

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JULY EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The County received good rainfall across livelihood zones in the first and second dekads in July. The temporal and spatial distribution is good. The ongoing rainfall performance is generally normal.
- The vegetation condition still depicted a steady trend across the County as shown by the stability in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness. Forage condition remained good.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The livestock body condition across the County remained good with a stable trend. Distance to water sources dropped during the month.
- Milk production and consumption improved at household level. Terms of trade is favourable within the month.
- Most households fell within the acceptable food consumption score, with the coping strategy index decreasing.
- The proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition is stable 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)	80	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	83	>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	Nodeaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	112	>76
Milk Consumption	1.6 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.5km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

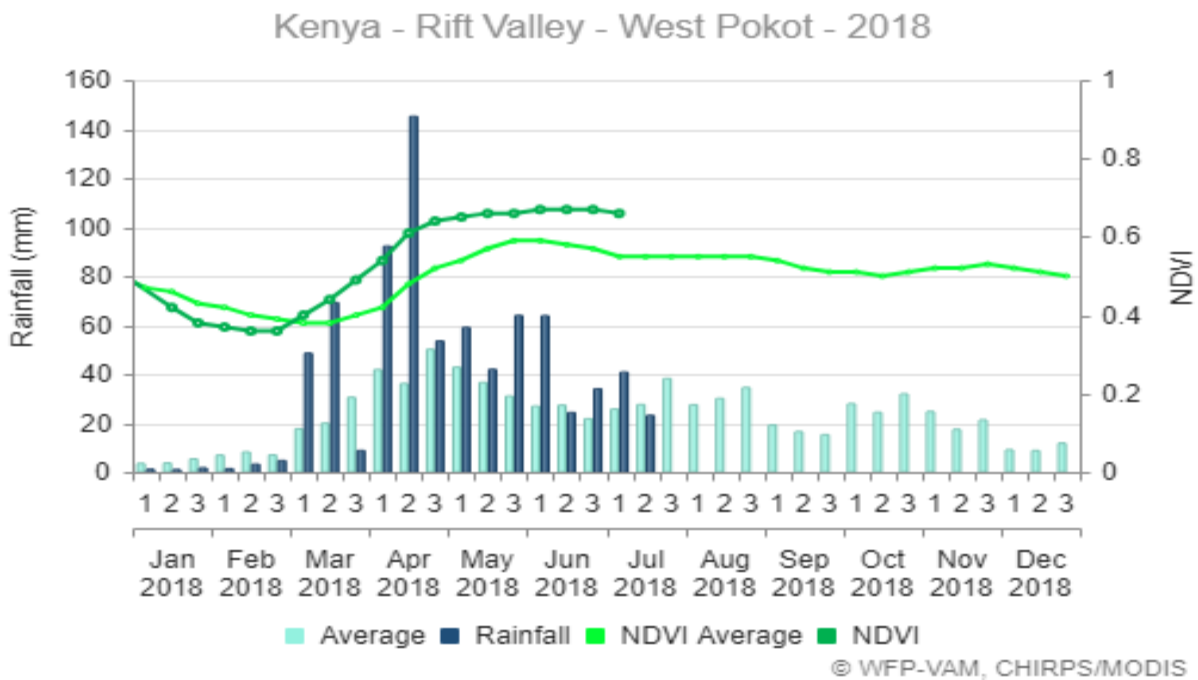
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	4.7	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	5.3	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	43	>35

<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

- The rainfall received during the month was sufficient. However, compared to the previous month, the intensity decreased as demonstrated in both first and second dekads of the month. The ongoing off-season rains are predicted to decrease towards the month of August.
- The rainfall situation is normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The decadal rainfall for the month, decreased from 63.7mm to 40.7mm and 24.2mm to 23mm in the first dekad and second dekad respectively. The amounts in the first dekad were above normal while second dekad the amounts were below the normal.
- The NDVI values were still above the historical levels owing to adequate rains received. The trend is stable with the ongoing good rains.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- Good temporal and spatial rainfall distribution was recorded in both the lowland and highland areas due to significant rains received. The rainfall amounts and intensity was slightly higher in the highlands than in lowlands.
- The County remained fairly wet in July.

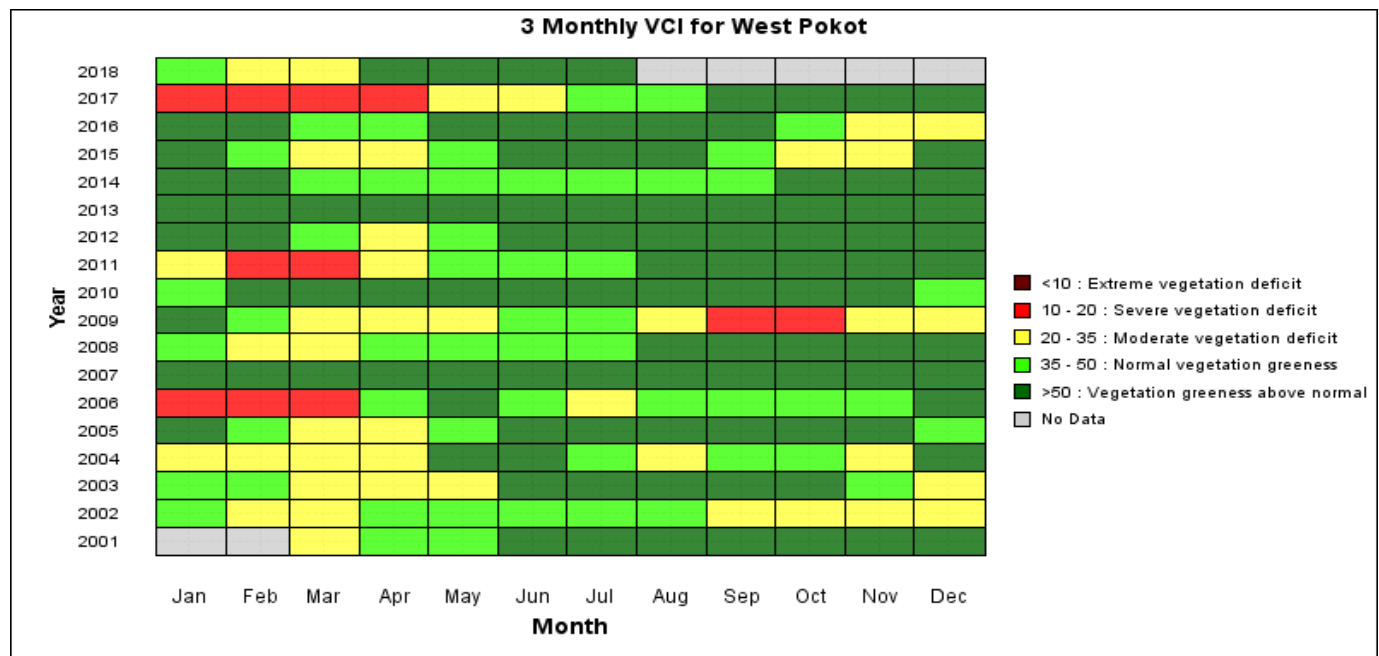
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- During the month, no notable event such as floods, land/mud slides, lightning strikes and hailstorms occurred.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- The VCI (VCI-3month), which portrays the vegetation status of the County is 80 in July, a slight increase from 78 recorded in June. The current VCI shows above normal vegetation greenness condition.
- The VCI trend remained stable across the County during the month under review. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness band. The VCI increased from 81 to 83, 73 to 77, 63 to 64 and 81 to 83 in Pokot North, Pokot West, Pokot South and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The stability in the VCI is attributed to continued regeneration of vegetation cover due to sufficient rains received in the month under review.

2.1.2 Pasture

- In July, the sampled community proportions stated that the pasture was still good at 100 percent.
- The pasture condition is good across livelihoods. The communities reported that the condition was normal for the month of July. The trend is still stable compared to the previous month due to good rainfall received during the month under review.
- The pasture situation is expected to be sustained by the ongoing rains.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity in both livelihood zones.

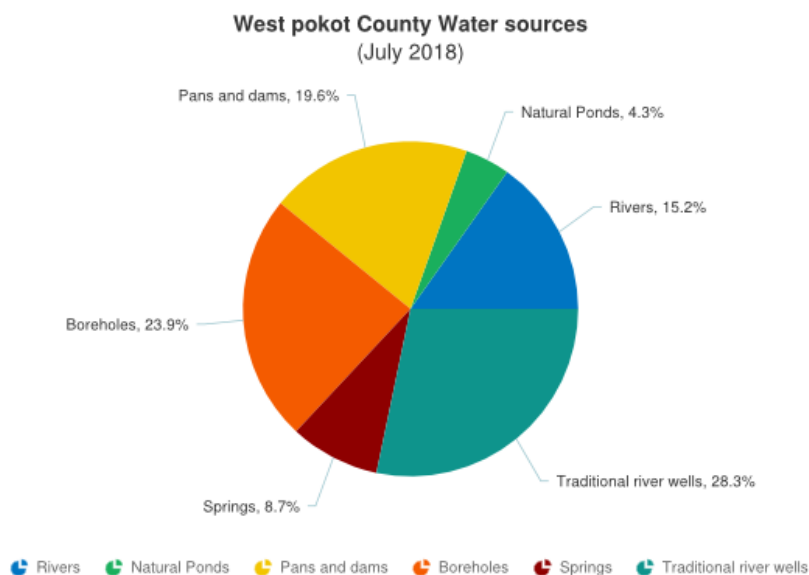
2.1.3 Browse

- The browse condition remained good as reported by 100 percent proportion of community sampled during the month of July.
- The browse condition across livelihood zones is good. In comparison to the browse situation during such period of the year, the situation is normal. The quality of the browse condition is good and better in relation to that of the previous month, a situation attributed to adequate rainfall received during the month.
- The access to browse along the Pokot-Marakwet/Turkana borders is still constrained by the fear of conflict at historical hotspots.
- Across livelihood zones, the quantity and quality of browse is good and there is no significant variation between the livelihood zones.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

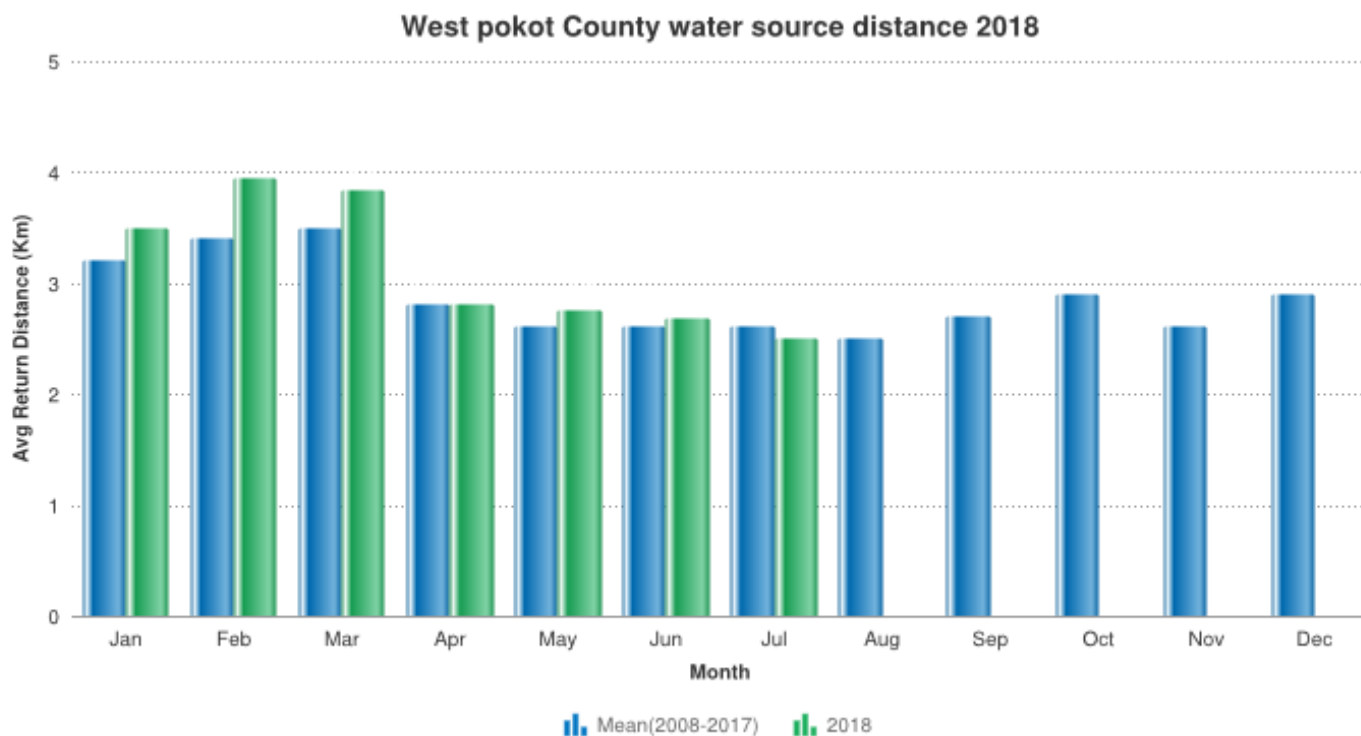
2.2.1 Sources

- During the month, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock is 28, 24 and 20 for traditional rivers, boreholes and pans/dams respectively. Other water sources in use include rivers and springs at 15 percent and 9 percent respectively.
- The water recharge level is good in comparison to the previous month owing to significant rains.
- Both rivers and boreholes water levels are high due to the stable recharge.
- The current main sources in use are the normal sources where households draw water during such time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The return distance to water source from the household dropped to 2.5km from 2.7 km recorded in the previous month. The current distance is 4 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- The agro-pastoral livelihood zone reported slightly longer trekking distance to water source in comparison to the pastoral livelihood zone. The reducing distance was attributed to the good surface water sources recharge during the month.

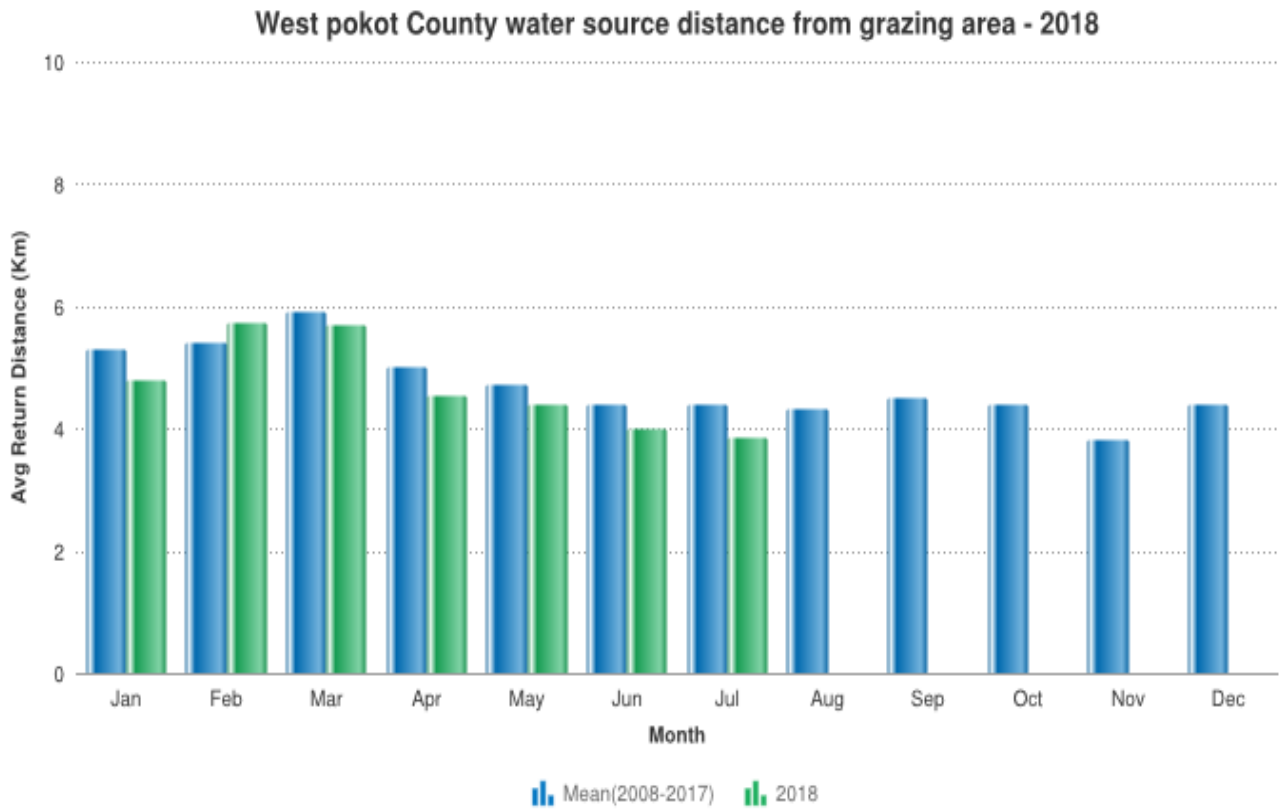


- Both the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded stable waiting time at water source.
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained at 9-13 litres in the pastoral zone with that in the agro-pastoral zone is still at 10-15 litres.
- The cost of accessing water at the source is 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

- The livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources during the month is at 3.8 km depicting a drop from 4.2 km reported in the previous month. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.4 km, the trekking distance lies below the normal range by 14 percent.
- During the month, the trekking time from grazing areas to water sources takes longer in pastoral

livelihood zone than that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.



- The drop in livestock trekking distance is generally attributed to sufficient rainfall received within the month of July, thereby recharging the available water sources.
- Frequency of watering cattle and shoats is still at 5-7 times in a week while for camel as well maintained at 4-5times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

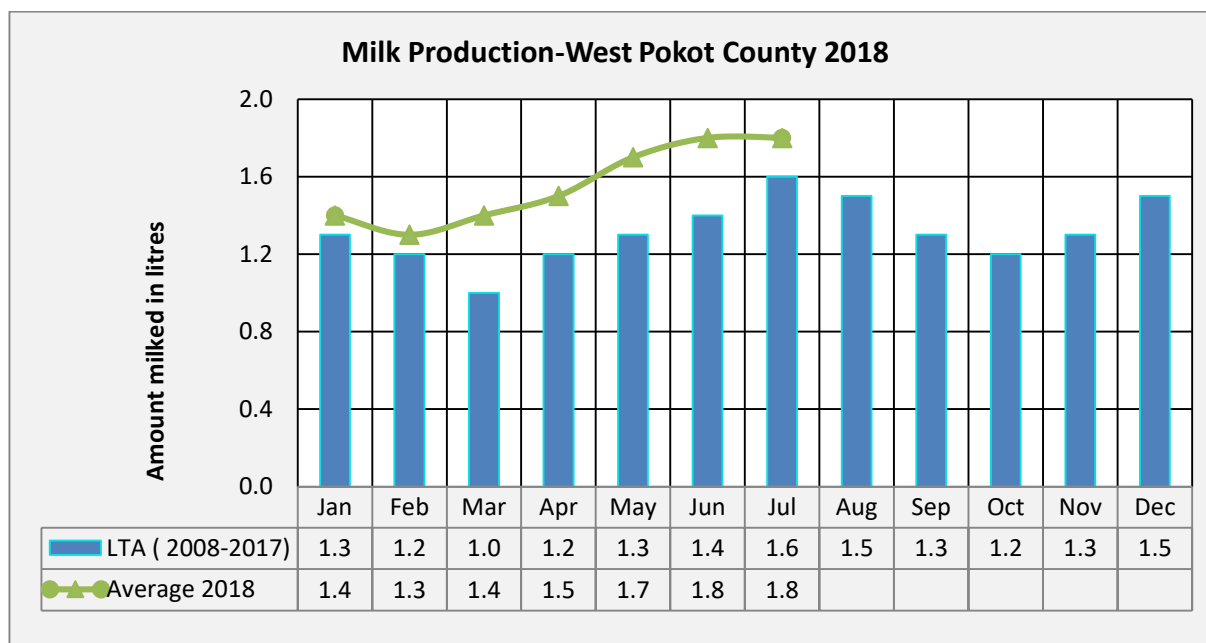
- During the month, both the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded good body condition for all livestock species.
- The livestock body condition is expected to remain stable across the livelihood zones due to good performance of the rains enabling a good livestock feed resource.
- All livestock species body condition is normal in comparison to a similar period during a normal year, owing to good forage condition that prevailed during the month. The trend is stable as a result of good rains received within the month.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- CCPP and PPR diseases were reported in Masol, Kapchok and Riwo wards.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- In July, the County recorded an average of 1.8 litres of milk per household per day.
- The milk production remained same as for the previous month, with cattle producing most milk.
- The current household milk production is 13 percent above the LTA for the month.
- The stability in the household milk production during the month is due to the sufficient forage in the normal grazing areas.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

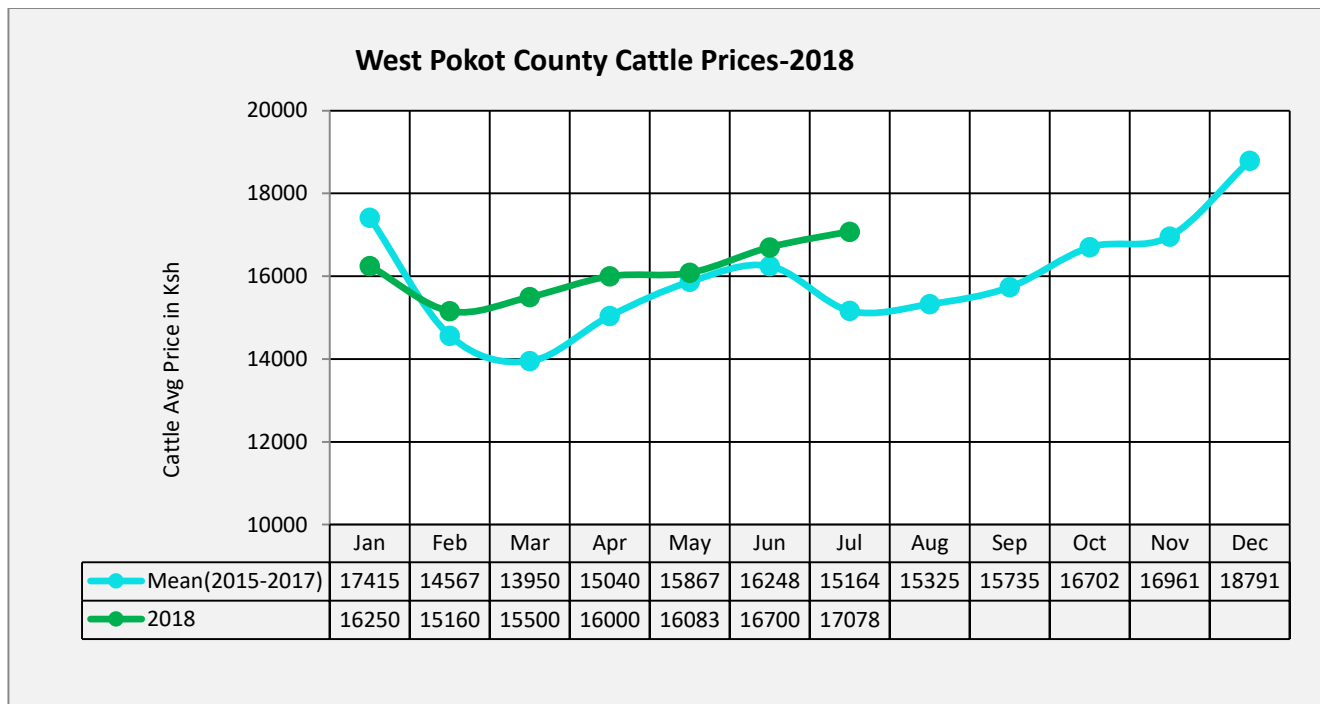
- The main crops grown in the County include maize, beans and bulb onions. Maize is at grain filling stage, with beans at harvesting and drying stage.
- The production and supply of horticultural crops such as mangoes and onions to major markets including Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is high due to the good rains.
- Weeding and harvesting of bulb onions is on-going in highland areas such as Wakor and Kokwatendwo which supply to Ortum market for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.
- Horticultural production is still flourishing with good rains received along the production zones of Kabichbich, Sebit, Wakorr, Wei Wei and Lomut.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

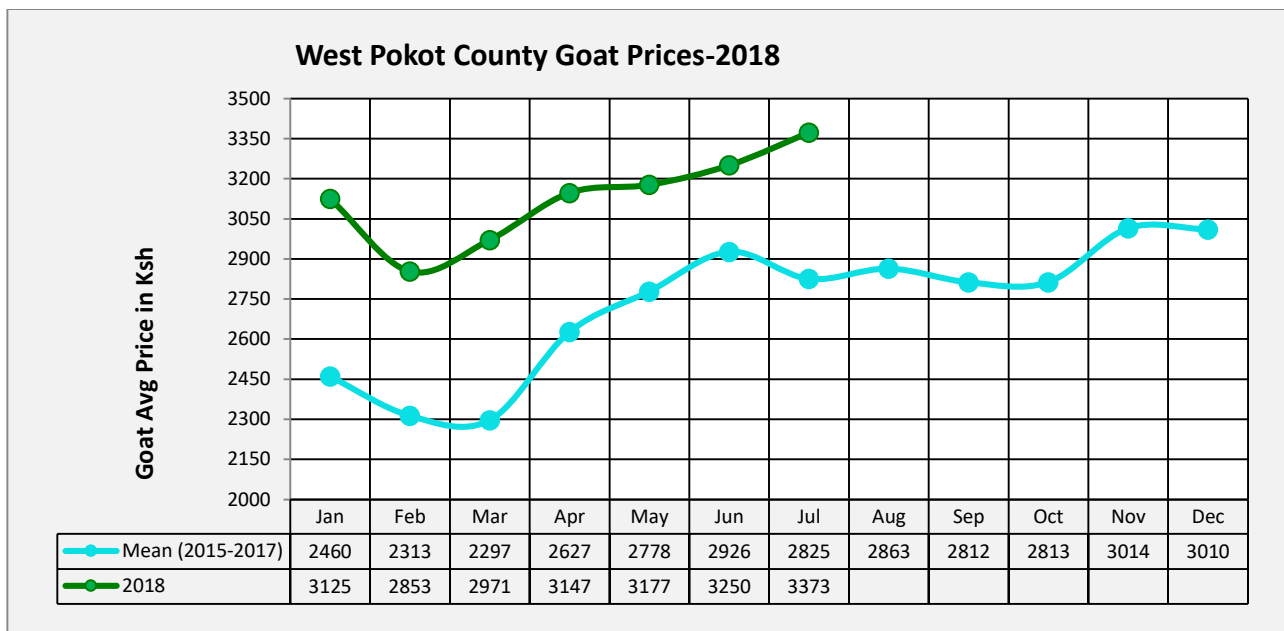
- During the month, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 17,078, which represents price increase as compared to Kshs 16,700 recorded in the previous month.



- The increase in prices is attributed to good body condition due to forage condition resulting from substantial rains received, which enabled farmers to fetch high prices in the market.
- The current cattle price is above the LTA price (Ksh 15,164) for the month by 13 percent.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County recorded an average price of Kshs 3, 373 for a 2-year old medium size goat across livelihood zones during the month under review. The price increased in comparison to that of the previous month (Kshs 3,250).

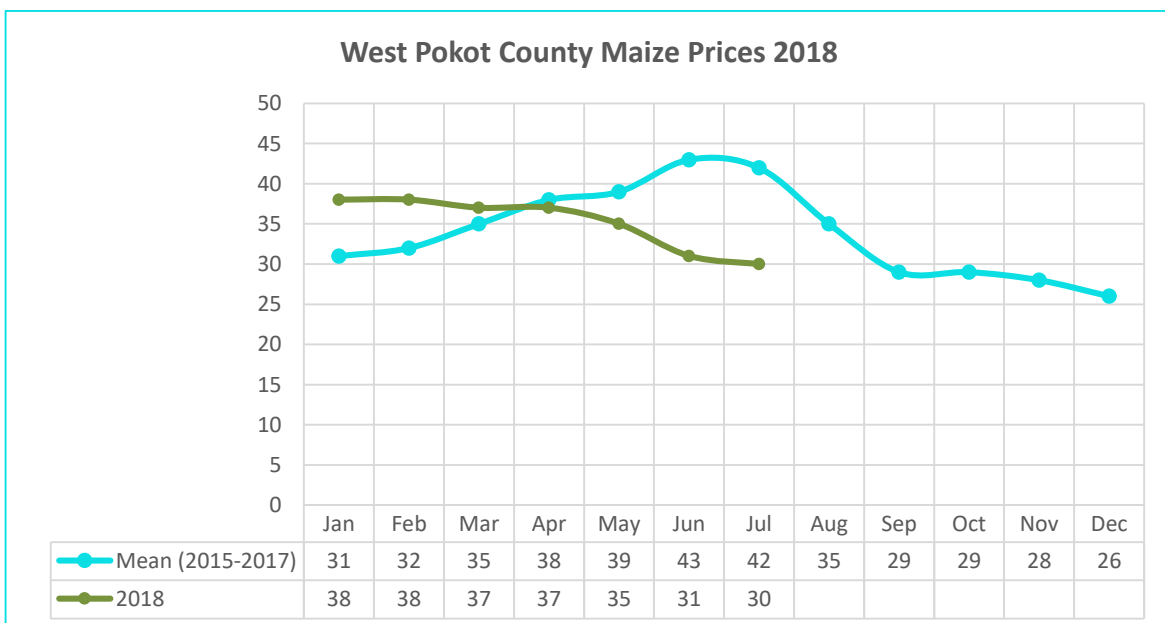


- The price increase is mainly attributed to adequate forage condition and recharge of water points occasioning good body condition.
- The current price of goat is moreover 19 percent above the LTA price for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

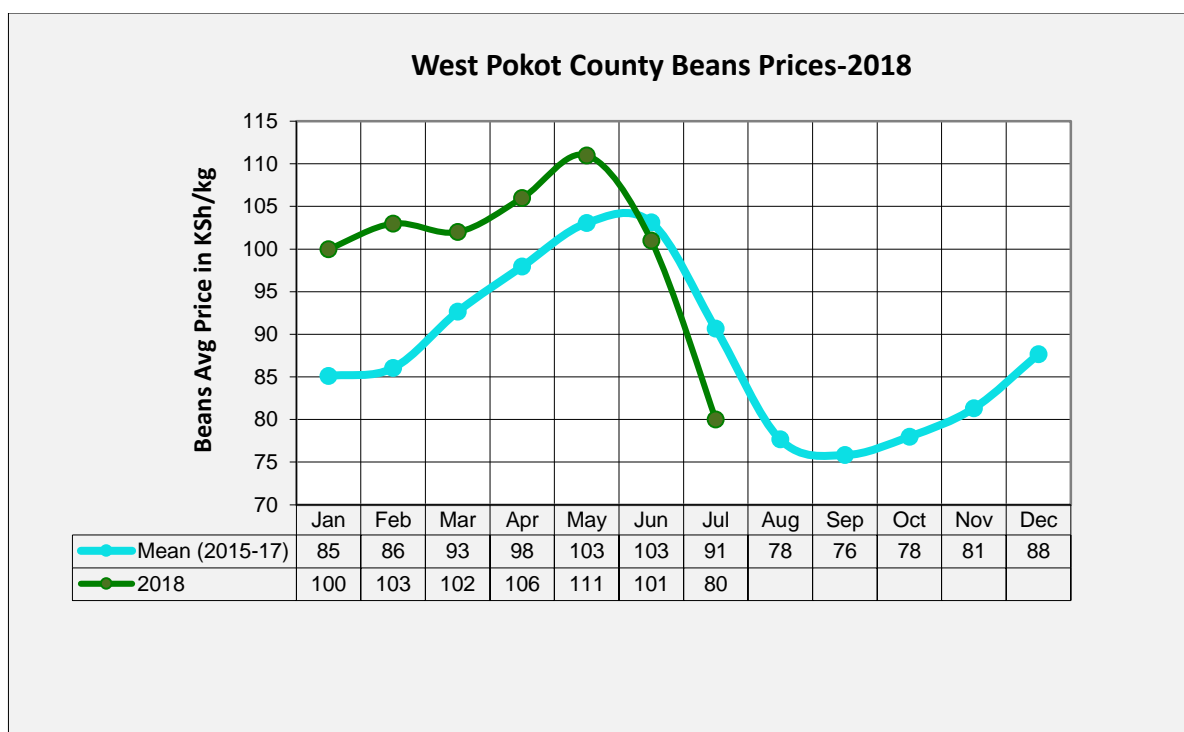
- In July, the maize was sold at Kshs 30 per Kg. The price remained stable compared to that recorded in the previous month (Kshs 31).
- The current price is 29 percent below the LTA price (Ksh42) for the month under review.



- The stability in maize price is mainly due to continuous external supply of cheaper maize available at local markets.
- Most households entirely depend on local markets to replenish their stocks. Maize price is expected 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

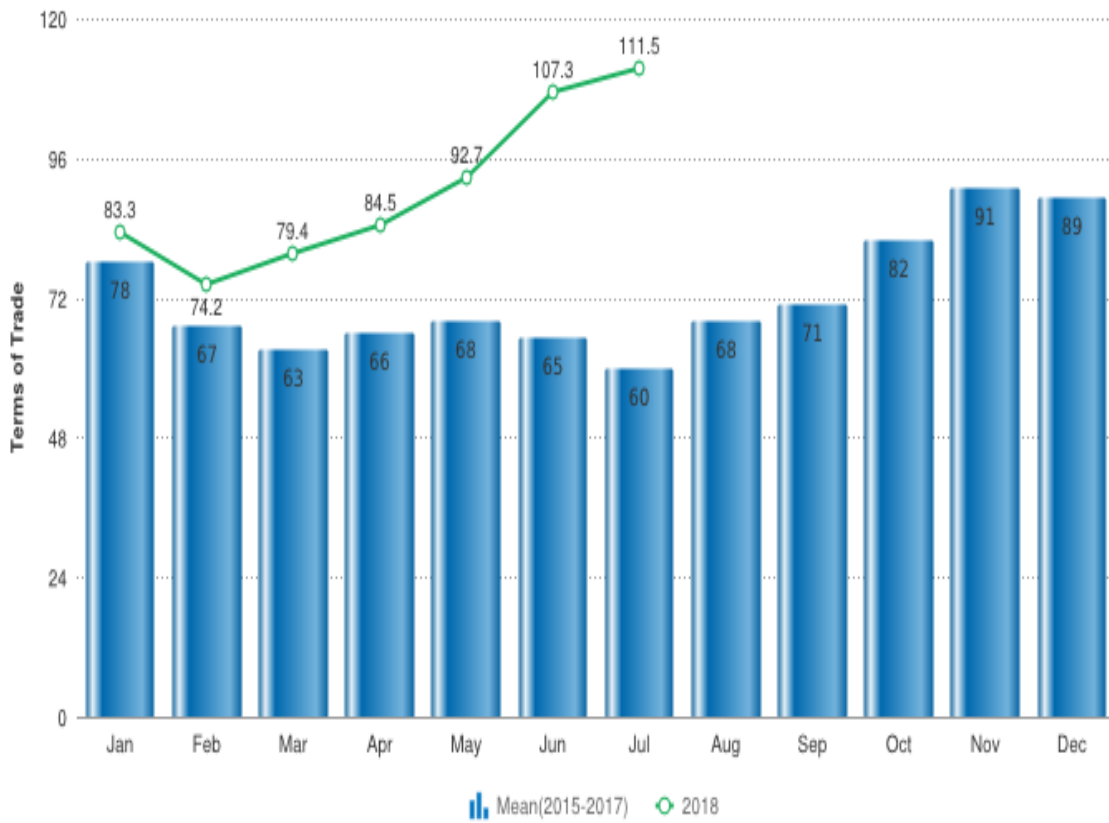
- Beans traded at kshs 80 per Kg in July; a sharp decrease from kshs 101 recorded in June.
- The price drop is attributed to enhanced local harvesting as well as cheap external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supplies.
- The current market price for beans is significantly below the LTA price (Ksh.91) for a normal season during this time of the year by 12 percent.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is 112, having increased from 107 recorded in the previous month, demonstrating that pastoralists would obtain more maize for the sale of a goat than they did during the previous month.
- The increase in ToT is due to increasing goat prices and the stability in maize prices.
- The variation in TOT is expected over the next three months, as the price of goat is hoped to remain stable with the ongoing rains coupled with dropping maize prices in the same period.

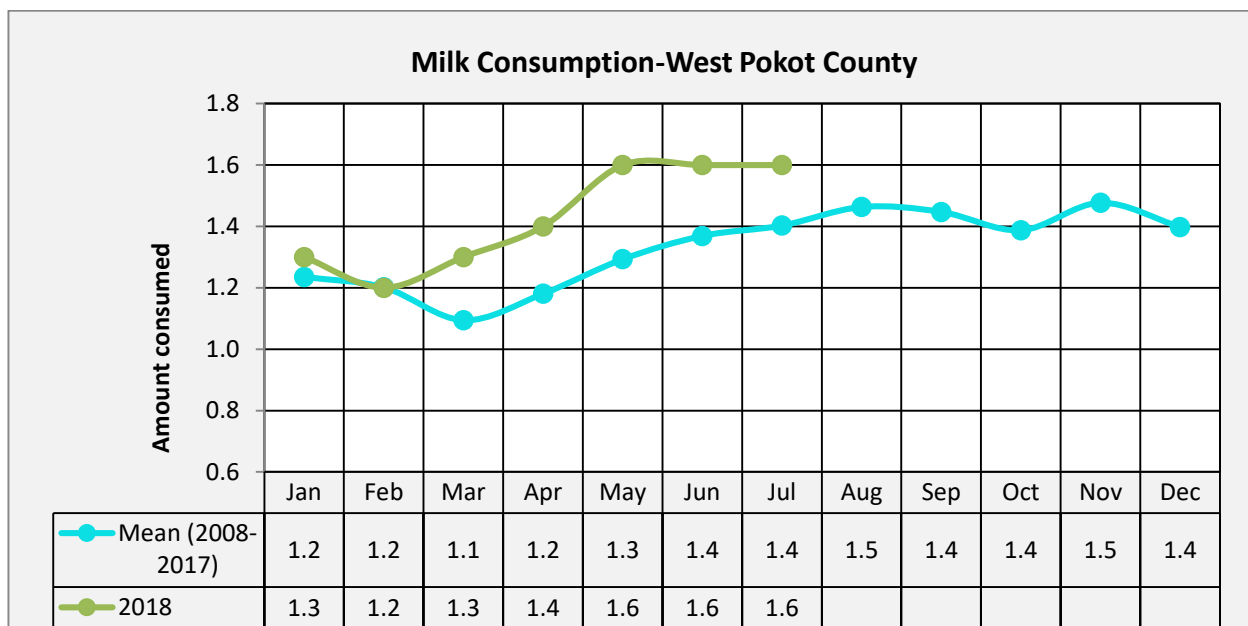
Terms of Trade - West pokot County



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The households across livelihood zones consumed about 1.6 litres of milk on average, same as the previous month.



- The apparent stability in milk consumption level is due to the sustained production resulting from good regeneration of forage, along with significantly decreasing livestock trekking distance to water points.
- The amount of milk consumed is 14% above the LTA for the same period of the year.

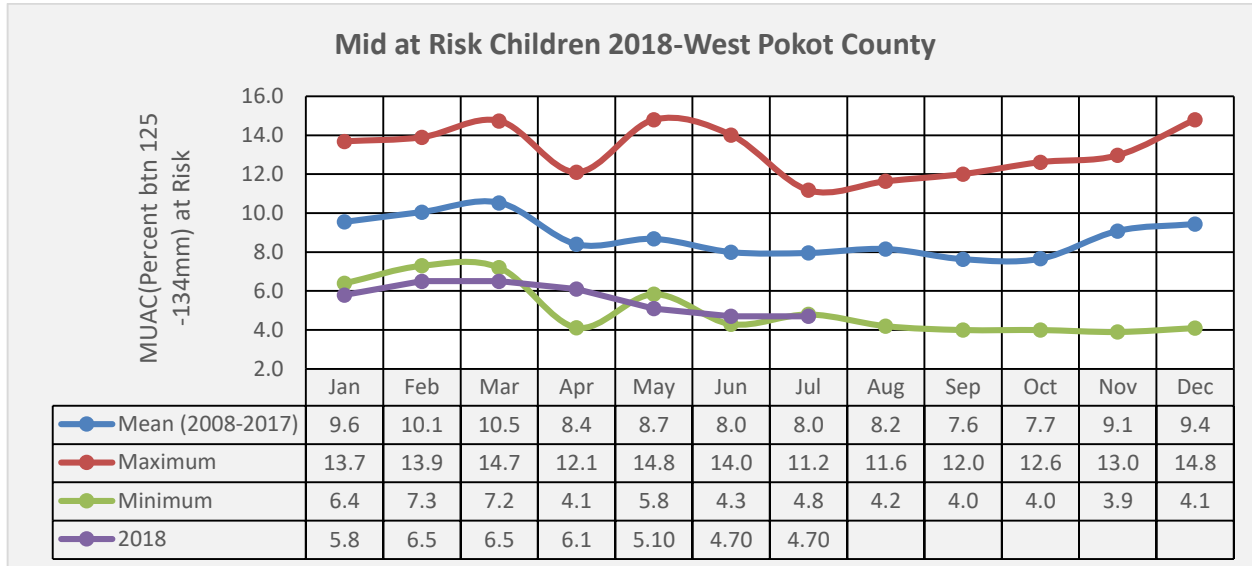
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- In July, the households proportions of 70%, 29% and 1% were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased from that recorded the previous month. The FCS is generally acceptable.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones during the month under review was at 43, representing an increase from 42 that was recorded during the previous month.
- There was a significant variation across the two livelihood zones with for instance 54% of households in the Pastoral zone being categorized as having Acceptable FCS in comparison with 95% households under the same category in the agro-pastoral zone.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- During the month, the proportion of 46 and 56 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled, where children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition remained at 4.7 percent, same as in June 2018.
- The current proportion of children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition lies below the LTA value of 4.8 for the period in a normal year.



- The stability in malnutrition among the under-fives is due to enhanced consumption and accessibility to milk including other essential health and nutrition commodities within the County. These were the major drivers for the decrease in number of children 'at risk' of malnutrition.

5.3.2 Health

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

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- In July, the CSI was at 5.3, a decrease from 7.2 recorded the previous month. The drop in CSI depicts that households continue to employ less strategies to cope, which could be linked to steady food commodity availability and favourable prices in the markets.
- Pastoral livelihood zone recorded a CSI of 5.8 compared to 4.7 in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, which is mainly due to enhanced livestock productivity along the agro-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

- Vaccination and treatment conducted by County Government in Pokot Central and 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

- No abnormal migrations reported during the month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is expected to continue decreasing due to good recharge to water sources from the ongoing rains.
- Milk availability is projected to remain stable with the significant regeneration of pastoral resources supporting livestock production. Malnutrition cases are likely to decrease over the period.
- The livestock productivity is likely to stabilize. As the forage conditions are expected to continue improving resulting to good livestock body condition, there is projected enhanced livestock prices and increased access to food attributed to better income.
- Cereal prices are anticipated to continue decreasing while that of goat expected to stabilize; as such the terms of trade are likely to remain favourable over this period.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 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 conflict prone zones.

2. HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR

- Provide more mosquito nets to areas with high risk of Malaria.
- 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.

3. WATER SECTOR

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

4. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Carry out rangeland reseeding to pastoral zones to enhance pastureland rehabilitation.
- Carry out ring vaccination to curb PPR cases reported in Kapchok, Riwo and Masol wards.