

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

AUGUST EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Adequate rain was received across livelihood zones in August. The temporal and spatial distribution remained good.
- The vegetation cover index recorded was above normal range, with a stable trend across the livelihoods as depicted by stability in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. Forage condition is still good.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The livestock body condition is still good with stable trend across the County. Distance to water sources declined.
- Milk production and consumption at household level is stable and is above the long term average.
- The terms of trade is favourable with a stable trend.
- Most of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index decreased.

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)	86	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot South)	71	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	1.9	>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)	109	>76
Milk Consumption	1.5	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	1.6 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

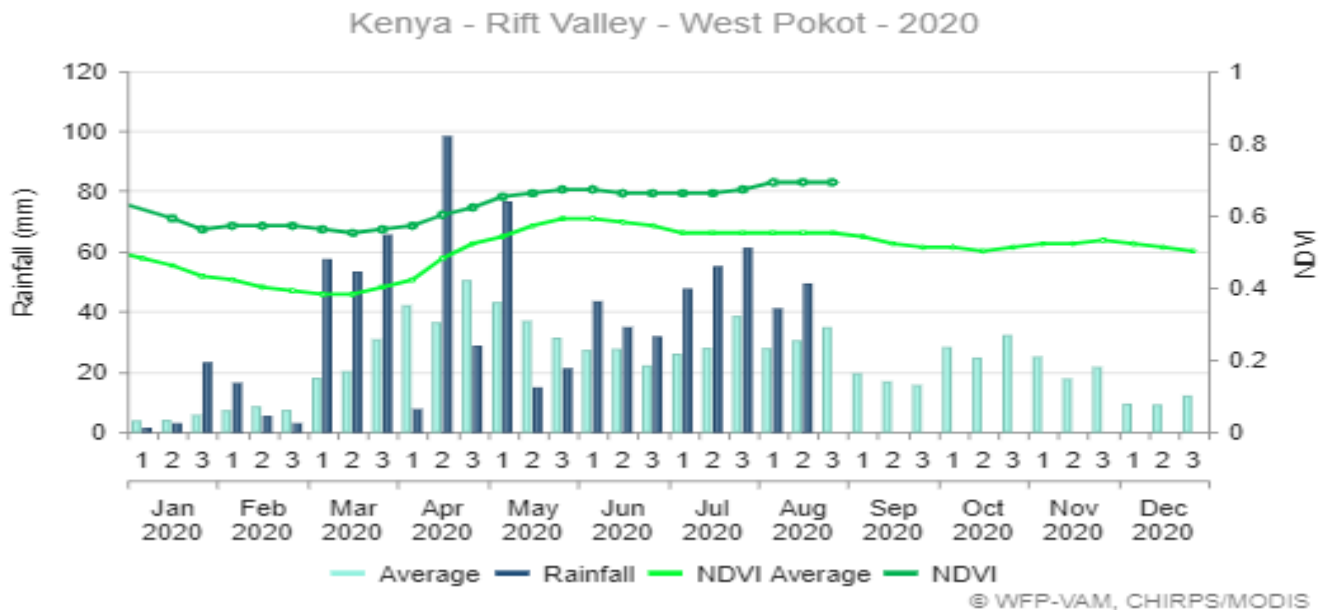
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	-	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.3	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	51	>35

<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 August. 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 County’s dekadal rainfall was stable at 48.9 in August from 47mm in July in second dekads.
- The dekad amounts were above normal.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The spatial and temporal rainfall distribution was good across the livelihoods.

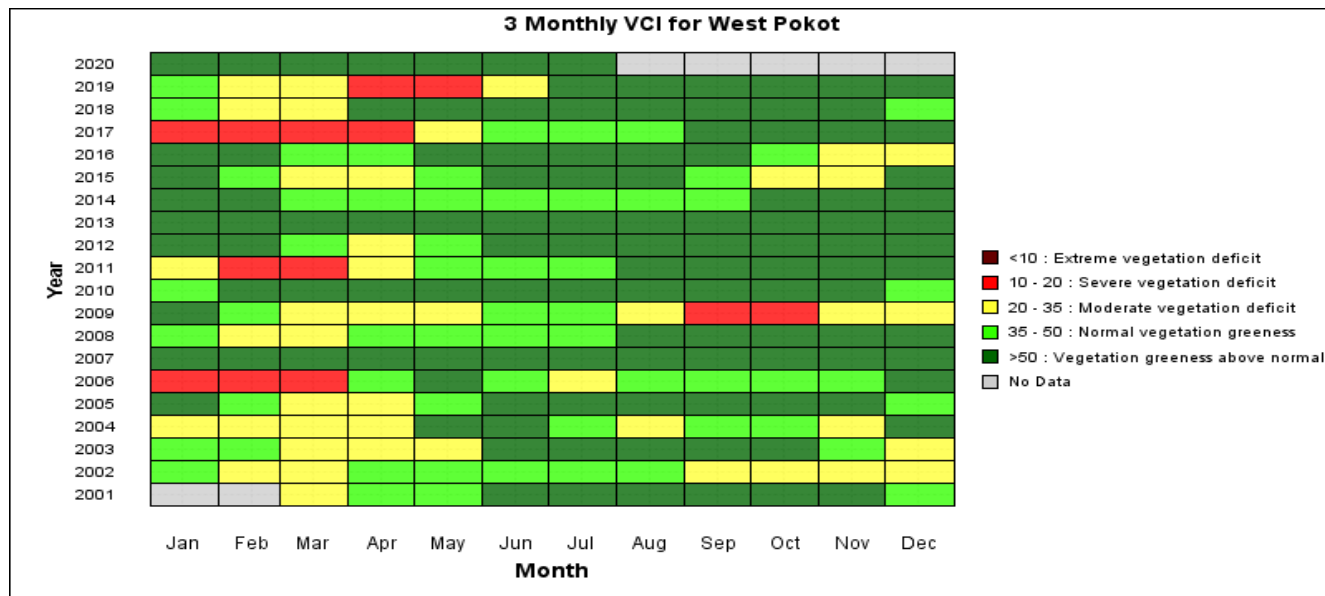
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- A herd of 20 Elephants destroyed crops at Kamanau village, masol ward.
- Locust swarms were sighted in Weind Masol wards
- Resettlement of landslides victims who were displaced in Chesegon along Elgeyo Marakwet border.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- In August, the VCI (VCI-3month) which portrays the vegetation status of the County increased to 86 from 84 recorded in July. The current VCI depicts above normal vegetation condition.
- The VCI is still on a stable trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. The steadiness in VCI is from 84 to 87, 77 to 71, 88 to 89 and 87 to 88 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The stable trend in VCI is associated with good regeneration of vegetation cover linked with sufficient rainfall in August.

2.1.2 Pasture

- In August, the proportion of sampled community members which recorded that the pasture was good was at 100 percent.
- 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 stable in comparison to that of previous month attributed to adequate rains.
- The pasture condition is expected to improve further owing to good rains received.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood zones.

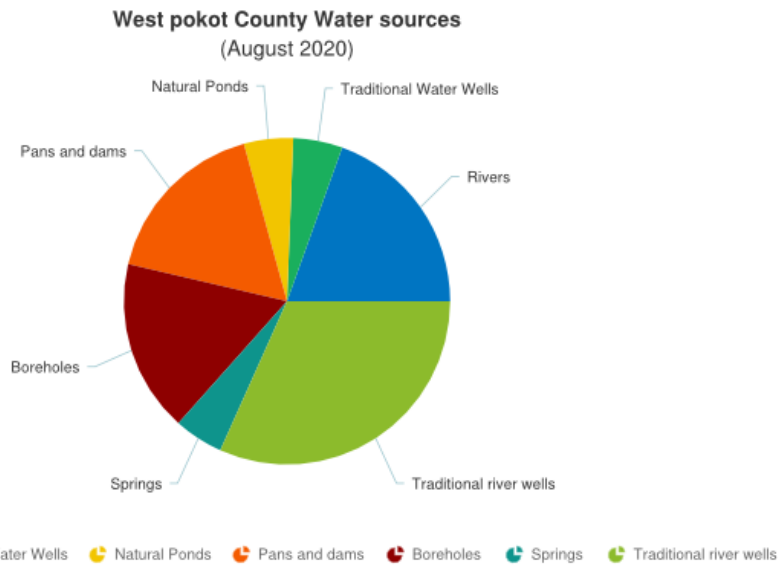
2.1.3 Browse

- The proportion of sampled community members which reported that browse condition was good at 100 percent; same as that reported in the previous month.
- 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 July.
- 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 owing to intensified peace building efforts along conflict borders.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

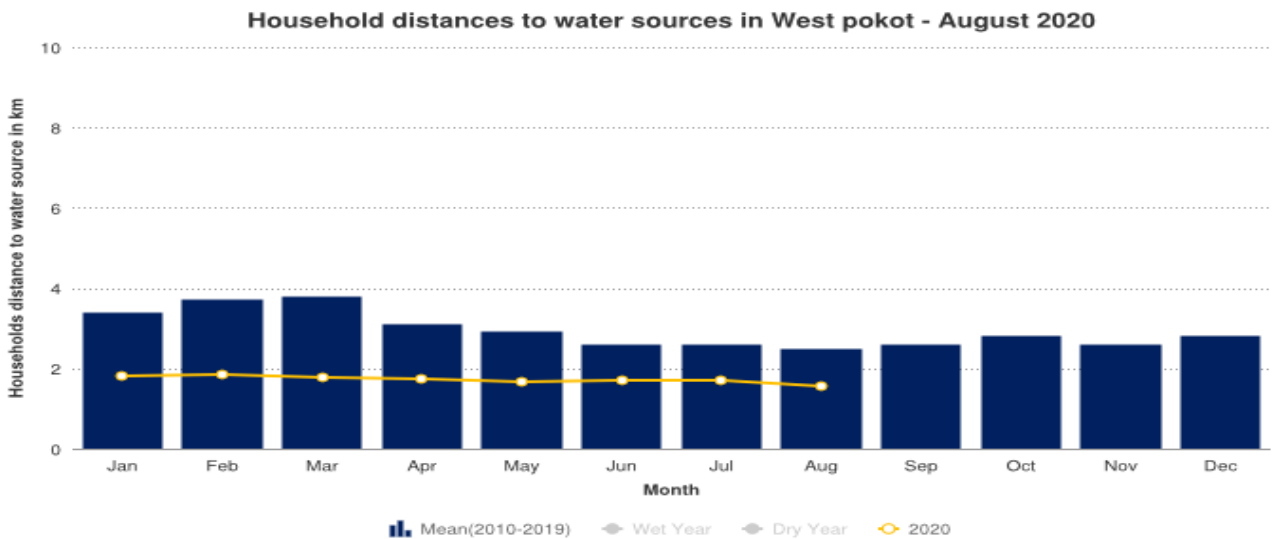
2.2.1 Sources

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock in August are; 32 percent for traditional river wells, 18 percent for rivers, 17 percent for both pans and dams and boreholes while those using springs were at 5 percent.
- The recharge is still stable in all surface water sources in comparison to that of August. The situation is linked to good ongoing rainfall.
- 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 August, the return distance to water source from the household is at 1.6 km, a decrease from 1.7 recorded in July. The current distance is 34 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- The pastoral livelihood zones reported longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The drop in distance is attributed to adequate water source recharge.

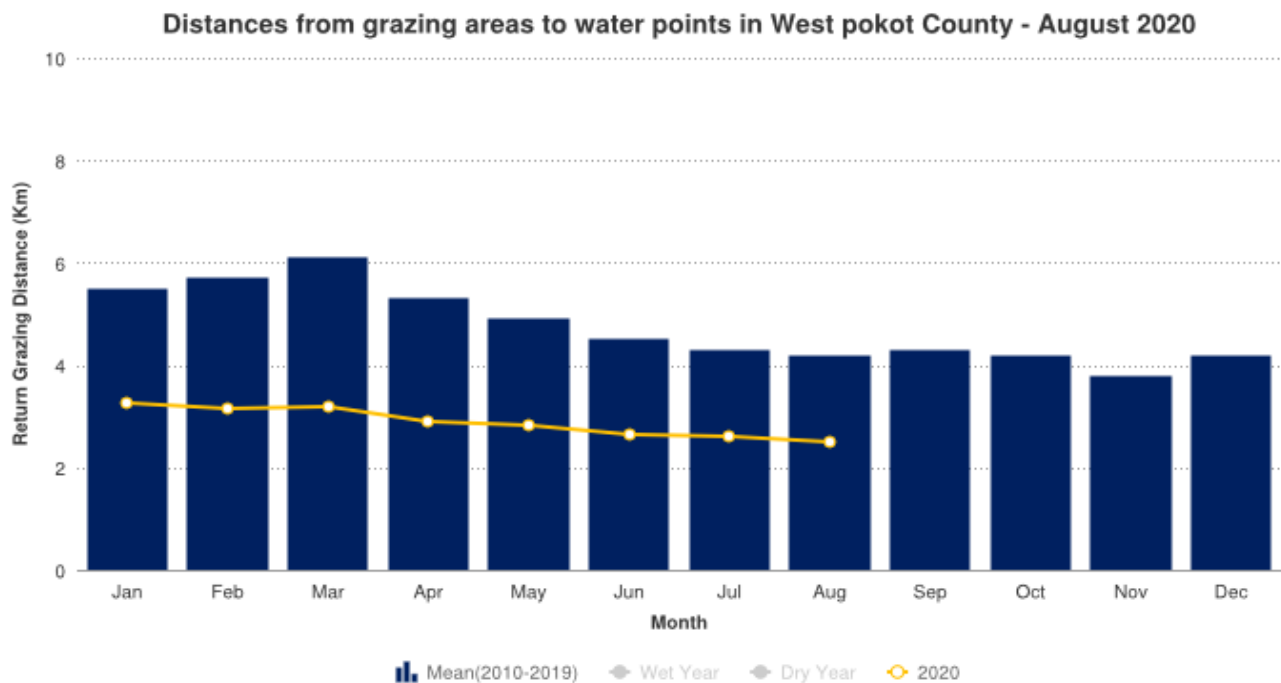


- As usual, the pastoral livelihood zones reported longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is remained at 18-20 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was at 15-18 litres.

- 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

- The livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources is at 2.5 km in August, a slight decrease from 2.6 km recorded in July. The current trekking distance is 37 percent below the normal range.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.



- The down trend in livestock trekking distance to water points is linked to sufficient rainfall coupled with good recharge to the water sources.
- Frequency of watering is still 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

- Body condition for all livestock species is good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in comparison to that reported in July, the condition is still stable.
- The livestock body condition is anticipated to remain stable across the livelihood zones.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The trend is stable due to adequate forage rejuvenation.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

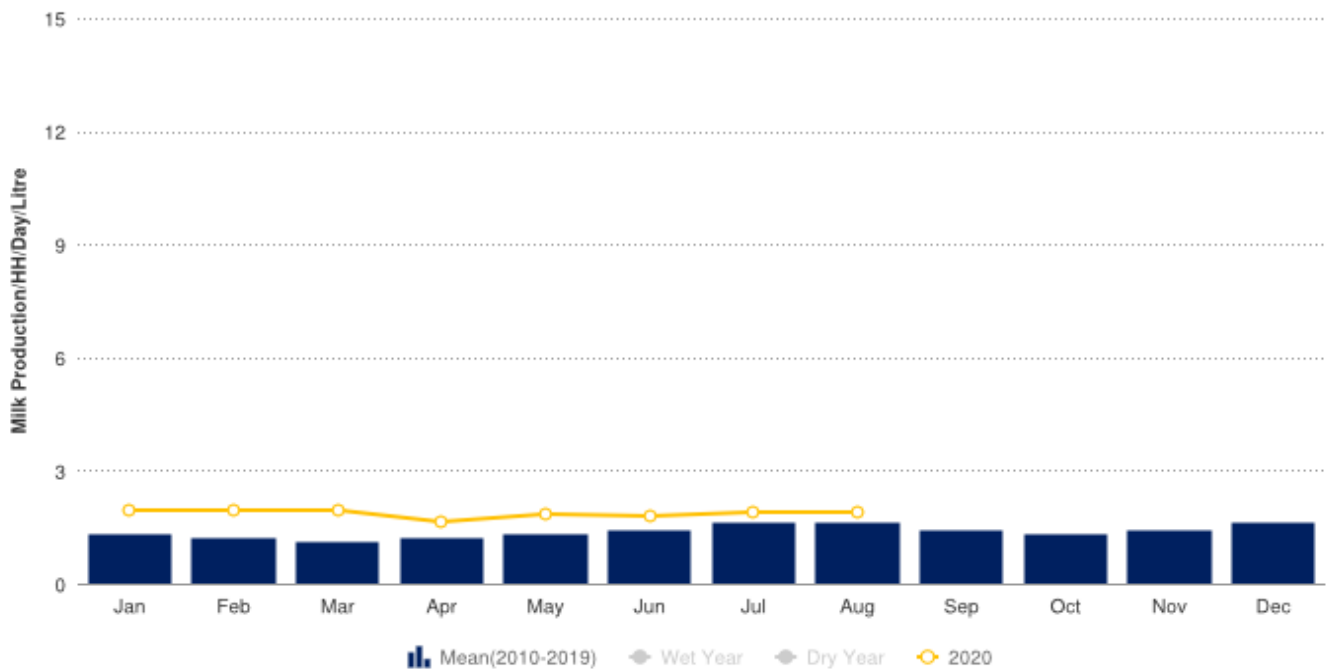
3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Sook and Chepareria ward reported CCPP cases.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The County reported an average production was at 1.9 litres of milk per household per day in August, similar to that reported in July.
- As usual, cattle was the main livestock producing milk at the households.
- The current household milk production is above the LTA by 18 percent.
- The perpetual household stable trend in milk production is linked to improved forage access in the traditional grazing areas.

Household Milk Production in West pokot County



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

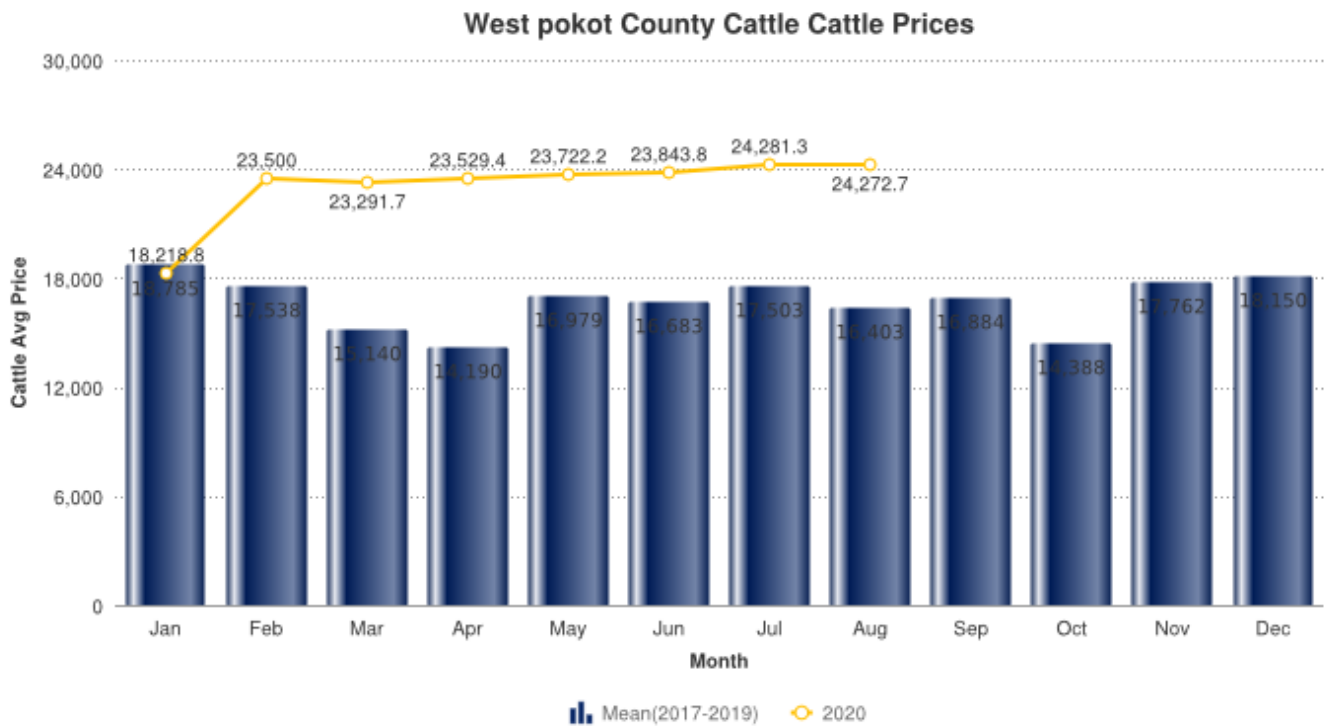
- During the month, the major crops cultivated in the County include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Most of the maize crop is at harvesting stage.
- The horticultural production and supply to major markets in Ortum and Wakkor is at normal levels in comparison to the seasonal performance.
- The level of farming is stable along the horticultural production zones.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in the highlands is still stable. 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

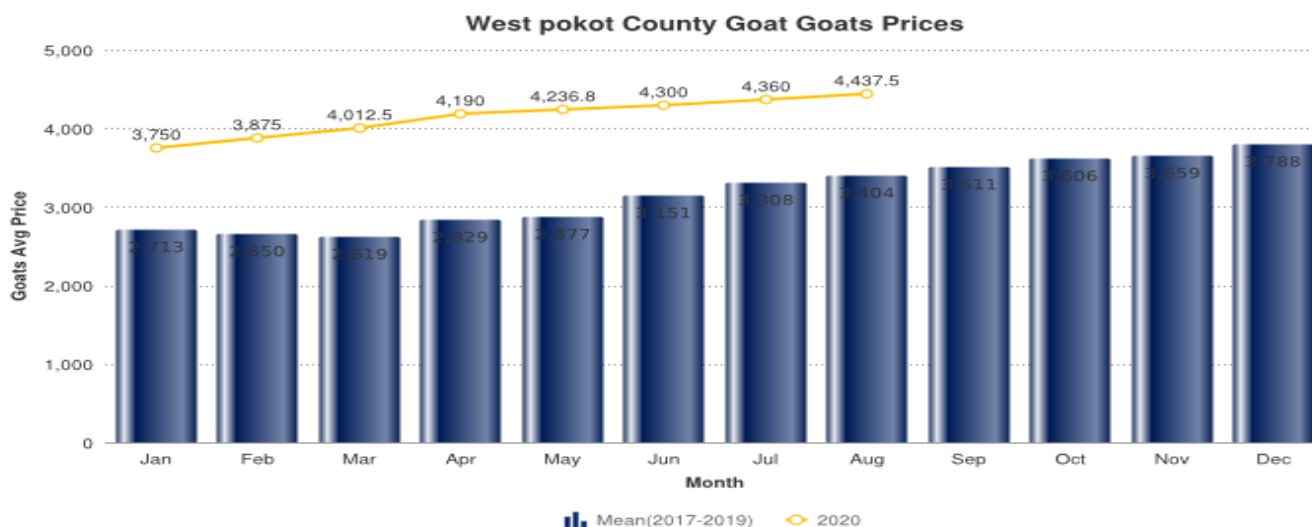
- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 24,272, representing stability in price as compared to Kshs 24,281 reported in July.



- The increase in cattle price is attributed to good body condition coupled with sufficient forage access, in addition good recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 41 percent above the LTA.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- In August, the County recorded an average price of Kshs 4,438 for a 2-year old medium size goat, which represented an increase in comparison with Kshs 4,360 recorded in July.

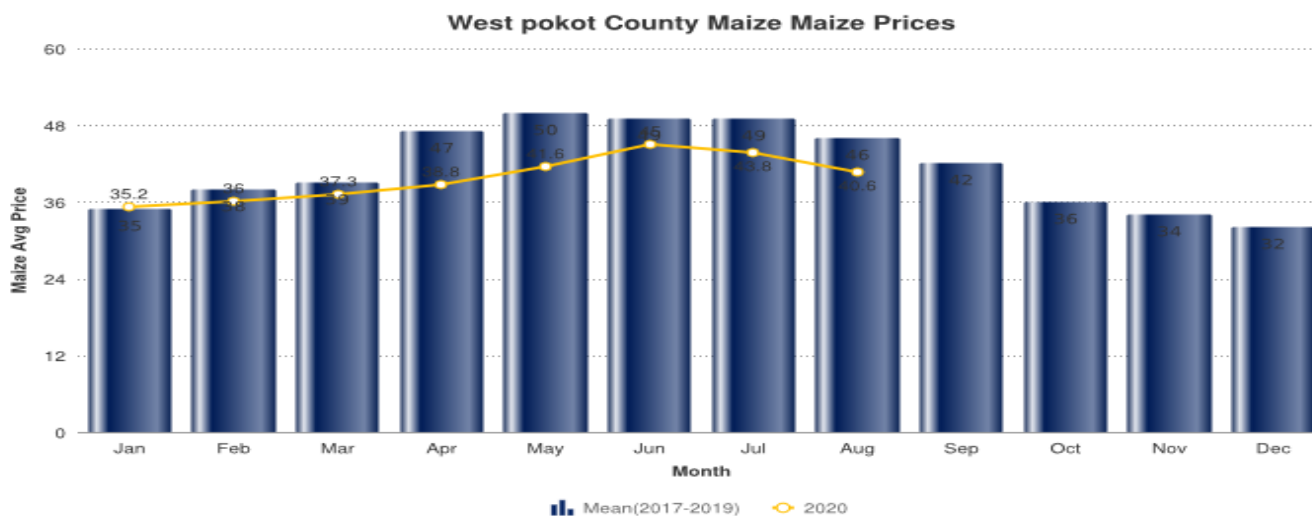


- The price increase is linked to good body condition for goats in the livelihoods.
- The current goat price is 32 percent above LTA for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

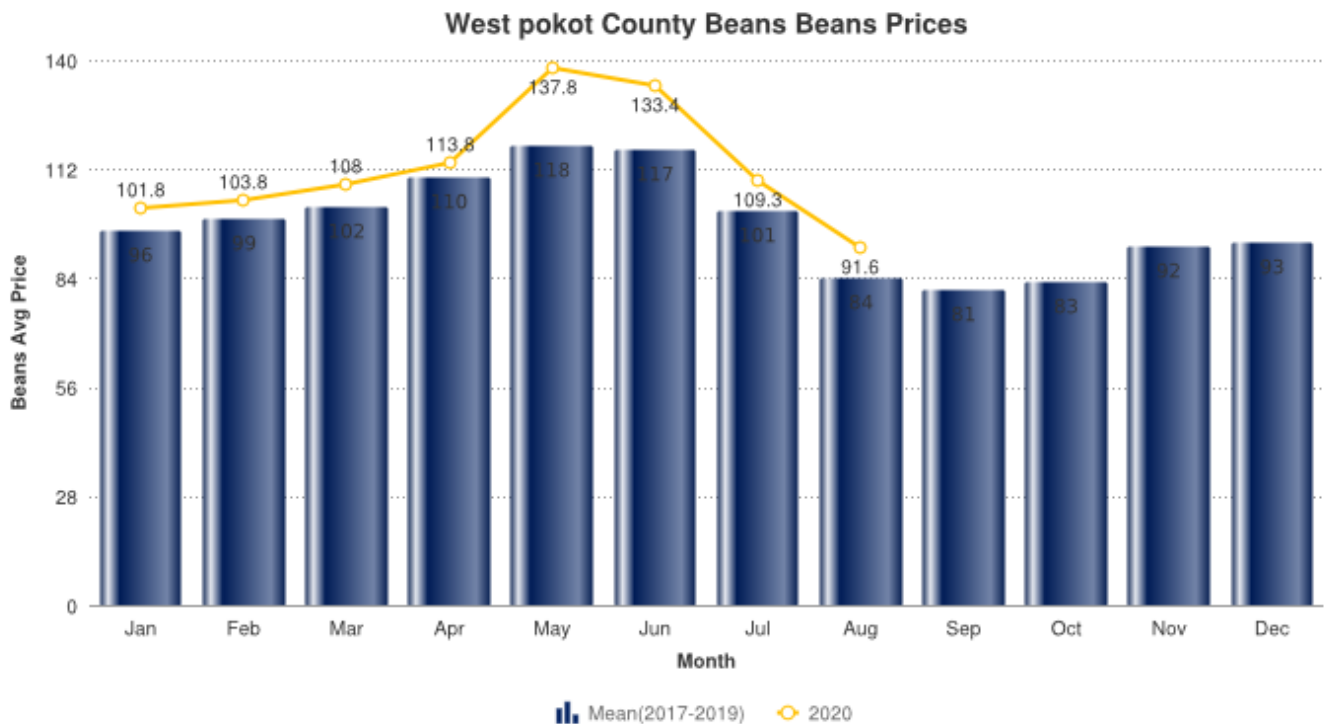
- During the month, the maize was sold at Ksh 41 per kg, a decrease from (Ksh 44) that was recorded in July.
- The current price is 11 percent below the LTA price.



- The drop in price is owed to the availability of local harvests supplies in the market mainly in Sigor and Anet area.
- Majority of the households depended more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is anticipated to drop further as harvesting season is expected in the next 2 months.

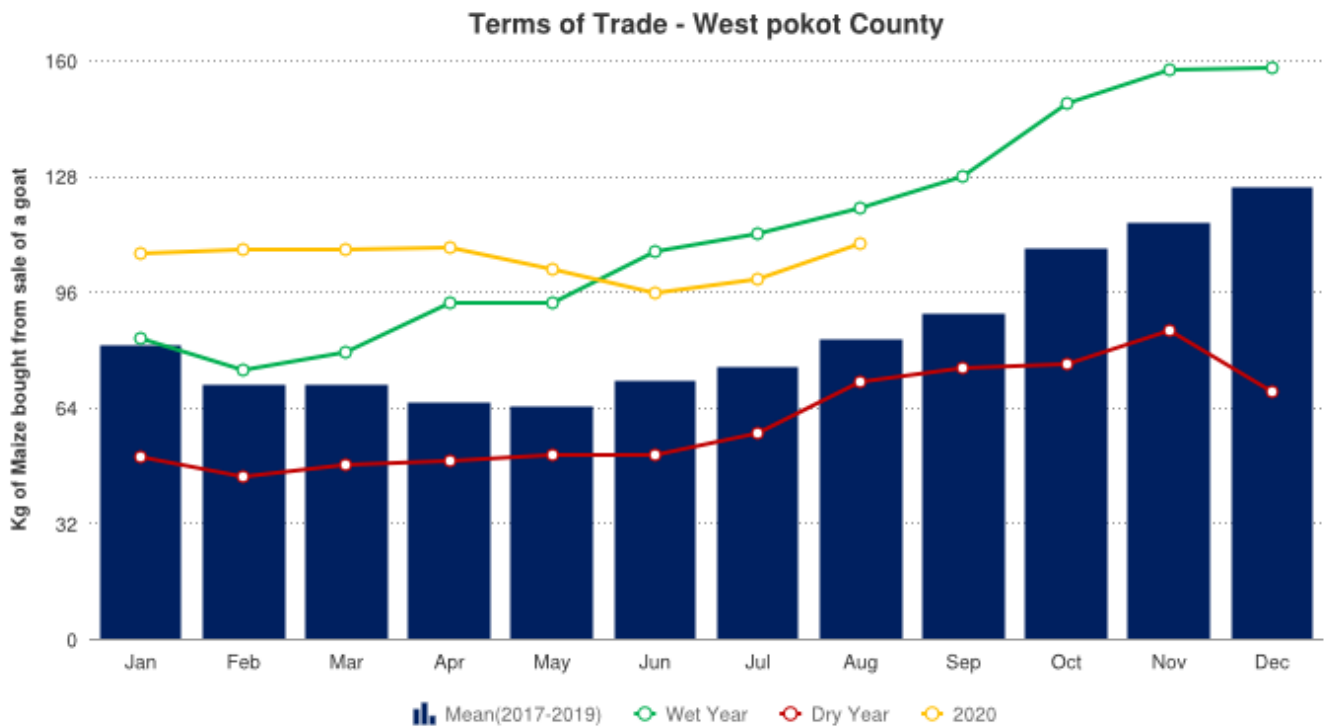
4.2.2 Beans

- The beans traded at Kshs 92 per kg in August, indicating a price decrease in comparison to Kshs 109 recorded in the previous month.
- The price down trend is associated with oscillating external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both depend on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 3 percent above the LTA price (Ksh.84) for similar period of the year.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- In August, the Terms of Trade (TOT) is at 109, an increase from 100 recorded in July, representing that households obtained more amount of maize for sale of a goat.
- The increase trend in ToT is linked to declining maize prices coupled with good goat prices.
- The TOT variation is projected over the next three months as the price of maize is expected to drop with the upcoming harvesting season.

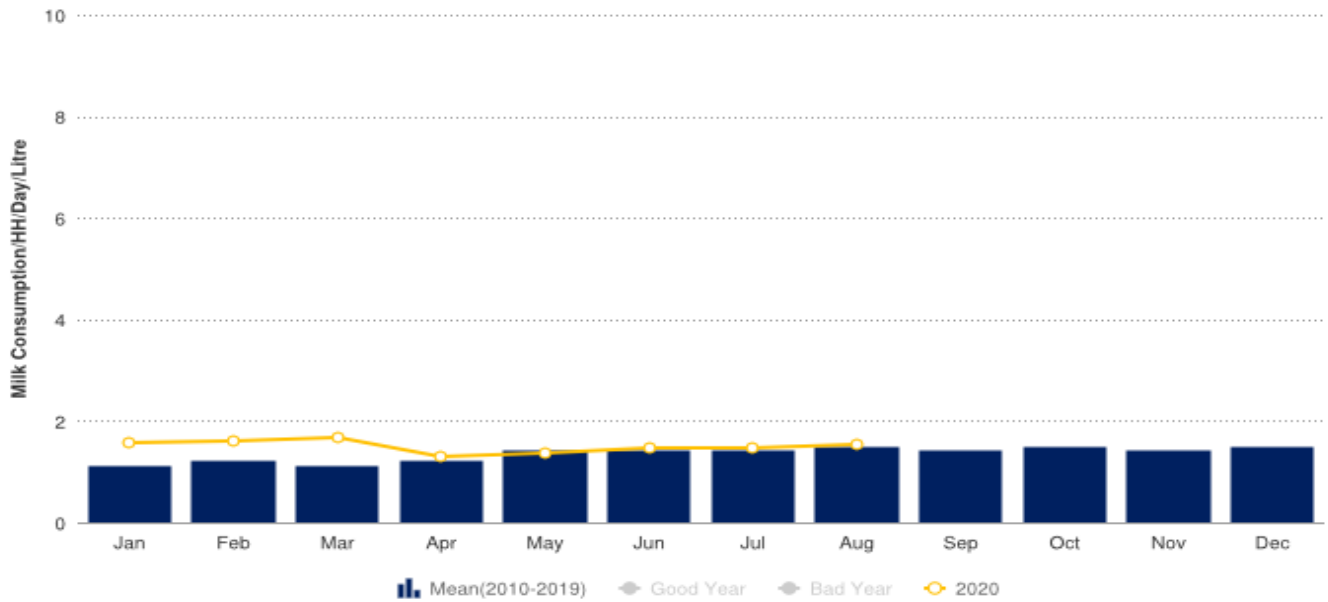


5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The households across livelihood zones had milk consumption of 1.5 litres of milk on average in August, similar to that recorded in July. The consumption is still at par with the LTA.

Household Milk Consumption in West pokot County



- The stable trend in milk consumption is attributed to the improved milk production along with good livestock body condition and sufficient forage. Availability of milk is good within the month.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The households' proportions of 77%, 23% and 0% were reported of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score decreased for the acceptable category, while borderline category increased as compared to that of July. The FCS is generally acceptable within the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones was at 51; signifying stability as compared to that reported in the previous month.
- There was significant variation between the two livelihood zones with for instance 100 percent of households in the agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 55% households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There are more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods.

5.3 HEALTH STATUS

5.3.1 Health

- In August, Malaria was reported as common ailment among the sampled households.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- The County's CSI was at 1.3 in August, a drop from 1.5 recorded in July. The decline depicts that households continue to employ few strategies to cope, which could be attributed to favourable food commodity availability and good access at households and markets respectively.
- The pastoral zones recorded a CSI of 1.4 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.2.
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households during the month included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- MoH COVID-19 pandemic control measures are being enforced across the County.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

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

7.2 MIGRATION

- Normal livestock movements were reported in August.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is projected to remain stable due to significant water point recharge with the ongoing rains.
- The livestock productivity is anticipated to stabilize as the forage conditions remains sufficient with the ongoing rains occasioning improved livestock body condition thus fetching high livestock prices
- Maize prices are anticipated to decrease while goat price is anticipated to go up, as such terms of trade would improve within the period.
- Milk availability is expected to stabilize with sufficient pasture and water hence heightening livestock production. Malnutrition cases are likely to decline over the period, as children would access more milk.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- People whose houses are built on 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.

2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

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

3. WATER SECTOR

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

4. PEACE AND SECURITY

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