

National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2020

APRIL EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- In April, the County received sufficient rainfall across livelihood zones. The temporal and spatial distribution was good.
- The vegetation cover index recorded was above normal range, with a stable trend across the livelihoods as indicated by the uptrend in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. Forage condition is good.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The livestock body condition remained good with stable trend across the County. Distance to water sources dropped.
- The terms of trade is favourable with a stable trend.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	102	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	95	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	-	>1.6 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	108	>76
Milk Consumption	-	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	1.7 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

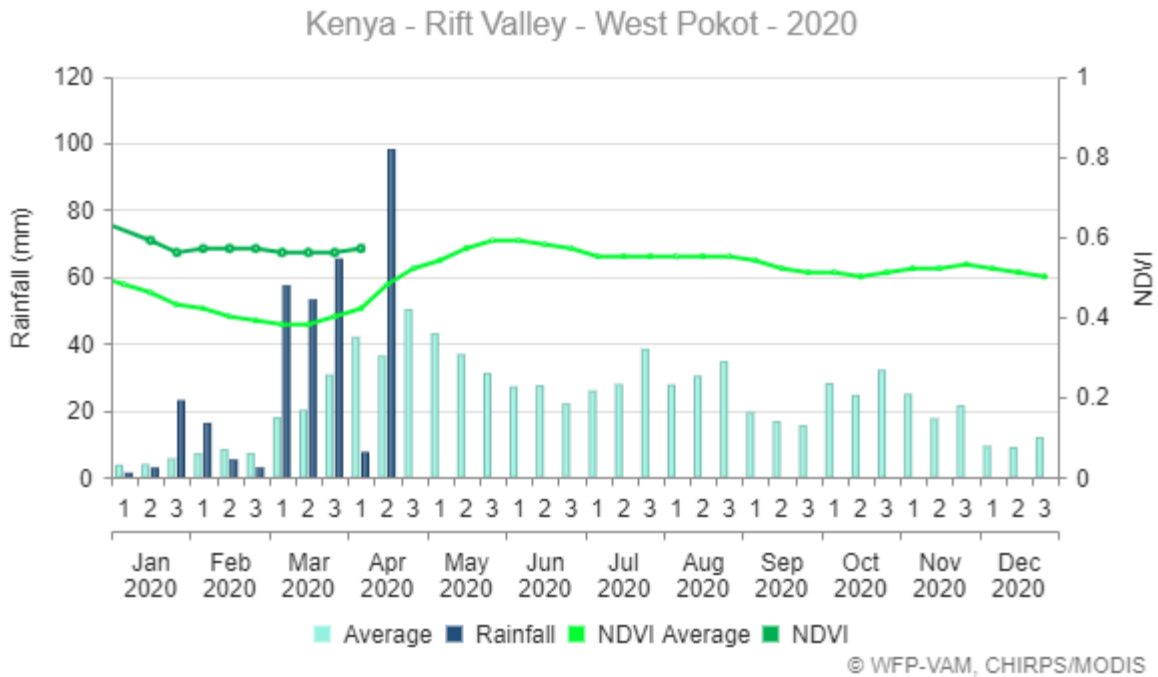
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	-	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	-	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	-	>35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Increased HH Food Stock ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions) 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Adequate rainfall was received in during the month. The intensity remained good in both the lowlands and highlands.
- The rainfall situation is above normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The dekadal rainfall increased from 67 mm to 98mm in the second dekad. The second dekad amounts were above normal.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- During the month, the spatial and temporal rainfall distribution is good across the livelihoods.

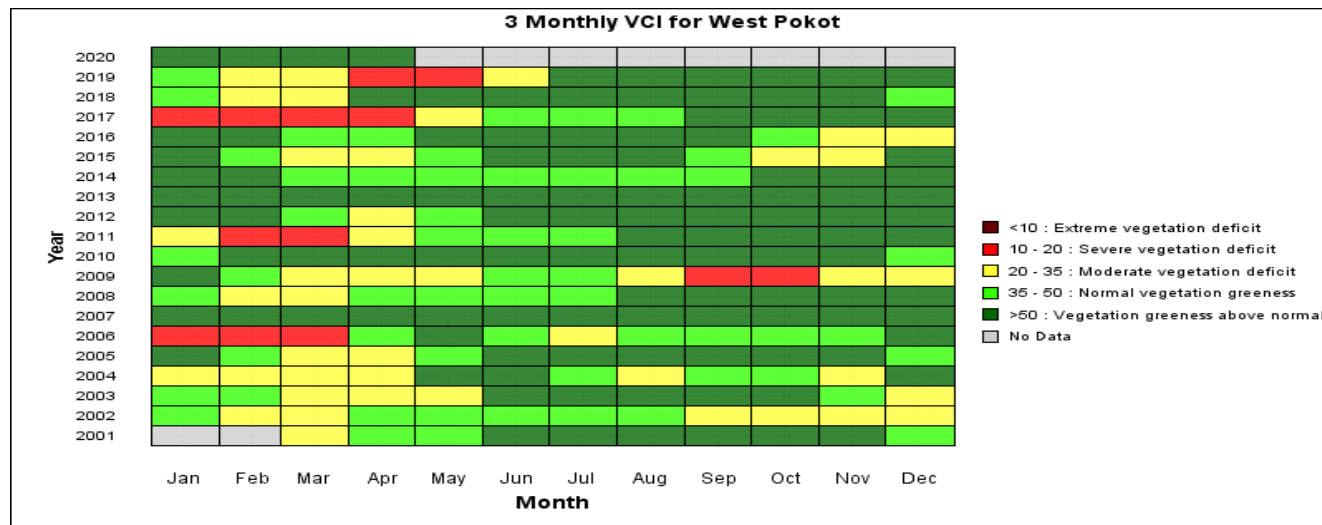
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Landslides occurred in Chesezon along Elgeyo Marakwet border killing over 15 people and displaced 5000 households.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- During the month, the VCI (VCI-3month) which portrays the vegetation status of the County was stable at 102 from 96 recorded in March. The current VCI represents above normal vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on stable trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. The stability in VCI is from 104 to 95, 97 to 103, 107 to 102 and 96 to 97 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The steady trend in VCI is attributed to sufficient regeneration of vegetation cover owing to good rainfall within the month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- In April, the proportion of sampled community members which recorded that the pasture was good is at 75 percent; up from 70 percent in March.
- The communities reported that pasture situation was good in all livelihood zones. The condition was normal for such time of the year. The trend is improving in comparison to that of March attributed to good rains.
- The pasture condition is expected to remain stable further due to good performance of long rains season.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood zones.

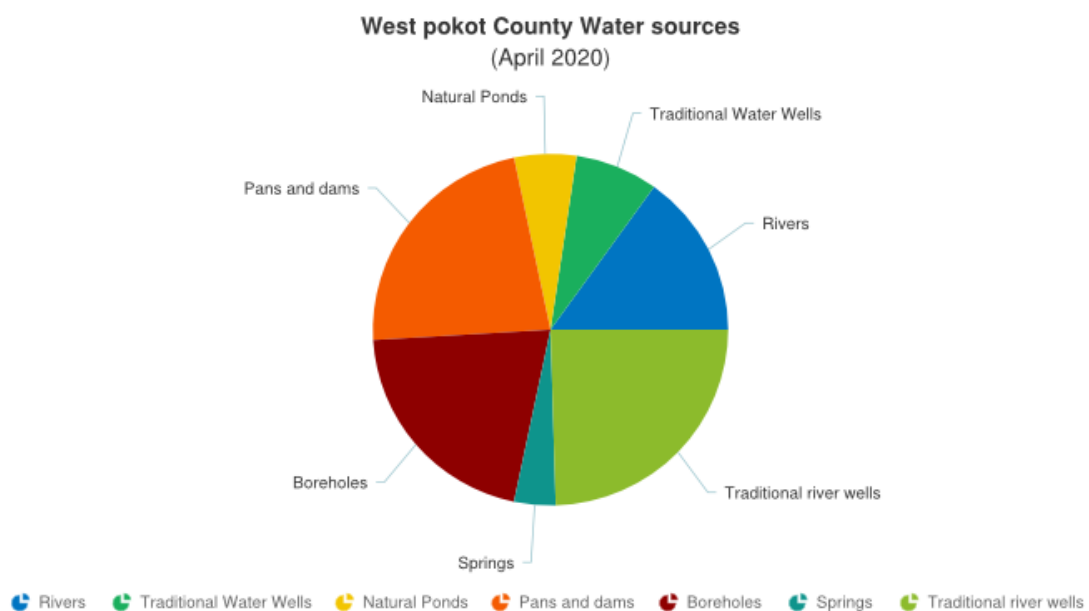
2.1.3 Browse

- The proportion of sampled community members which reported that browse condition was good is remained 100 percent; similar to that recorded in March.
- The browse condition is good across the livelihood zones and is normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is good as compared to that of the previous month.
- The quantity of browse is good across the livelihood zones and there was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The forage access is good credited to up-scaled peace building efforts along conflict hotspots.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

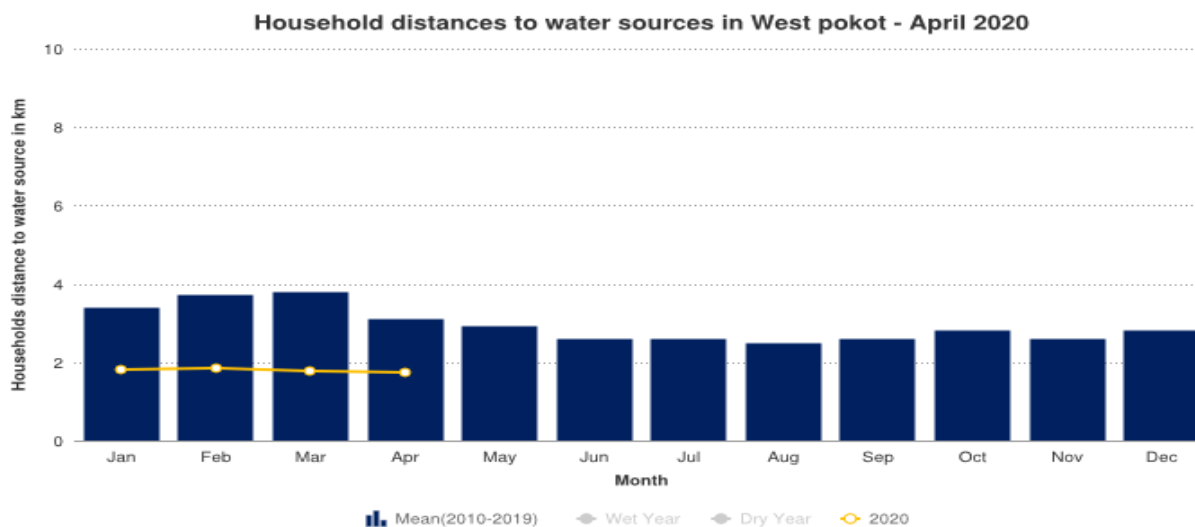
2.2.1 Sources

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock in April are; 13 percent for traditional river wells, 12 for pans and dams 11 percent for boreholes while those using rivers were at 8 percent.
- The recharge was good in all surface water sources in April in comparison to that of March. The situation is attributed to heavy rains within the Month.
- The current main water sources in use are the normal ones used by households during such time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- In April, the return distance to water source from the household is at 1.7 km, a decrease from 1.8km reported in March. The current distance is 24 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- As usual, the pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The steadiness in distance is credited to good water source recharge during the month.

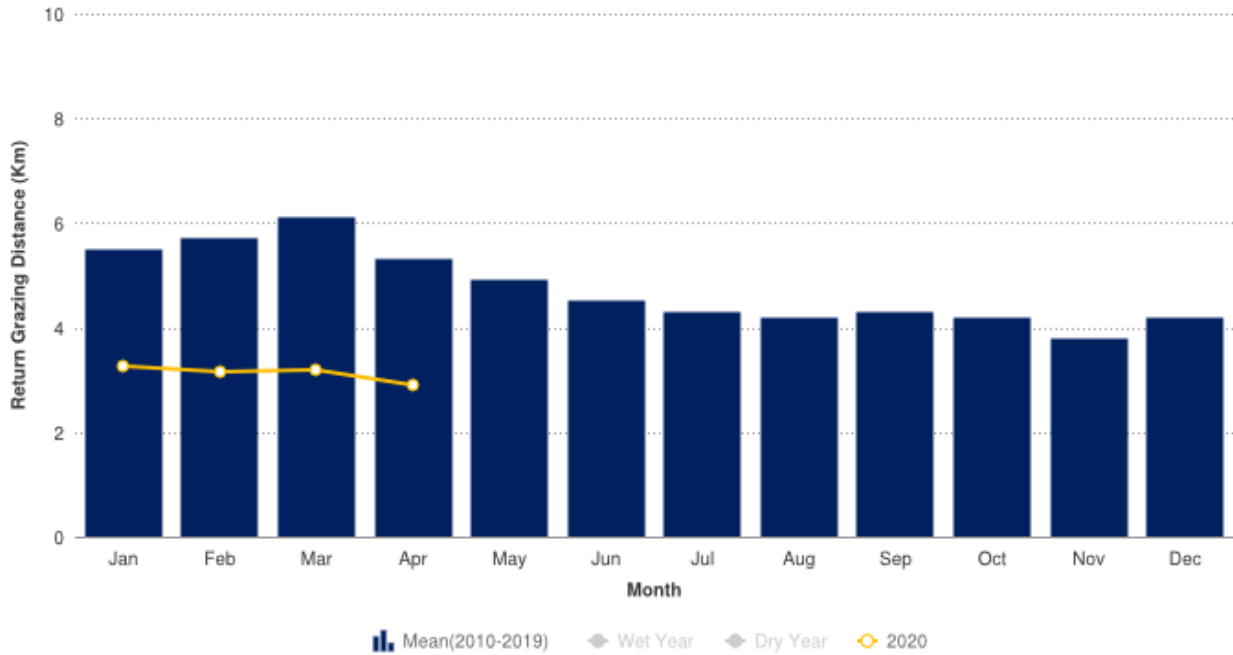


- The pastoral livelihood zones reported longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is still at 18-20 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was at 15-18 litres.
- The cost of accessing water at the source is still free in the rural areas and different in urban centres where a 20 litre Jerrican cost was within normal ranges for the period at Kshs 5.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- During the month, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources is at 2.9 km, a drop from 3.1km recorded in the previous month. The current trekking distance is 45 percent below the normal range.
- The pastoral livelihood zone reported longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

Distances from grazing areas to water points in West pokot County - April 2020



- The decline in livestock trekking distance to water points is credited to good rainfall performance coupled with heightened recharge to the water sources.
- Frequency of watering is at 7 times in a week for cattle and shoats and 6 times in a week for camel.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The body condition for all livestock species is good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in comparison to that reported the previous month, the condition stabilized.
- The livestock body condition is likely to remain stable across the livelihood zones during the long rains season.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The trend is stable owed to sufficient forage regeneration.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was reported in Kapchok, CCPP was reported across the livelihoods.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

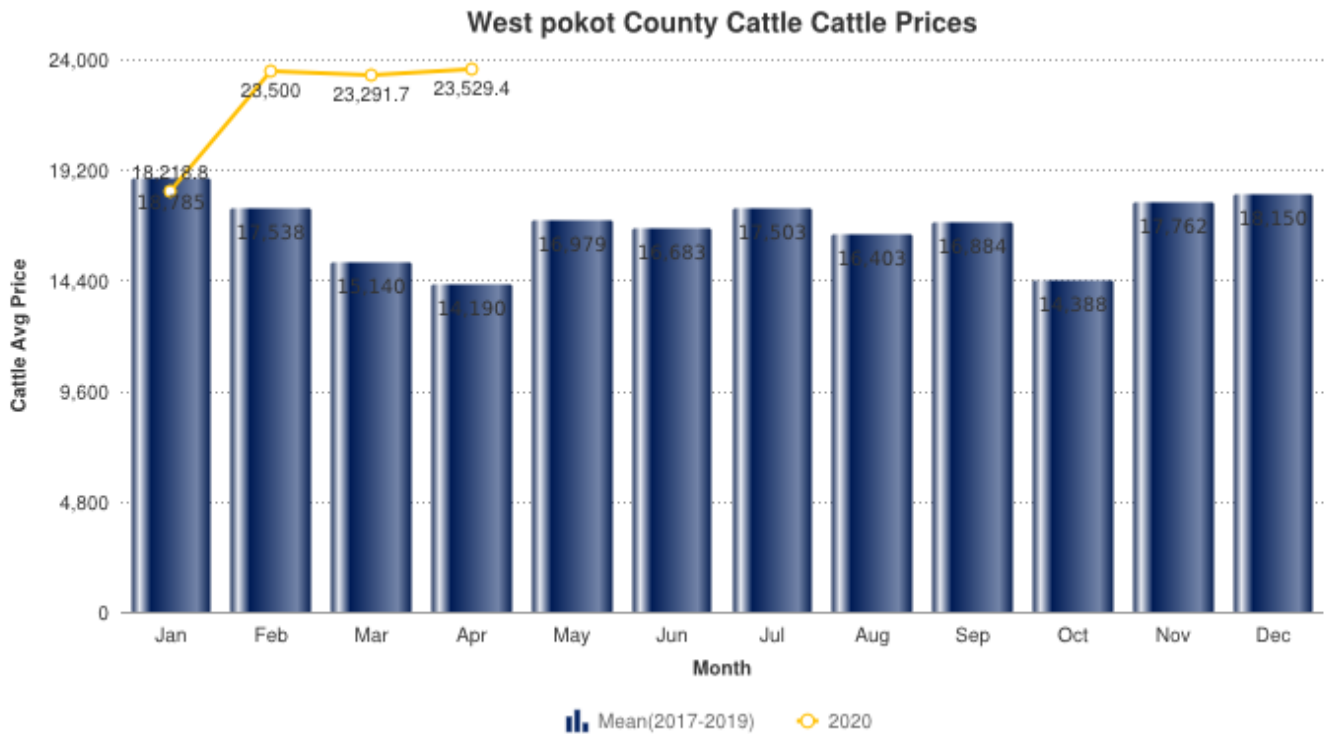
- The major crops cultivated within the County include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Crop planting and weeding is ongoing in both mixed and agro pastoral zones.
- The horticultural production and supply to major markets in Wakkor, Ortum and Lomut is at normal levels in comparison to the seasonal performance.
- During the month, the level of farming is intensive along the horticultural production zones.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in highlands is ongoing. These are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

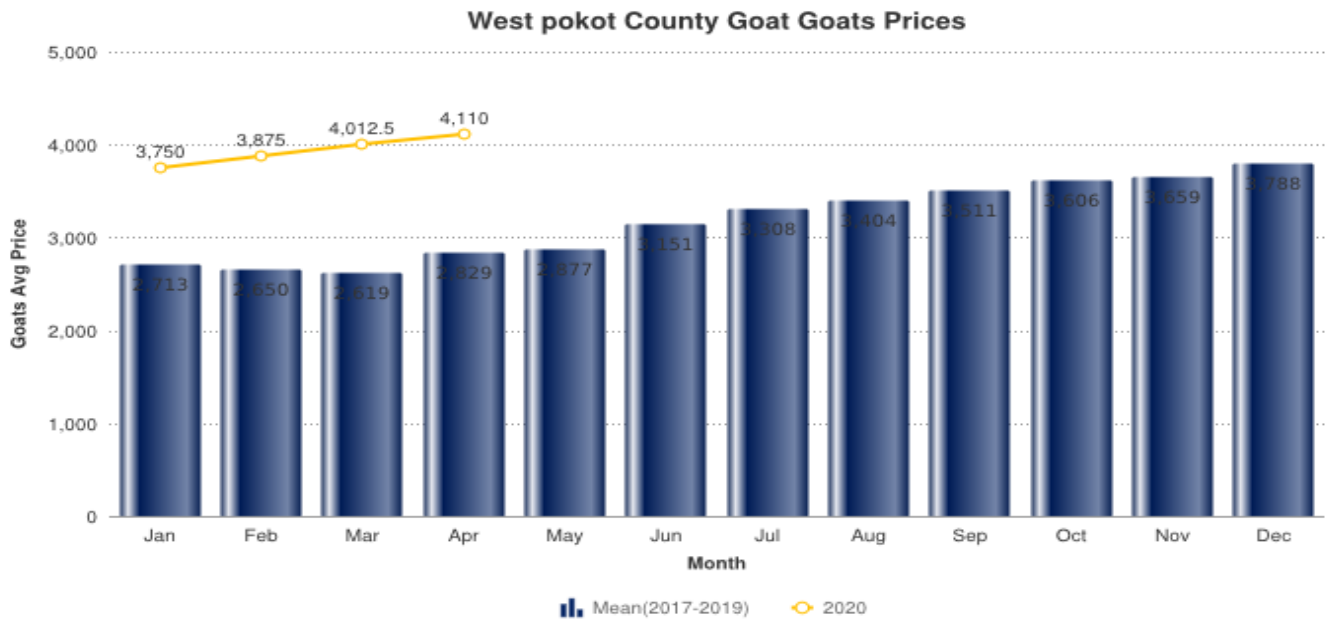
- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 23,529 in April, indicating an increase in price as compared to Kshs 23,292 reported in the previous month.



- The increase in cattle price is attributed to good body condition coupled with sufficient forage access, as well as good recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is above the LTA.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- In April, the County reported an average price of Kshs 4,110 for a 2-year old medium size goat which portrayed an increase in comparison with Kshs 4,013 recorded in the previous month.

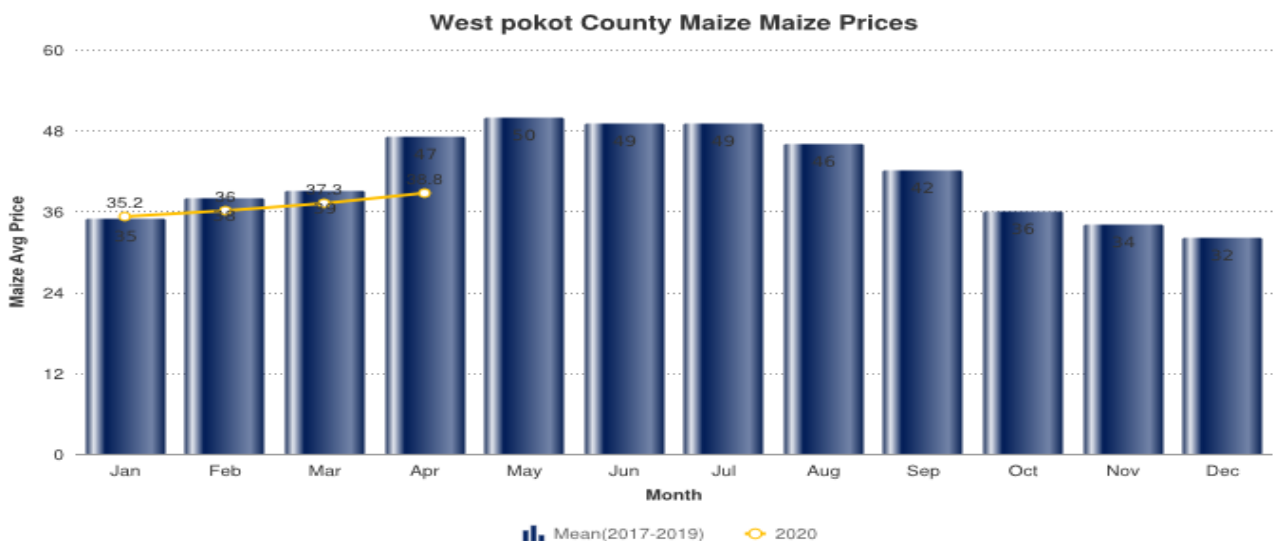


- The price increase is due to good body condition for goats in the livelihoods.
- The current goat price is 45 percent above LTA for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

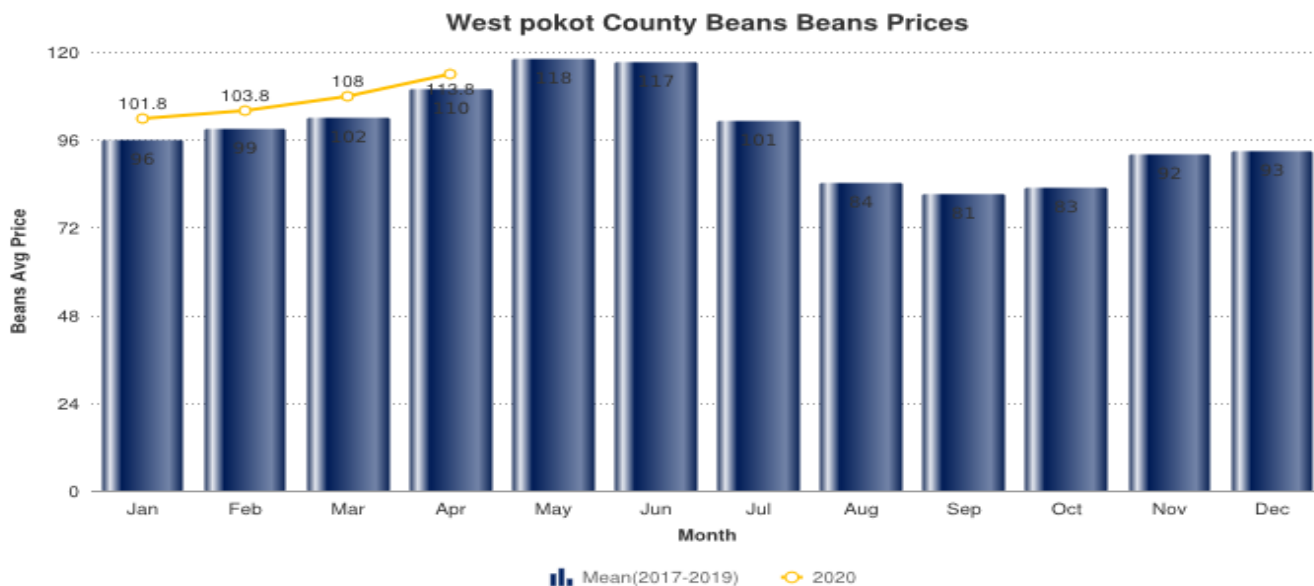
- The maize was sold at Ksh 38 per kg, a rise from (Ksh 37) that was recorded in March.
- The current price is 19 percent below the LTA price.



- The price slight increase is attributed to the unsteady supplies from Trans Nzoia and Republic of Uganda.
- Majority of the households depended more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is projected to go up owing to the expected unstable external supplies.

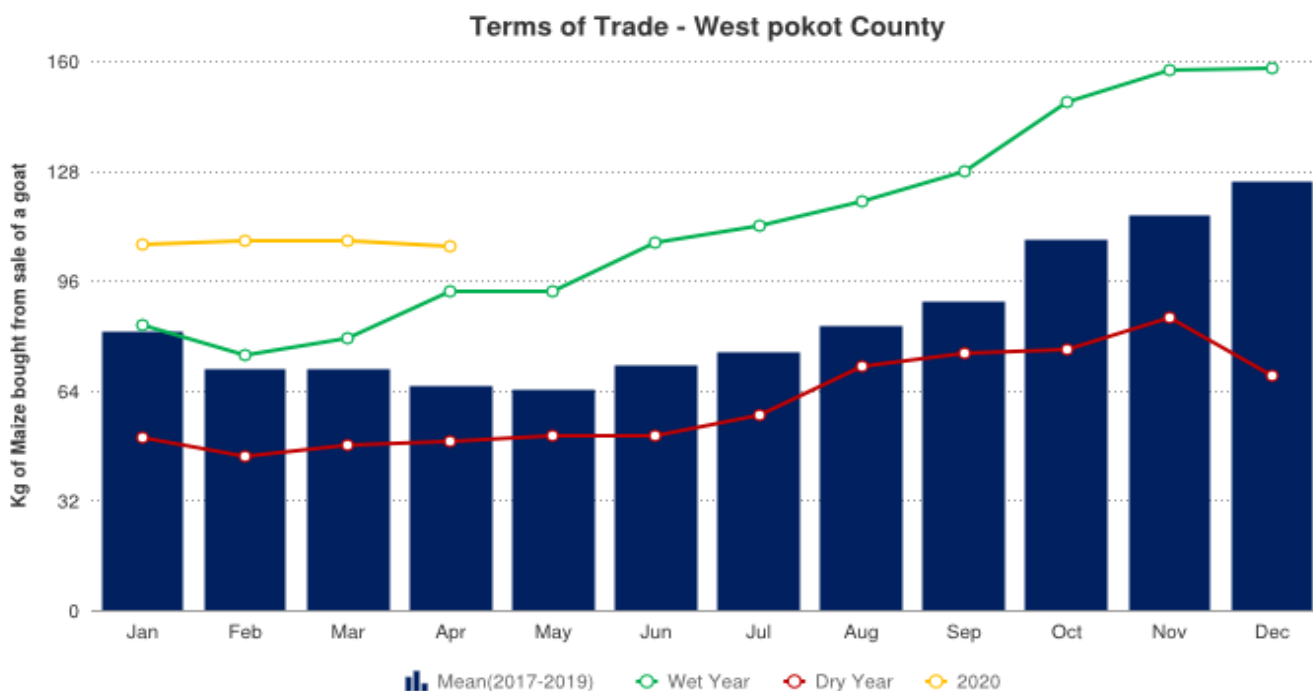
4.2.2 Beans

- The beans traded at Kshs 114 per kg, representing a price increase in comparison to Kshs 108 reported in March.
- The price increase is linked to fluctuating external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 4 percent above the LTA price (Ksh.110) for similar period of the year.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is at 108, same as that recorded in the previous month, indicating that households obtained same amount of maize for sale of a goat currently as compared to March.
- The stable trend in ToT is credited to good prices in both goat and maize in March.
- The TOT variation is expected over the next three months as the price of goat is expected to go up with the ongoing long rains season.



5.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

5.1 NON-FOOD

- Resettlement interventions are going on in Chesezon area areas targeting landslides/floods displaced victims living in camps. Blankets and other non-food items were also distributed.
- COVID-19 pandemic control and sensitization is ongoing across the County.

6.0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- No livestock theft incidences were reported along West Pokot/Turkana border during the month.

6.2 MIGRATION

- Normal livestock movements were reported in April.

6.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Above normal long rains season performance is expected, as such, the distance to water sources for both human and livestock is likely decrease.
- The livestock productivity is anticipated to improve, as the forage conditions improves with the onset of long rains resulting to good livestock body condition leading to fair livestock prices and good access to food due to the favourable purchasing power.
- Maize prices are likely to go up while goat price is likely to improve. Therefore, the terms of trade would be stable within the period.
- Milk availability is projected to remain stable with enough pasture and water thus improving livestock production. Malnutrition cases are expected to drop over the period, as children would access enough milk.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Intensify livestock vaccination particularly in wards with reported cases of Foot and Mouth Disease.

2. WATER SECTOR

- Support households on water storage technologies to ensure maximum use of the rain waters.

3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Settlers around flood/landslide risk areas are advised to move to safer places to avoid loss of lives and destruction of property during upcoming long rains season. They need to be mobilized to move to safer areas.

4. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Support sustainable peace building community projects at borders to bring both sides to work together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots of Turkana-West Pokot border.