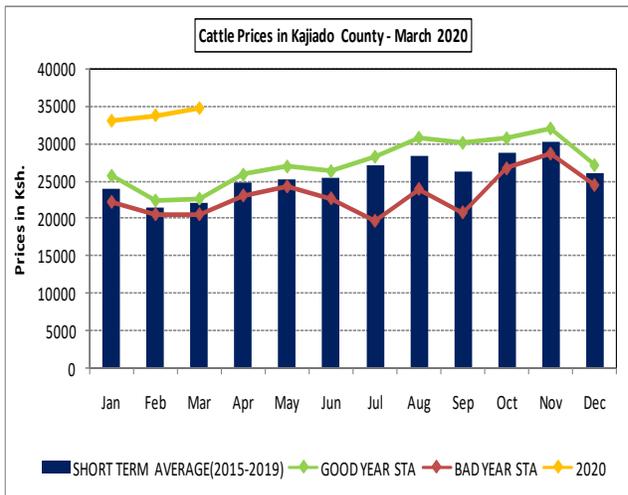


Figure 7: Average prices of Cattle pastoral (Ewuaso) while higher price of Ksh.47, 000 in agro-pastoral (Isinya).

previous month to Ksh.34,800. The prevailing price was above the five-year average for the month of March by 58.8 percent (Figure 7).

- However, with the closer of markets to curb the Covid 19; Corona Virus cattle prices could reduce as households will be forced to sell at farm gate prices.

- This was attributed to good body condition due to easy access to water and availability of pasture.
- Lower price of Ksh.23, 000 was reported in

4.1.2 Prices of Goats

- Price of medium sized goat remained above the five-year average by 58.7 percent. In March, goat price was Ksh. 4,900, a 4 percent rise from the previous month (Figure 8).

- The continued Improvement in goat prices was attributed to good body condition due to availability of browse.
- Again, the market closers to curb the spread Corona Virus could reduce goat prices, as households will be selling at farm gate prices.

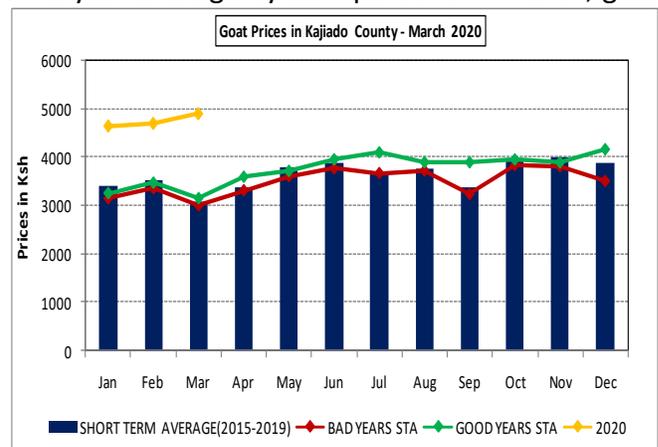


Figure 8: Average price of a Goat

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Prices of Maize

- The average maize price per kilogram went down slightly to Kshs.47 from Kshs.50 during the previous month (Figure 9).The decline was attributed to the just concluded above average harvest.
- The average retail price of maize ranged from Ksh.30 per kilogram in Mixed farming areas of Loitoktok to Ksh.60 per kilogram in pastoral Ewuaso.

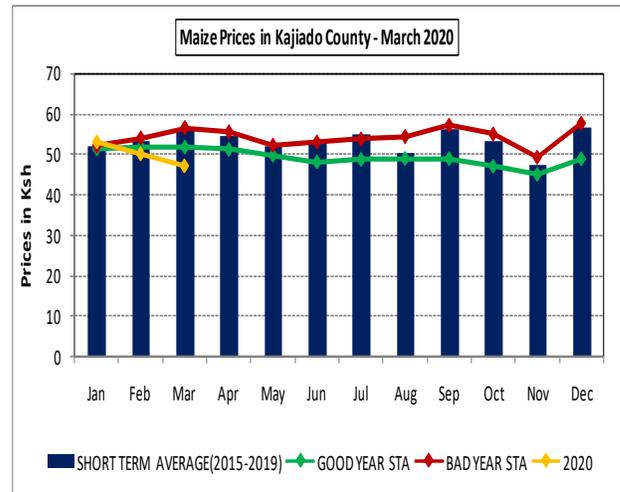


Figure 9: Average price of Maize per kilogram

- However, food prices were likely to rise from April with the closer of markets and imposed curfew. There is need to monitor pastoral areas relying on markets for cereals and other household foodstuffs and proper mechanism put in place to curb exploitation by traders and possible food insecurities.

4.2.2 Prices of Beans

- Beans prices went up sharply to Ksh.100 per kilogram in March from Ksh. 91 in January; this was a

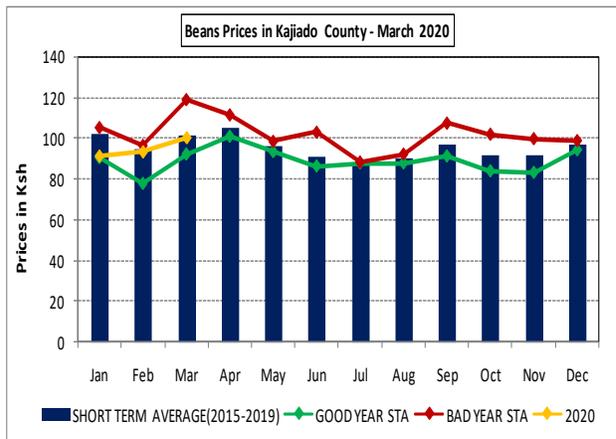


Figure10: Average price of Beans per kilogram

7.5 percent increase from February (Figure 10). The rise in price was attributed to high demand at market as farmers were buying seeds for planting and for consumption. Most farmers had lost beans during the short rains season to excess water.

- This was not normal, as prices would have lowered by this time of the year following harvest.
- The beans prices ranged from Ksh.88 per kilogram in Isinya to Ksh.120 per kilogram in Ewuaso.
- The current beans price however, compared well with the five-year long-term average of Ksh. 101.
- Further rise in prices is expected as household rush to buy longer lasting and nutritious foodstuffs.

4.3 Prices of Milk

- The price of milk across all the livelihood zones remained stable at Ksh. 45 during the month of March. Normally, given the favorable season, milk prices would have reduced to Ksh. 30 per litre.
- However, tropical livestock unit per household was still low; current milk production was similar to that of bad year at 3.56 litres per day.

4.3 Livestock Terms of Trade

- During the month under review, the livestock-to-cereal terms of trade (ToT) at 104.3 was still in

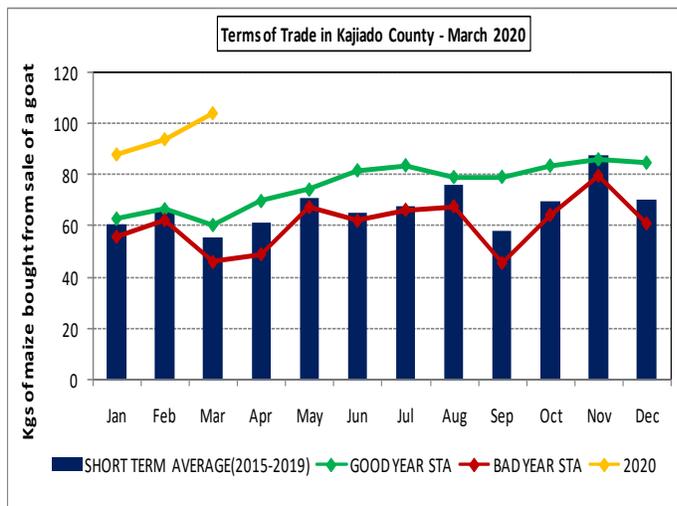


Figure 11: Terms of Trade

favor of the pastoralists having a higher value, 87.7 percent of the long-term average for the month (Figure 11).

- The favorable terms of trade was attributed to the prevailing above average goat prices resulting from good body condition while the average price of maize in the county reduced due to bumper harvest.
- The highest terms of trade was recorded in Kajiado East where households could purchase 162 kg of maize from the sale of one goat, while Kajiado West recorded the lowest ToT at 83.4 kg of maize in exchange of an average sized goat.
- Due to the prevailing market disturbances because of Corona virus pandemic, TOT was likely to reduce in the next month.
- Kajiado West needs close monitoring during this time of considerable uncertainty in the wake of Virus outbreak.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

- Milk consumption at household level increased by about 7.1 percent from the previous month to 3.0 liters per household per day (Figure 12). The increase was attributed to improved production due to water and forage availability.
- The current milk consumption was same as that of a good year and slightly above the long-term average of 2.7 litres per day; households generally consumed most of the milk produced.
- In pastoral livelihood zones of Kajiado West, daily milk consumption was 3.4 litres and 2.2 litres a day in Kajiado East where milk was mainly sold in towns.

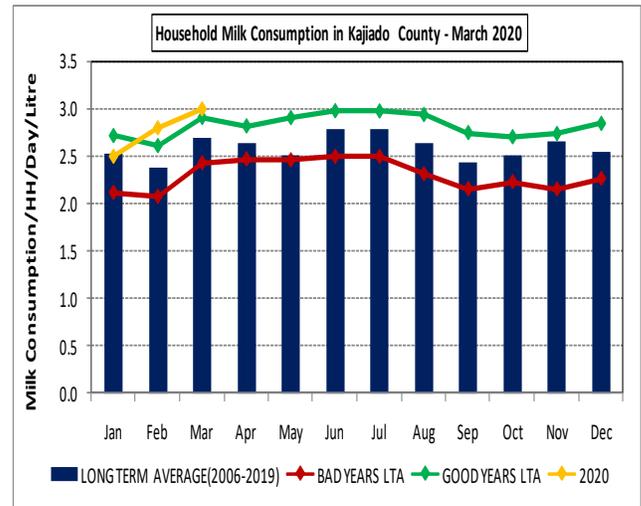


Figure 12: Average household daily milk consumption

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- On average, 92 percent of the households fell within the acceptable food consumption score category in March (Figure 13).
- Though access to acceptable dietary intake was stable at the time of data collection, this was likely to reduce with the spread of Corona Virus that has affected movement and hence trade.
- There is need to monitor the 1.2 and 31 percent under poor and borderline consumptions during this Corona virus pandemic due to their sensitivity.

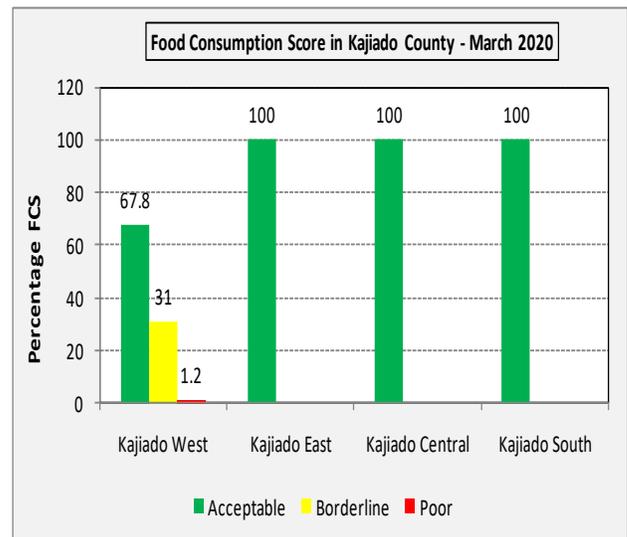


Figure 13: Household food consumption score

5.3 Coping Strategies

- In March, the mean coping strategy index (CSI) was 4.66. However, this is expected to rise from next month as the Corona virus pandemic continues to worsen.

- In the pastoral livelihood zone, CSI was 5.1 and 3.5 in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.

5.3 Human Diseases

- No human disease outbreak was reported in March at the time of data collection within the seven sentinel sites, however first confirmed case of the Corona Virus was reported in Rongai Kajiado North Sub County on 12th March 2020.
- The case was taken up by the National Government, Ministry of Health and necessary precautions taken including quarantine of the patient at the Mbagathi Hospital, contact tracing and spraying of the patient’s residence area.
- Shortage of running water in the county remains the biggest setback in the fight against the spread of the disease.
- Currently the entire Country is at dawn to dusk curfew in a bid to curb the spread of the Corona Virus which has since been declared a global disease pandemic.

5.5 Nutritional Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

- The risk of malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months continued on the reducing trend.

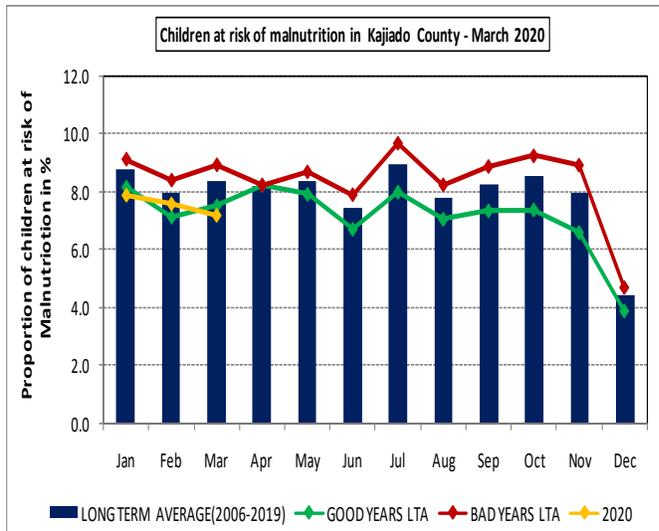


Figure 14: Proportion of children aged 6-59 month at risk of malnutrition

- In March, the proportion of children aged 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition was 7.2% compared to the long term average of 8.4%. In January this proportion was 7.9% (Figure 14).
- This was attributed to improved milk availability, improved dietary diversity and extensive outreaches being done by the County Government.
- The proportion of children aged 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition is likely to rise in the coming months due to limited movements, closer of markets and possible rise in the costs of basic food stuffs.

FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- The food security situation in the county was stable at the time of data collection.
- Pasture and browse was available and expected to be so for the next four months, however access could be affected in the coming months due to restricted movements as the fight against Corona Virus continues. Livestock body conditions were good with smooth appearance for all species.
- Most of the water pans were recharged to capacity hence the water sources will be available for both household and livestock use.
- Though milk availability has improved, malnutrition rates are expected to rise due to limited food access as supply goes down, food commodities rise in prices and markets closed.
- The household food consumption is expected to reduce due to projected limited supply, as markets remain closed.
- In addition, the closer of schools, reduction/loss of manual jobs means increased consumption at household level thus faster exhaustion of household food stocks.
- The spread of Corona Virus is projected to increase in the entire country thus strain on medical facilities, health practitioners and economy.
- However, the projected enhanced short rains could lead to bumper harvest, thus bring some limited relief.

6.2 Current Interventions

- Setting up of Corona Virus isolation centres at Kajiado County Referral Hospital, Kitengela and Loitoktok Sub County Hospitals, Olekasasi and Oltepesi Health Centres; *by County Government and partners.*
- Training of health practitioners on Corona Virus and patient management; *by County Government and partners.*
- Sensitizations of community health workers and Matatus operators on Corona Virus prevention measures; *by County Government and partners.*
- Fumigation of border markets and at the main county markets; *by County Government.*
- Sectoral extension and surveillance on human, livestock diseases and monitoring of desert locust; *by respective County departments and partners.*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- Improve on running water availability and put mechanisms in place to ensure supply at low cost; *by respective County departments, National Government and partners.*
- Intensive sensitization / awareness to the public on corona virus prevention measures and need for immediate visit to health care facilities incase of suspected symptoms; *by respective County departments, National Government and partners.*
- Ensure there is easy access to quality facial masks and sanitizers to the public by indicating where they can be found and without exploitation; *by respective County departments, National Government and partners.*
- Continued awareness creation on the importance of the dawn to dusk curfew, hand washing, social distancing and the need for continued adherence; *by respective County departments, National Government and partners.*