

**National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2018**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JUNE EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Adequate rainfall was received across livelihood zones in the first and second dekads. Both temporal and spatial distribution is good. The ongoing rain season has generally performed normally.
- The vegetation condition portrayed a stable trend across most parts of the County. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness. Forage condition is still good in all livelihood zones.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The livestock body condition is still good across the County, with a stable trend. Distance to water sources decreased in.
- Milk production and consumption increased at household level. Terms of trade remained favourable, with an upward trend.
- Most households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score, with the coping strategy index remaining stable during the month.
- The proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition decreased within the normal range.

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)	78	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	84	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Normal	Normal
Milk Production	1.8 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	104	>76
Milk Consumption	1.6 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.7 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Kshs /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

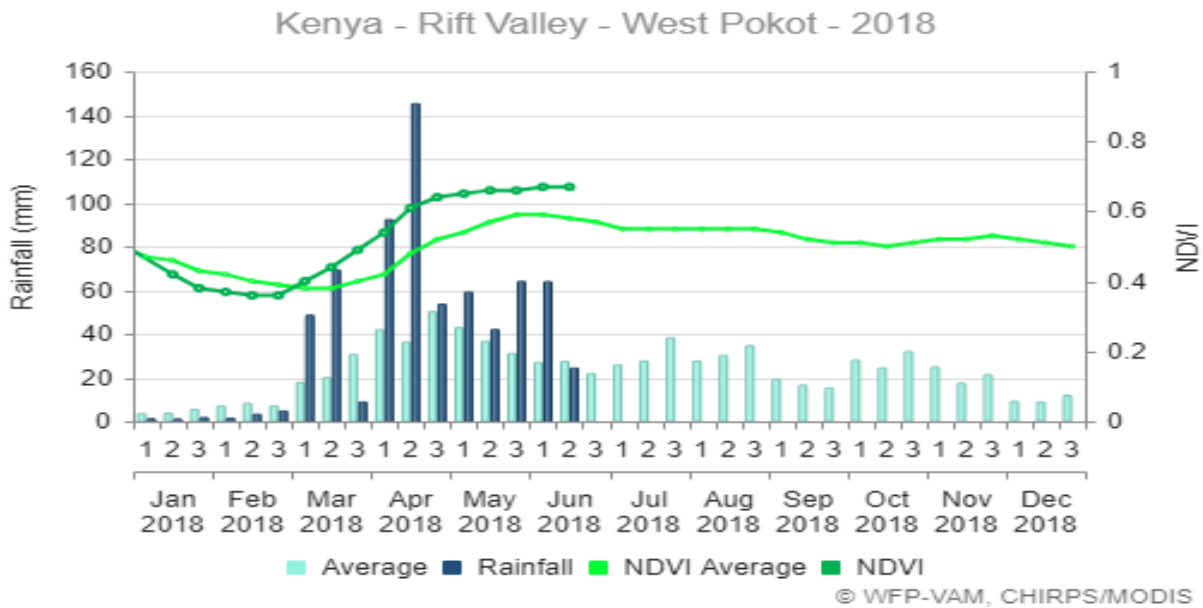
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	4.7	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.2	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	42	>35

<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

- Sufficient rainfall was received during the month. However, the intensity decreased compared to the previous month as depicted in both first and second dekads. The ongoing rains season is predicted to continue into mid-July.
- The experienced rainfall situation is normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The dekadal rainfall increased from 58.9 mm (previous month) to 63.7 mm during the first dekad but decreased from 41.8 mm (previous month) to 24.2mm in second dekad. The first dekad amounts were above normal while second dekad the amounts got below normal.
- In June, the NDVI values remained above the historical NDVI values due to adequate rains received. The trend remained stable with the ongoing good rains.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- Substantial rains were received in both lowlands and highlands, with good temporal and spatial distribution. The rainfall was high in amounts and intensity in the highlands than in lowlands.
- Generally, the County remained wet during the month.

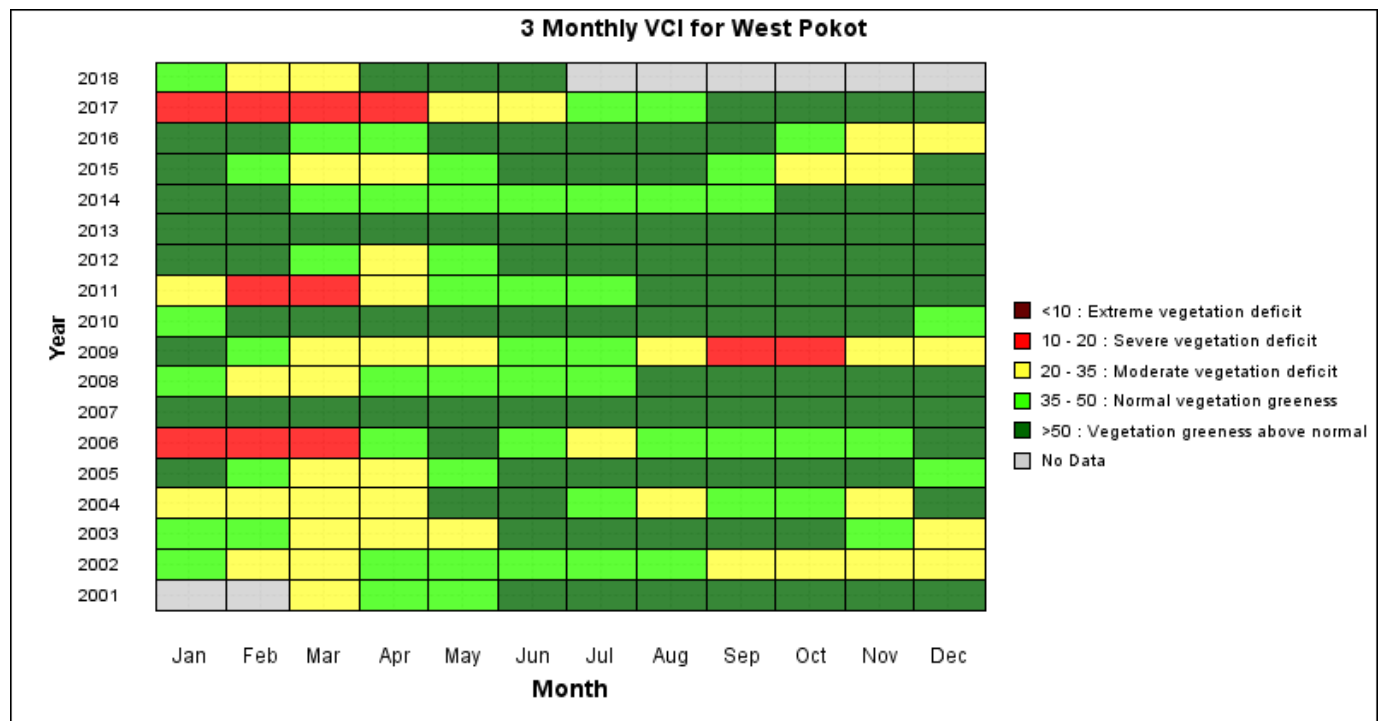
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- There were no notable events such as floods, land/mud slides, lightning strikes and hailstorms during the month under review.

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 demonstrates the vegetation status of the County is 78, a slight drop from 79 recorded during the previous month. The current VCI shows above normal vegetation greenness.
- The VCI trend is stable across the County during the month under review. All sub-counties were categorized in above normal vegetation greenness band. The VCI for Pokot North and Pokot West Sub-counties however dropped from 89 to 81 and 75 to 73 respectively. Pokot South and Pokot Central Sub-counties recorded increasing VCI from 60 to 63 and 78 to 81 respectively. The tendency to stability in the VCI is due to sustained regeneration of vegetation cover resulting from adequate rains received during the month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The sampled community proportions reported that the pasture was good at 100 percent.
- Across livelihood zones, the pasture condition is good. The communities reported that the condition was normal for such a time of the year. When compared to the previous month, the trend is still stable due to sufficient rainfall during the month under review.
- The ongoing rainfall is expected to sustain the pasture situation across livelihoods.

- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity within the livelihood zones.

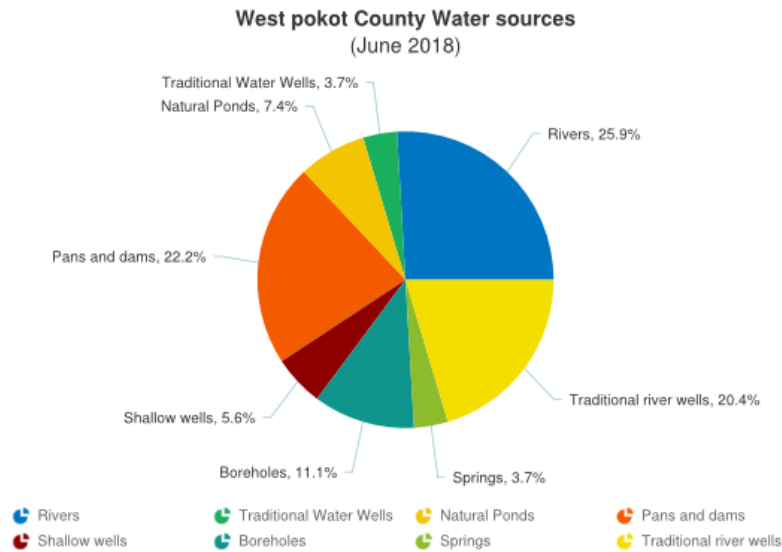
2.1.3 Browse

- The proportion of community sampled reported that the browse was good at 100 percent.
- Browse condition across the two livelihood zones is still good. The condition is normal in comparison to the browse situation during such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is stable in relation to that of the previous month, a situation attributed to good rainfall received during the month.
- The fear of conflict at historical hotspots still hampers access to browse along the Pokot-Marakwet/Turkana borders. Renewed tensions at these areas make browse access a challenge.
- The quantity and quality of browse is good in both zones and there is no significant variation between the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

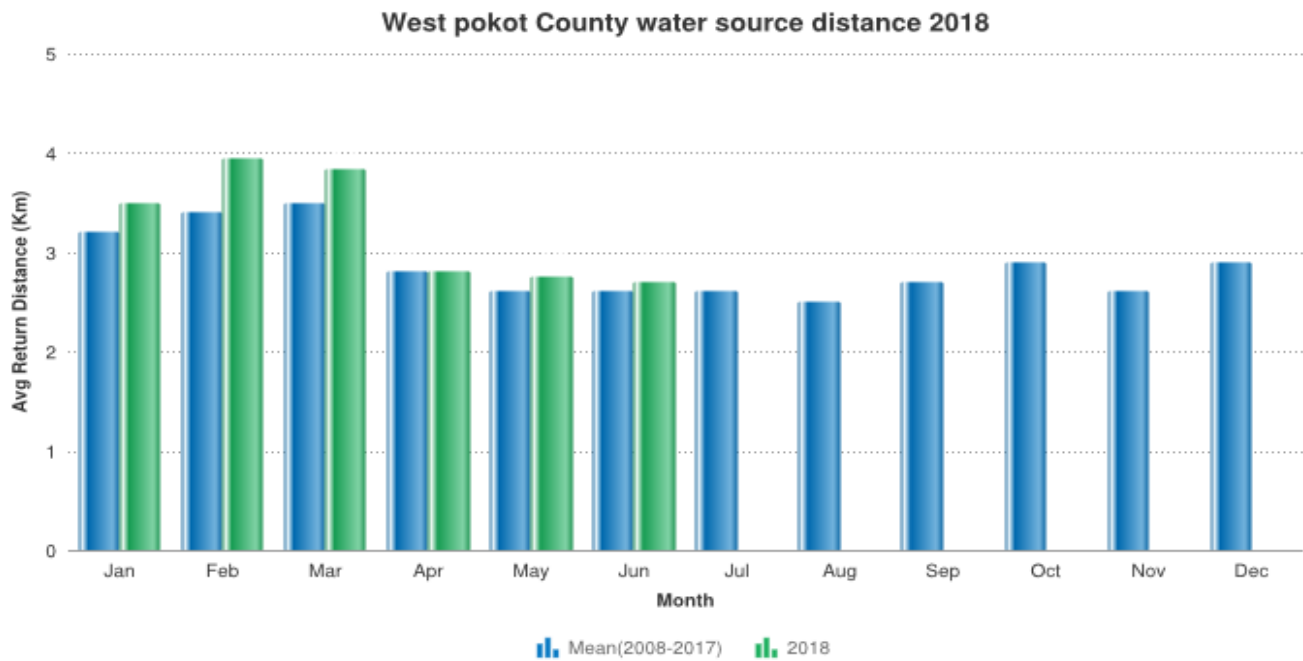
2.2.1 Sources

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources currently for both households and livestock is 26, 22 and 20 for rivers, pans/dams and traditional rivers respectively. Other water sources in use include boreholes, which stood at 11 percent.
- The water recharge levels remained stable in comparison to the previous month due to substantial rains received.
- The water levels remained high for rivers and boreholes due to the stable recharge.
- The current main sources in use are the normal sources where households draw water during this time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The return distance to water source from the household remained 2.7 km. The current distance is 4 percent above the long term average distance.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zone reported longer trekking distance to water source in comparison to the pastoral livelihood zone. The generally stable distance was due to the sufficient surface water sources recharge during the month.

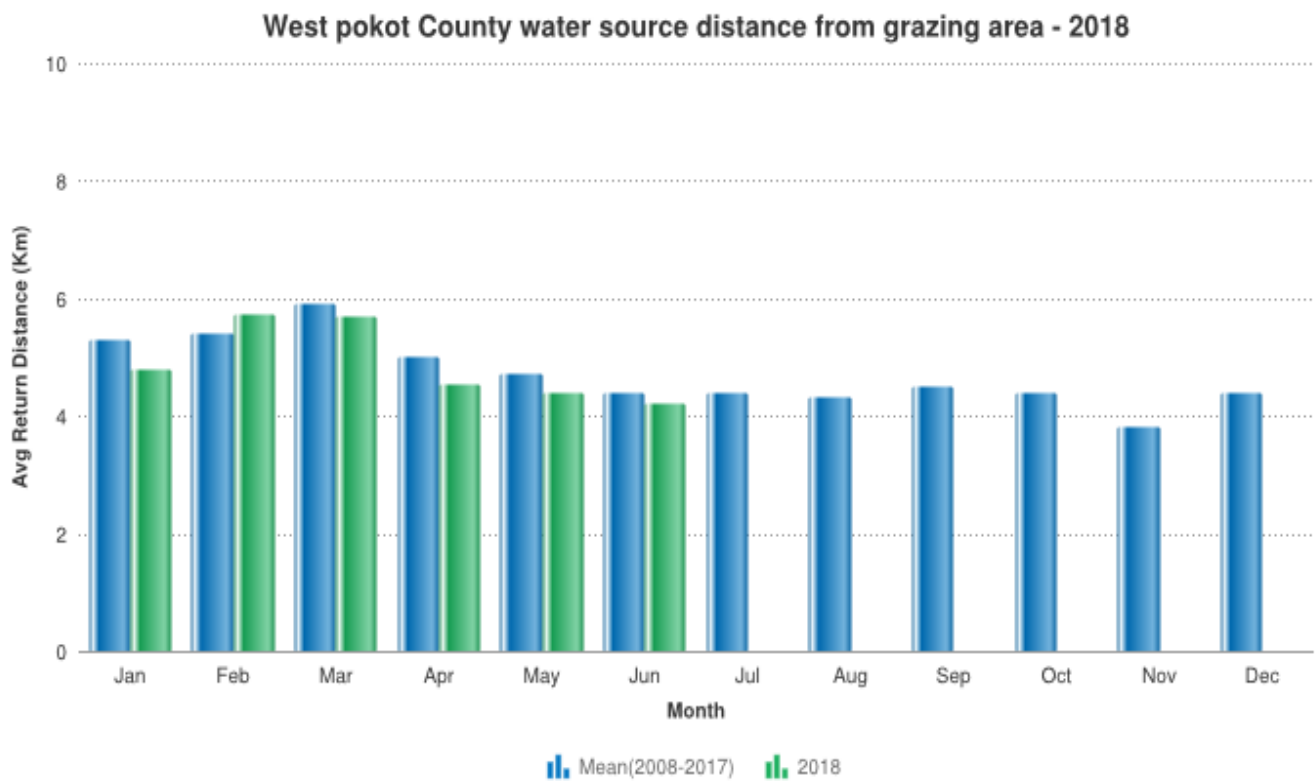


- In Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones both recorded decreased waiting time at water source.

- The average household water consumption per person per day is still at 9-13 litres in the Pastoral zone while that in the Agro-pastoral zone too remained 10-15 litres, as the previous month.
- The cost of accessing water at the source remained free in the rural areas unlike in urban centres where a 20 litre jerrican cost remained within normal ranges for the period.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- During the month, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources during the month is 4.2 km showing a decrease from 4.4 km recorded in the previous month. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.4 km, the trekking distance lies below the normal range by 5 percent.
- The trekking time from grazing areas to water sources is longer in Pastoral livelihood zone than that in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone.



- The decrease in livestock trekking distance is mainly due to adequate rainfall received within the month of June, which recharged the available water sources.
- Frequency of watering cattle and shoats remained at 5-7 times in a week while for camel is 4-5 times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

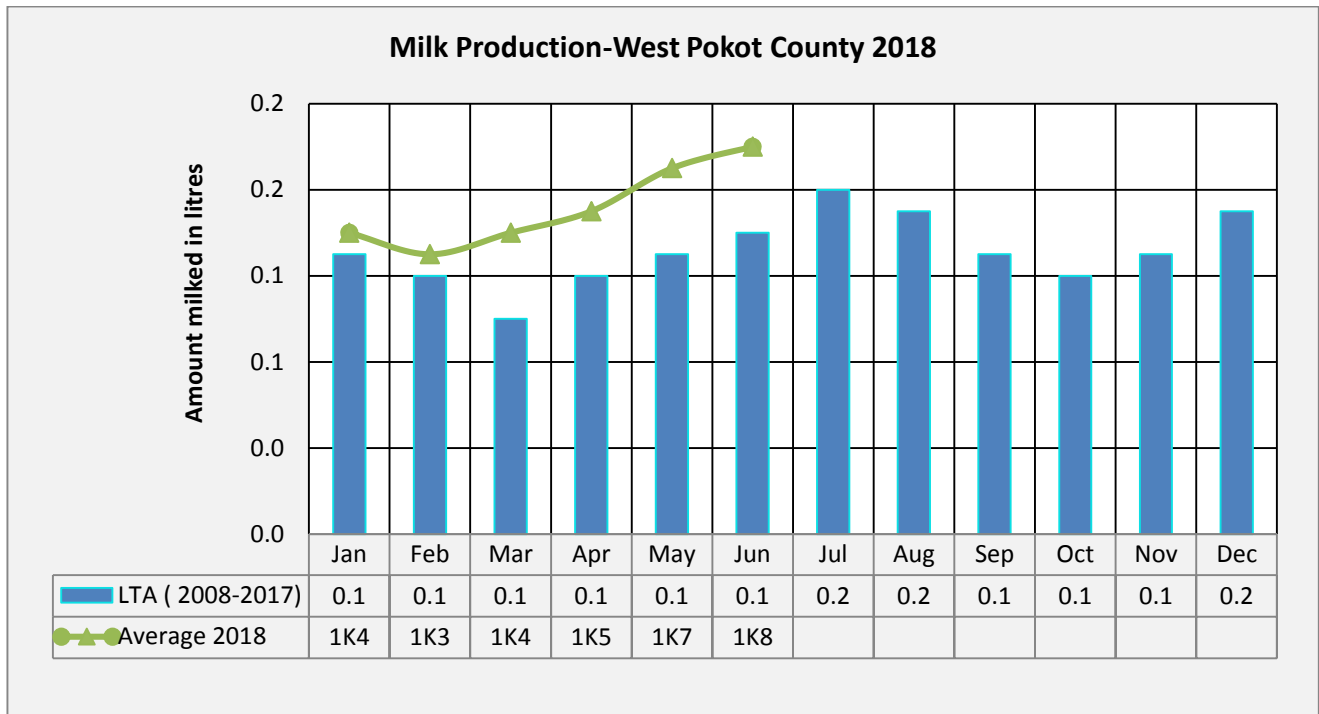
- All the livelihood zones recorded good body condition for all livestock species.
- The livestock body condition is anticipated to continue being stable over successive months across the livelihood zones owing to good performance of the rains.
- The body condition of all species is normal in comparison to a similar period during a normal year. The good body condition is due to good forage condition generated during the month. The trend is still stable as a result of good rains within the month.
- There exists no significant variation in livestock body condition across the two livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Chepareria, Kapchok and Riwo wards reported PPR diseases.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The county recorded an average of 1.8 litres of milk per household per day.
- The milk production in June slightly increased from 1.7 that was recorded in the month of May. Cattle produced most milk within the County.
- The current household milk production is 29 percent above the LTA for the month.
- There was an increase in the household milk production during the month attributed to the adequate forage in the normal grazing areas.



RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

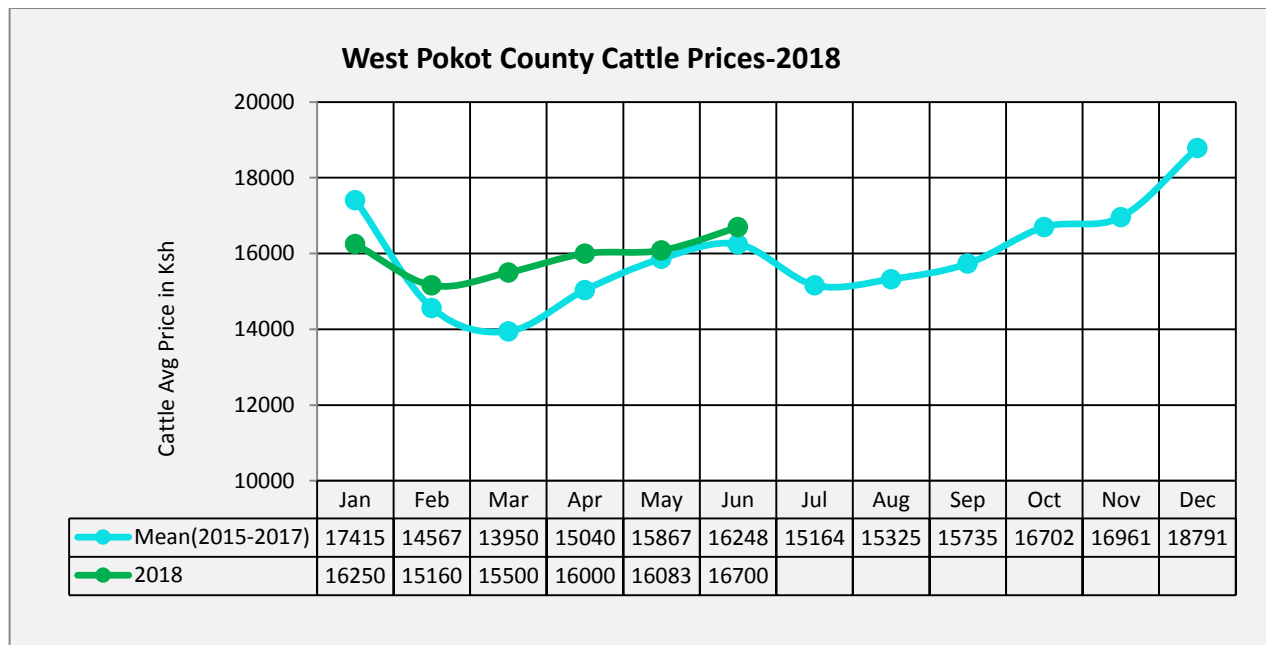
- The main crops grown in the County include maize, beans and bulb onions, where maize is at tussling stage while beans at podding stage.
- Bulb onion weeding and harvesting is on-going in highland areas such as Kokwotendwo which supply to Ortum market for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.
- Horticultural production is still thriving, following good rains received along the production zones of Lelan, Sebit, Wakorr, Wei Wei, and Lomut.
- The horticultural supplies levels of fruits such as pawpaw and onions to major markets including Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is stable due to the ongoing long rains season.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

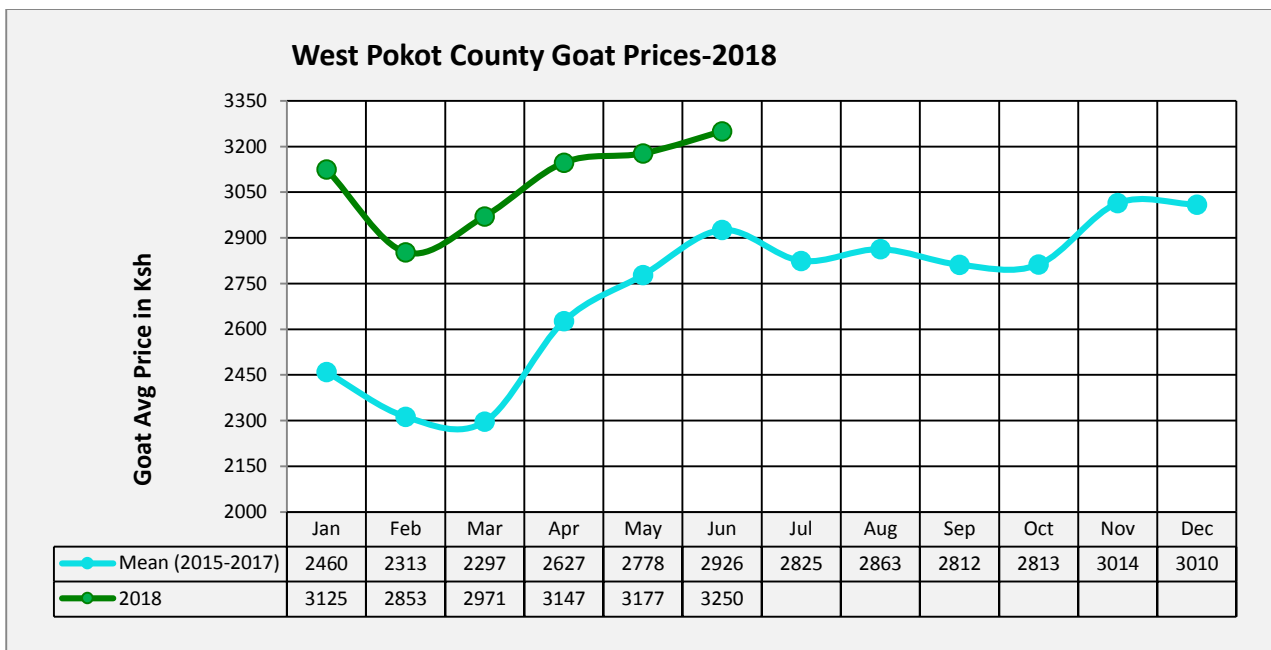
- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 16,700 in June, which represents an increase from Kshs 16,083 recorded in the previous month.



- The increase in prices is mainly due to the enhanced body condition resulting from sufficient forage condition from good rains received, which has enabled farmers fetch high market prices.
- The current cattle price is above the long term average (LTA) price of Ksh 16,248 for the month by 28 percent.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- During the month, the County recorded an average price for a 2-year old medium size goat of Kshs 3,250 during the month under review. The price was stable in comparison to that of the previous month (Kshs. 3,177).

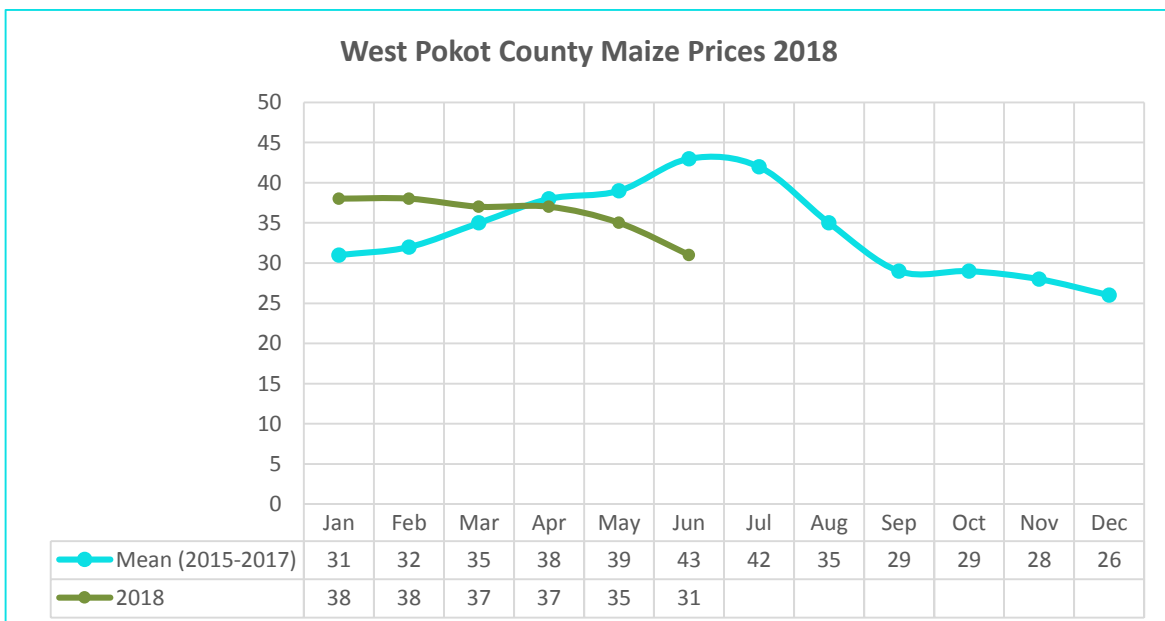


- The price stability is attributed to sufficient browse and adequate recharge of water points leading to good body condition.
- The current price of goat is however 11 percent above the LTA price for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

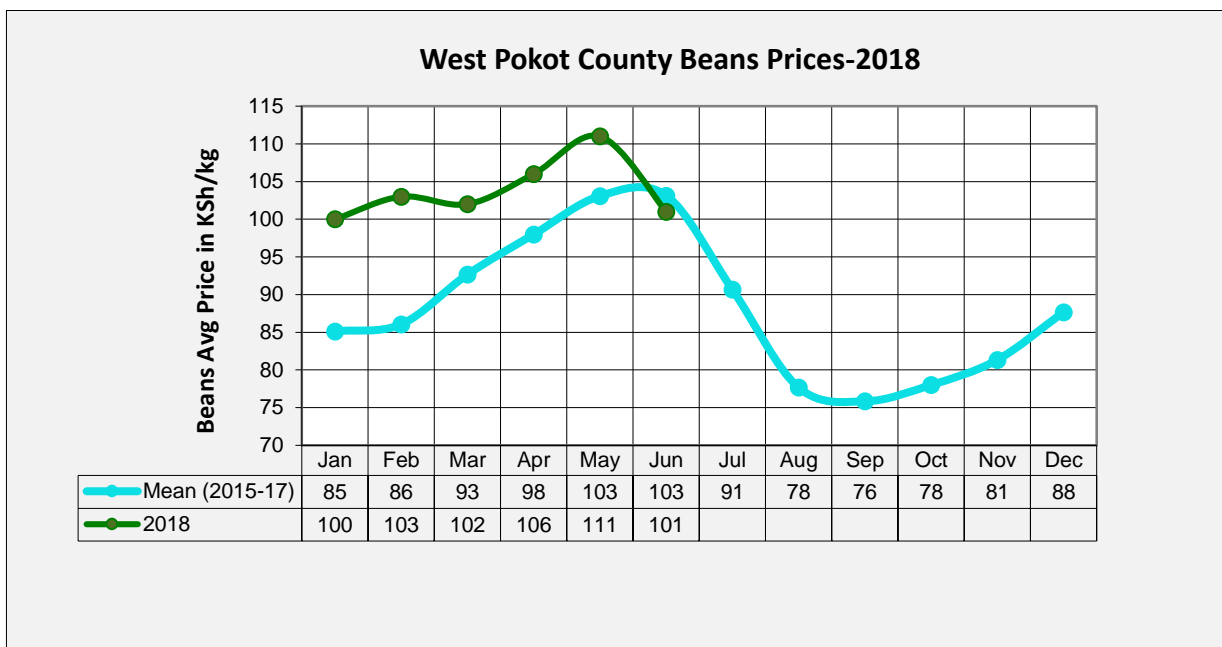
- Maize was sold at Kshs 31 per Kg in June, having decreased from Ksh. 35 recorded in the previous month.
- The current price is 28 percent below the LTA price (Kshs 43) for the month under review.



- The decrease is mainly attributed to constant external supply of cheap maize available at local markets.
- The households mainly depend more on local markets to replenish their stocks, maize price is likely to remain stable as the external maize sources remain cheap (Uganda and Trans Nzoia County) which are suppliers to the County.

4.2.2 Beans

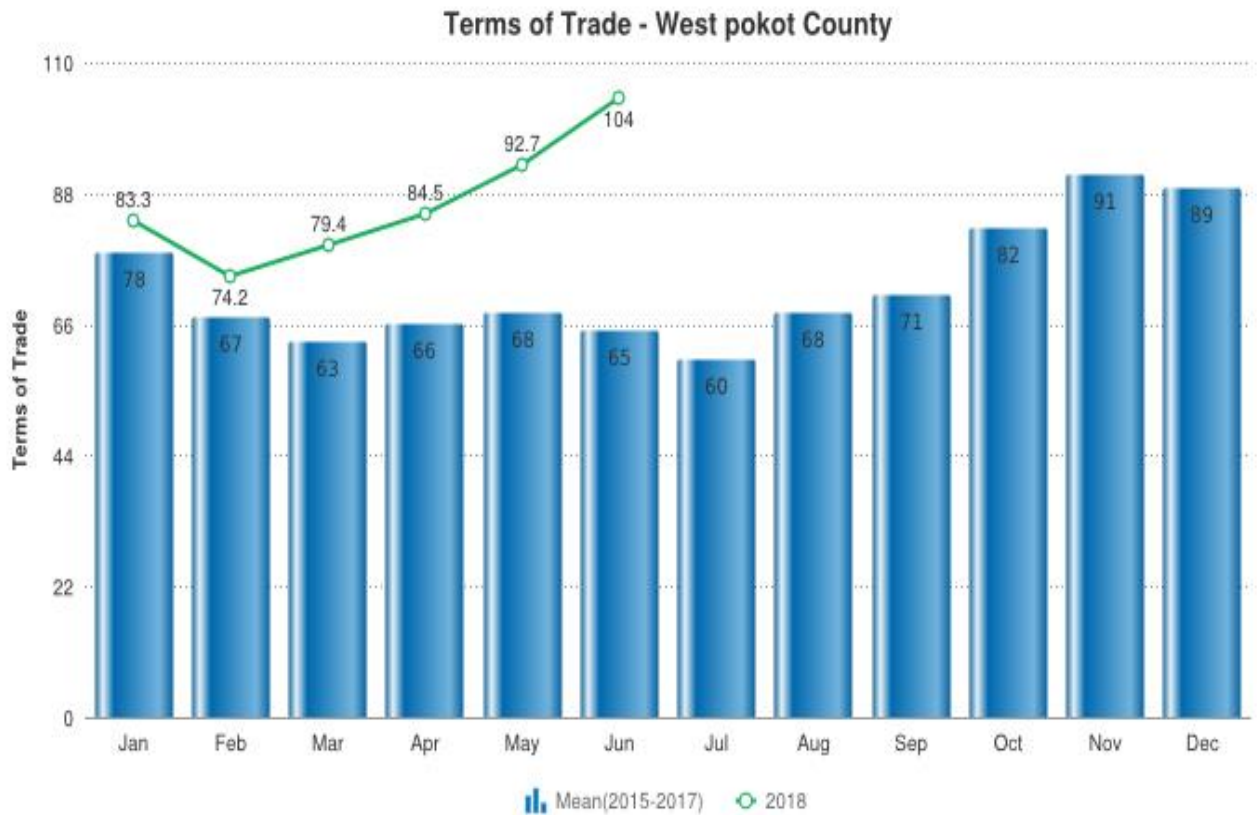
- During June, beans traded at Kshs 101 per Kg; a decrease from that recorded in May (Kshs 111).
- The price decrease is due to stable cheap external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supplies. Areas in the internal parts of the County had slightly higher prices due to added transportation costs.
- The current market price of beans remains slightly below the LTA price (Ksh.103) for a normal season during this time of the year by 2 percent.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is 104, after increasing from 93 recorded in the previous month. It implies that pastoralists would obtain more maize for the sale of a goat than they did during the previous month. The current ToT is 37 percent above the LTA ToT for the month.

- The increase in ToT is mainly attributed to increasing goat prices against decreasing maize prices.

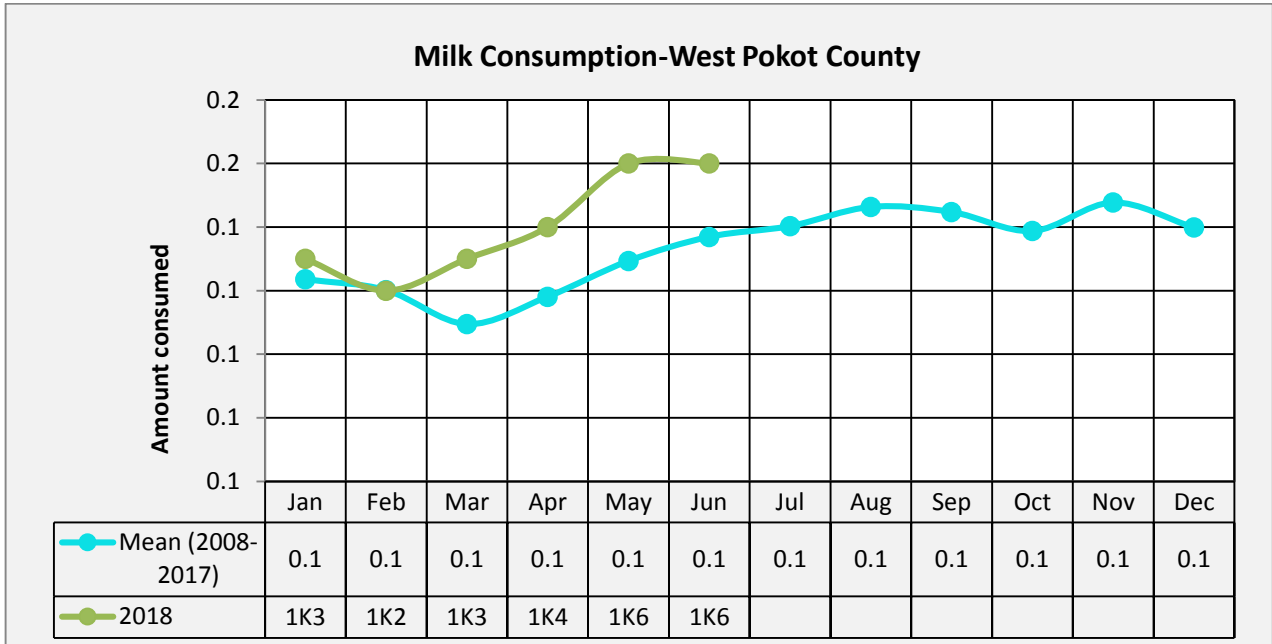


- Variation in TOT is anticipated over the next three months as the price of goat is expected to remain stable or continue increasing, given the ongoing long rains as maize prices decrease during the same period.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- During the month under review, households across the livelihood zones consumed an average of 1.6 litres of milk per day, same as that recorded the previous month.



- The observed stability in milk consumption level is attributed to the sustained production resulting from sufficient regeneration of pastoral resources in addition to decreasing livestock trekking distances to water points.
- The quantity of milk consumed is 23 % above the LTA for the same period of the year.

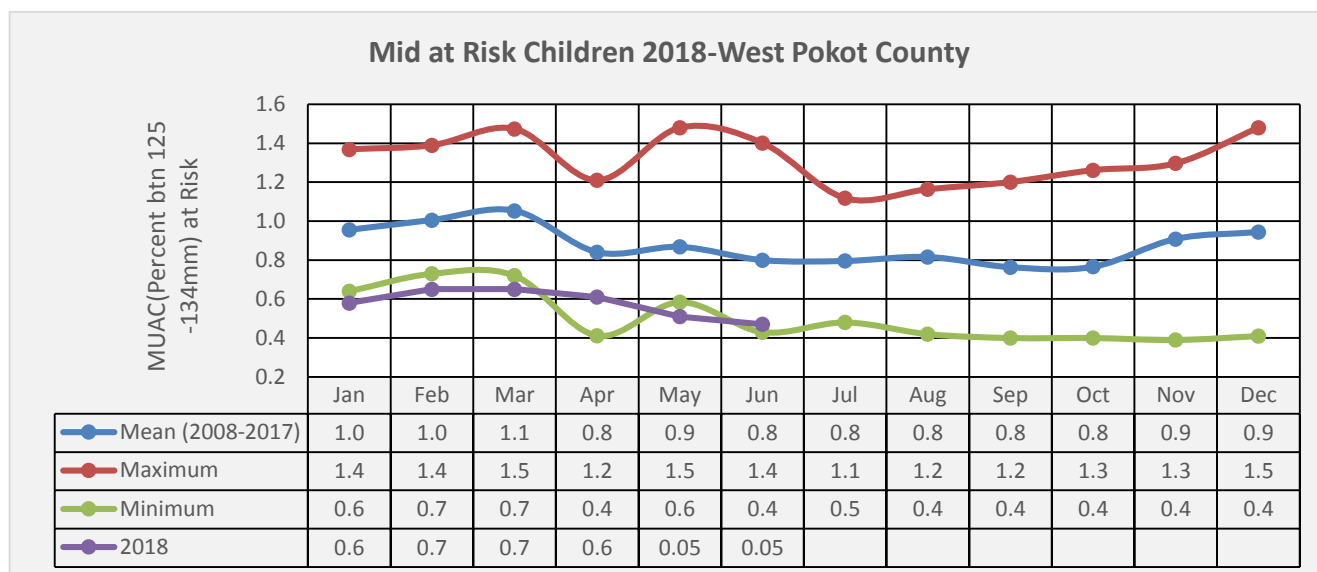
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- During the month, the households' proportions of 57 %, 41 % and 2 % were recorded Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The FCS was similar to the one recorded the previous month. The FCS is acceptable for the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones remained 42, same as for the previous month.
- There was a significant variation between the two livelihood zones as in the case where 40% of households in the Pastoral zone being categorized as having Acceptable FCS in comparison with 82% households under the same category in the Agro-pastoral zone.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of 45 and 55 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled. Based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), the percentage of children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition was at 4.7, representing a decrease from 5.1 of the previous month.
- The current proportion of children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition lies below the LTA value of 8 for such period in a normal year.



- The drop in malnutrition among the under-fives is attributed to increased consumption and accessibility to milk including other essential health and nutrition commodities within the County. These were the major contributing factors for the decrease in number of children 'at risk' of malnutrition.

5.3.2 Health

- Malaria cases remained the commonly reported ailment during the month among the sampled children.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- During the month, the CSI was at 7.2 a slight decrease from 7.3 recorded in the previous month. The steadiness in CSI shows that households continue to employ fewer strategies to cope, which could be linked to steady food commodity availability and favourable prices in the markets.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zone recorded a CSI of 9.1 compared to 5.9 in the Pastoral livelihood zone, which is mainly due to heightened livestock productivity along the Pastoral zone.

- The common consumption based coping strategies employed by majority of the households during the month included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- Livestock disease surveillance, rangeland reseeding and restocking (goat and sheep): by Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project (RPLRP).
- Vaccination and treatment conducted by County Government in Pokot North Sub-County

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- No insecurity incidences were reported across the County.

7.2 MIGRATION

- There were no abnormal migrations reported during the month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- As the rains continue, the livestock productivity is anticipated to increase. The forage condition is expected to continue improving resulting into enhanced livestock body condition hence better livestock production and prices thus improved access to food and better income.
- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is projected to continue decreasing due to enhanced recharge of water sources from the ongoing rains.
- Milk availability is expected to increase with the ongoing regeneration of pastoral resources supporting livestock production. Malnutrition cases are likely to decrease over the period.
- Cereal prices are expected to decrease while that of goat projected to increase. As such, the terms of trade are likely to continue stabilizing over this period.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Carry out ring vaccination to curb PPR cases reported in Kapchok, Riwo and Chepareria wards
- Carry out rangeland reseeding to pastoral zones to necessitate pastureland rehabilitation.
- Prepare farmers in pasture establishment skills for maximum utilization of ongoing rains.

2. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Sustain peace building efforts along the Turkana and Marakwet borders so as to facilitate smooth market accessibility for majority of Pastoral communities in such conflict prone areas.

3. HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR

- Conduct health preventive and promotion campaigns while providing health education on sanitation and proper utilization of water treatment chemicals so as to minimize the risk of water borne diseases outbreak.
- Provide more mosquito nets to areas with high risk of Malaria.

4. WATER SECTOR

- Train and support farmers with modern smart water storage technologies to enable maximum utilization of rain water.