



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

SEPTEMBER EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- During the month under review, sufficient rainfall was received across livelihood zones in August. The temporal and spatial distribution remained good across the livelihood zones.
- The vegetation cover index recorded was above normal range, with an increasing trend across the livelihoods as portrayed by the increase 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 is good with stable trend across the County. Distance to water sources decreased across the County.
- Milk production and consumption at household level improved and is above the long term average.
- The terms of trade is favourable with a increasing trend in all livelihood zones.
- Most of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index decreased across livelihood zones. There were no notable variations in livelihood coping strategies employed.

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)	88	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	2.0	>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)	128	>76
Milk Consumption	1.6	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	1.5 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

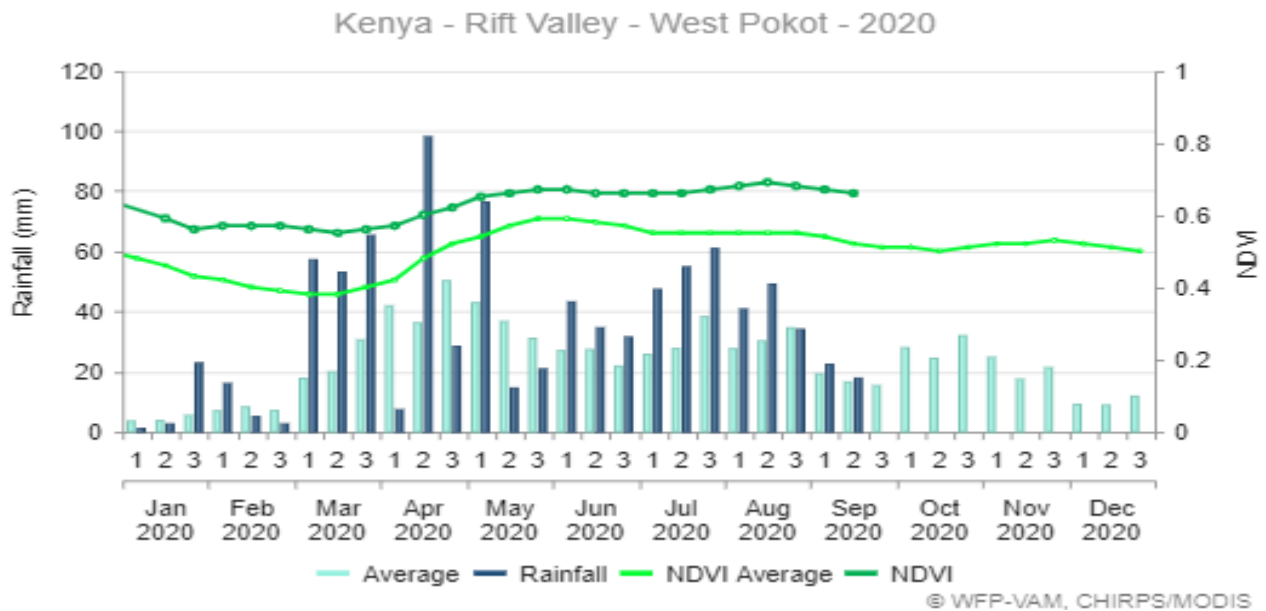
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	7.7	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.0	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	54	>35

<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

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



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- In the month under review, the County’s dekadal rainfall was modest in the first dekad at 19.1mm from 48.9 in August and in the second dekad 16.4 from 47mm in August. The dekad amounts were above normal.
- The first and second dekads were above normal Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for when compared to their respective long term dekadal NDVI values.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The spatial and temporal rainfall distribution was good across the livelihoods. The amounts received were above normal in September.

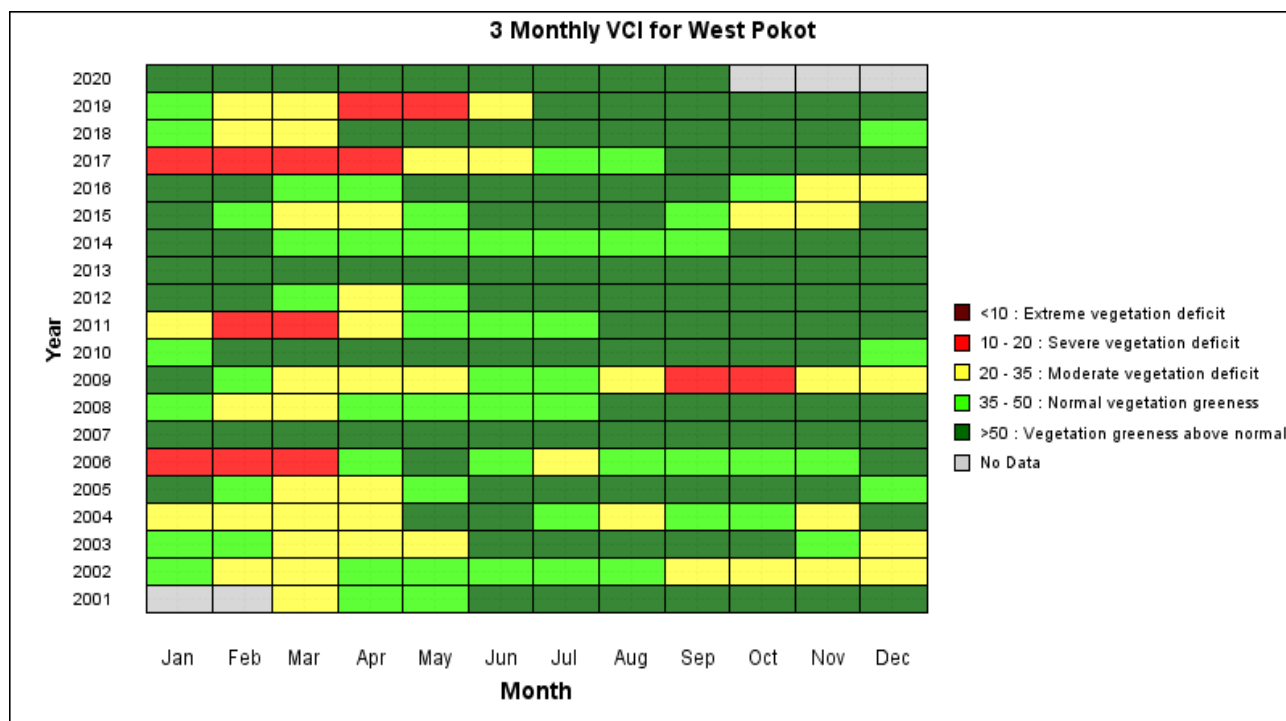
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- The County multi agency resettlement exercise of landslides victims who were displaced in Chesegon along Elgeyo Marakwet border in ongoing.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

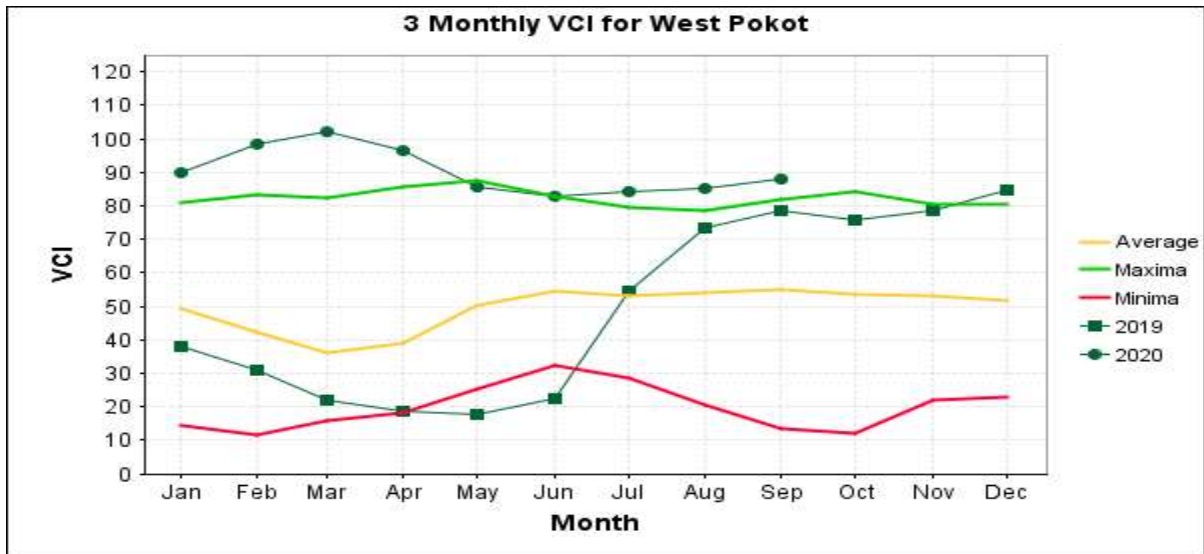
2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- In the month under review, the VCI (VCI-3month) which depicts the vegetation status of the County improved to 88 from 86 recorded in the previous month. The current VCI portrays above normal vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on up-trend trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. The rise in VCI is from 87 to 91, 71 to 73, 89 to 90 and 88 to 89 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The improving trend in VCI is linked heightened regeneration of vegetation cover coupled with above normal rainfall within the month.



- When compared to the long-term average, the current vegetation condition index is above the long term average and maxima values for September.
- The onset of short rains is expected in the next one month, thus the 3-months vegetation condition index is likely to remain stable and above the long term average.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community members which recorded that the pasture was good was at 65 percent a drop from 100 percent reported in August.
- The communities reported that pasture situation was good to fair in all livelihood zones. The condition was normal for such time of the year.
- The trend is still stable in comparison to that of previous month owing to sufficient rains. The pasture condition is projected to remain good due to ongoing rains.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood zones.

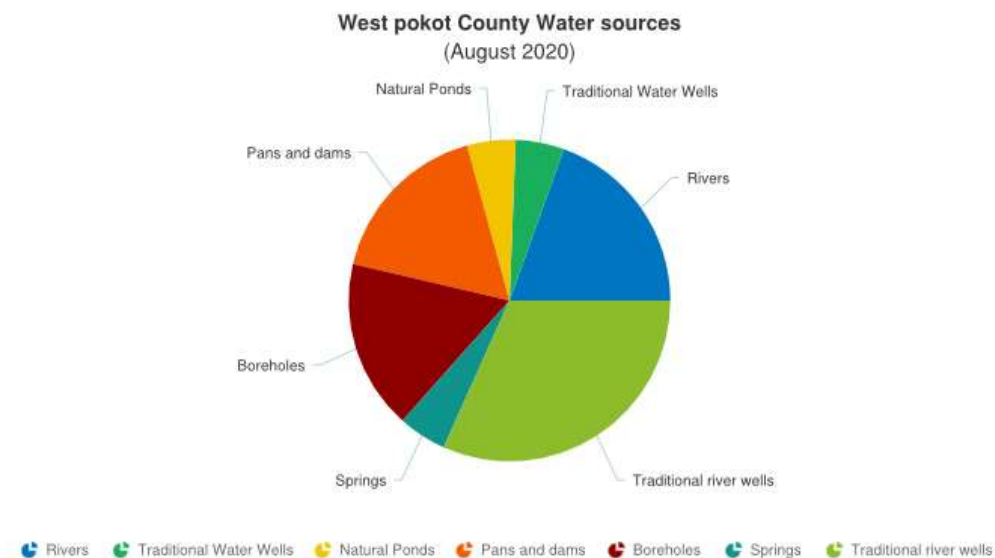
2.1.3 Browse

- 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 still good as compared to that of the previous month.
- The proportion of sampled community members which reported that browse condition was good at 85 percent; a decrease from that reported in August.
- 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 attributed to heightened peace building initiatives along the conflict hotspots.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

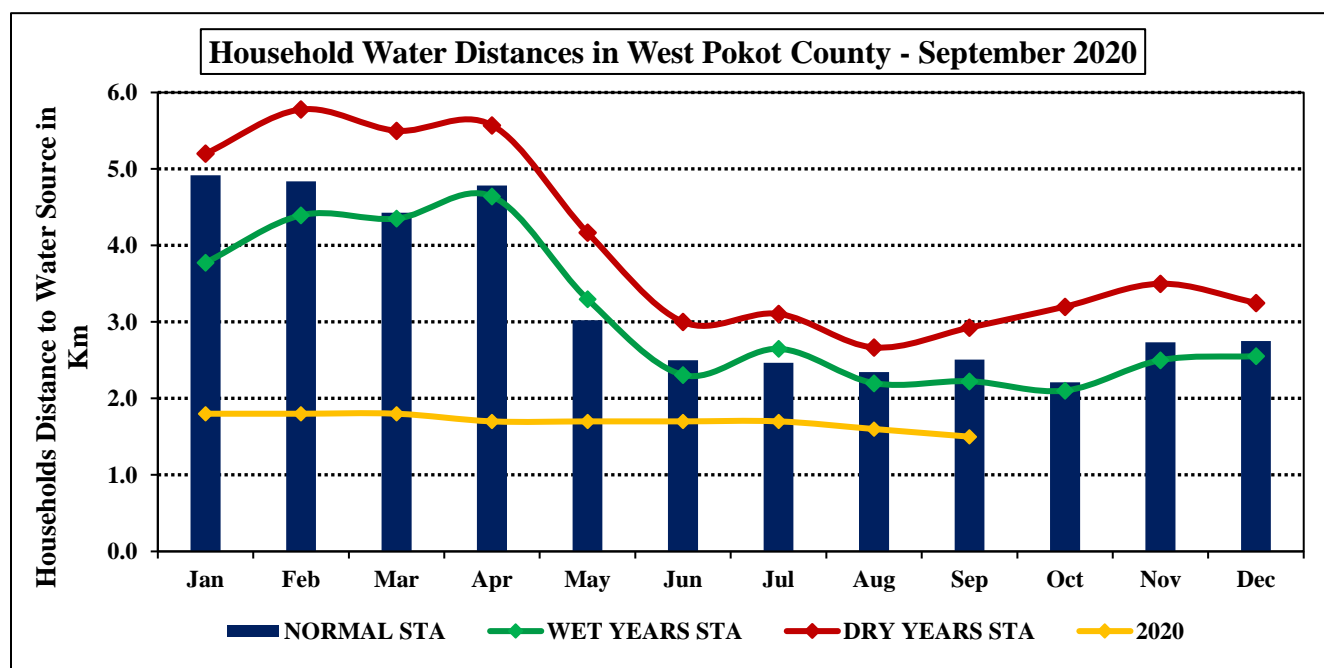
2.2.1 Sources

- In the month under review, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock are; 35 percent for traditional river wells, 23 percent for boreholes, 19 percent for both pans and dams, 12 percent for rivers while those using springs were at 4 percent.
- The recharge is good in all surface water sources in comparison to that of the previous month. The situation is likely to remain stable due linked to 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

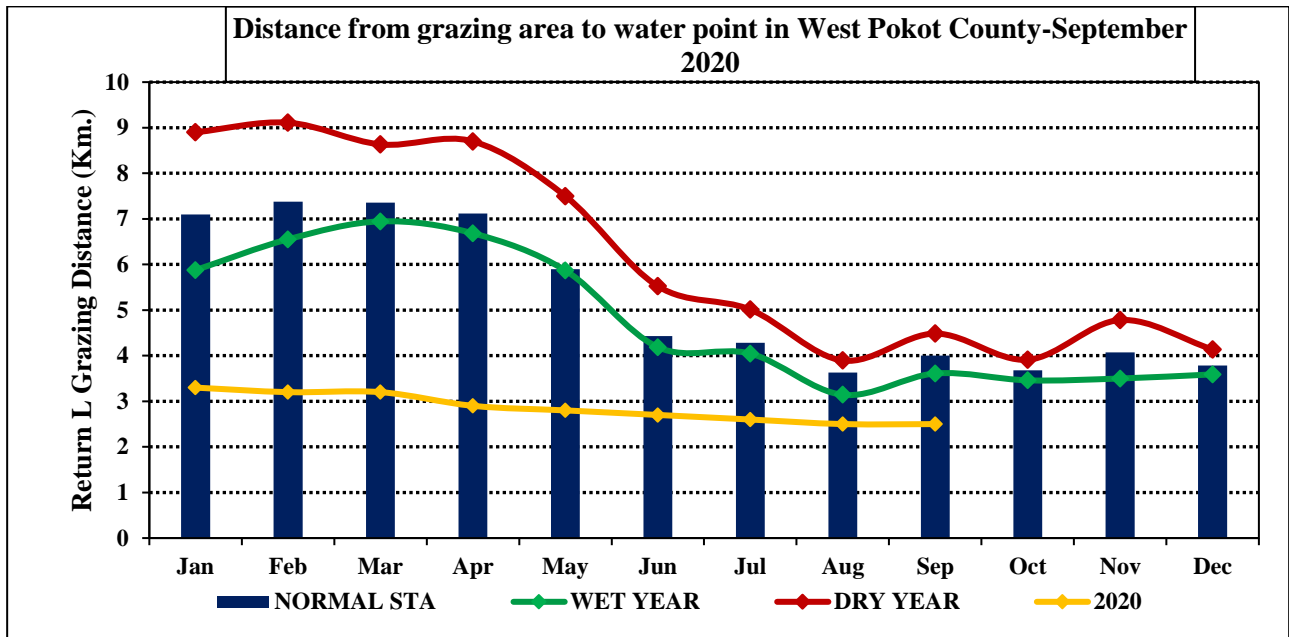
- The return distance to water source from the household is at 1.5 km, a slight decrease from 1.6 recorded in August. The current distance is 40 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- Isolated areas in pastoral livelihood zones of Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub counties reported slightly longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The decrease in distance is due to sufficient water sources recharge.



- When compared, 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 at 17-19 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was at 14-17 litres.
- The water cost 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

- In September, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources remained at 2.5 km, same as that reported in August. The current trekking distance is 38 percent below the normal range.
- In comparison, 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 stable trend in livestock trekking distance to water points is attributed to adequate rainfall along with stable recharge to the water sources.
- Livestock watering frequency remained 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

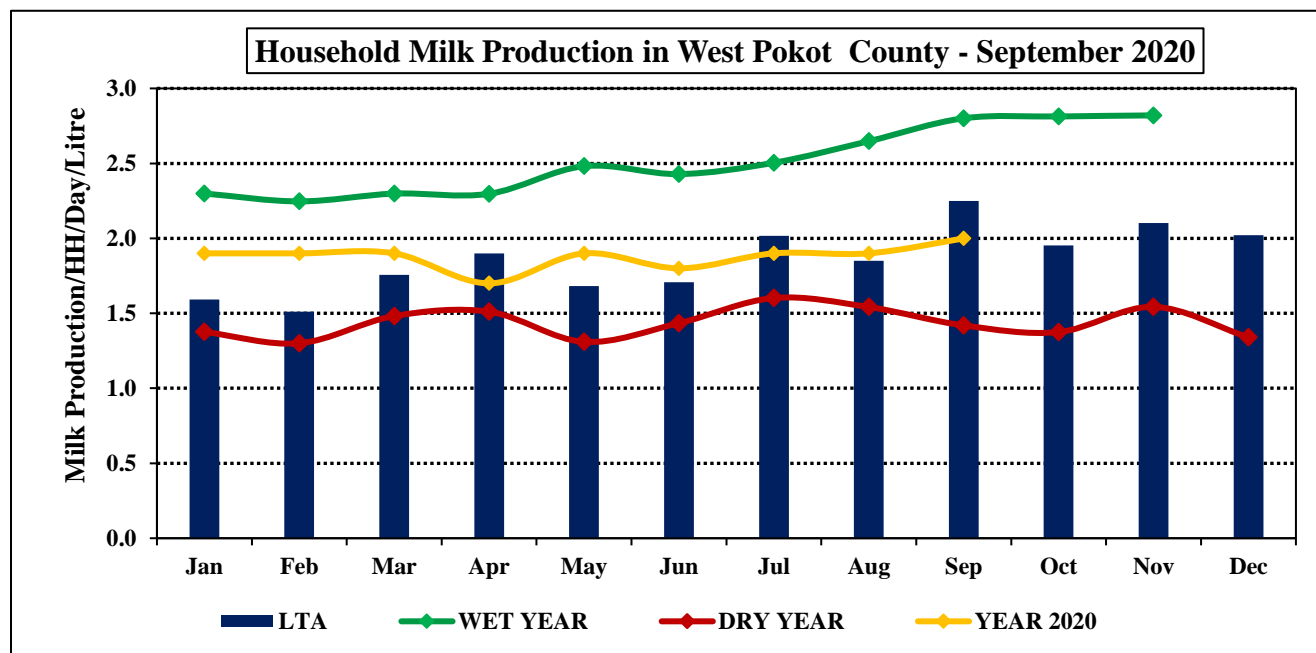
- The body condition for all livestock species remained good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in comparison to that recorded in the previous month. The condition is likely to remain stable owing to good rains.
- The livestock body condition is projected to improve across the livelihood zones.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The trend is still stable due to sufficient forage regeneration.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- The incidences of CBPP in cattle was reported Chepareria ward in Pokot South Sub County. Cases of CCPP were reported in Masol and Kapchok wards in Pokot Central and Pokot North Sub counties respectively.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The County reported an average production was at 2.0 litres of milk per household per day in September, an increase from that recorded in August.
- Cattle was the main livestock producing milk at the households in all the livelihood zones in the County.
- In comparison, the current household milk production is above the long term average by 17 percent.
- The household increasing trend in milk production is associated with improved forage access in the traditional grazing areas.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

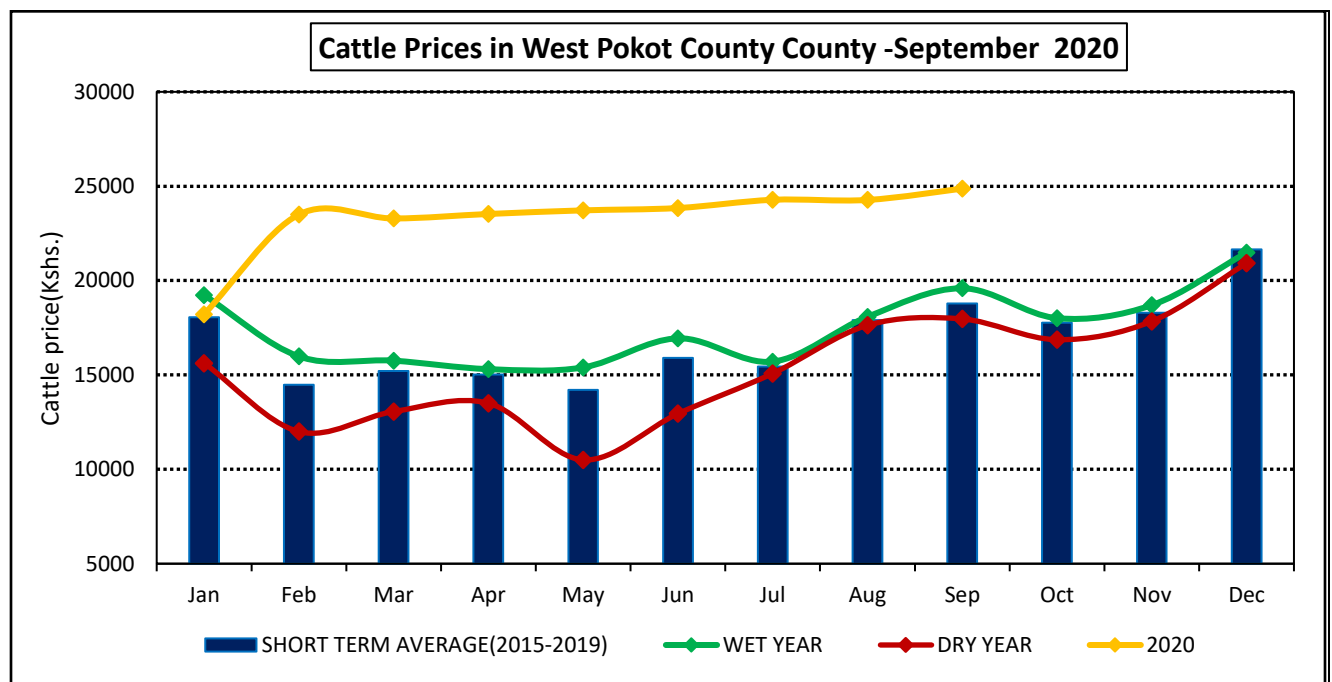
- In the month under review, the major crops cultivated in the County include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Maize harvesting is ongoing.
- When compared, the horticultural production and supply to major markets in Ortum and Lomut is at normal levels in comparison to the seasonal performance.
- The level of farming is stable along the horticultural production zones due to ongoing rainfall in the fruit growing areas.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in the 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

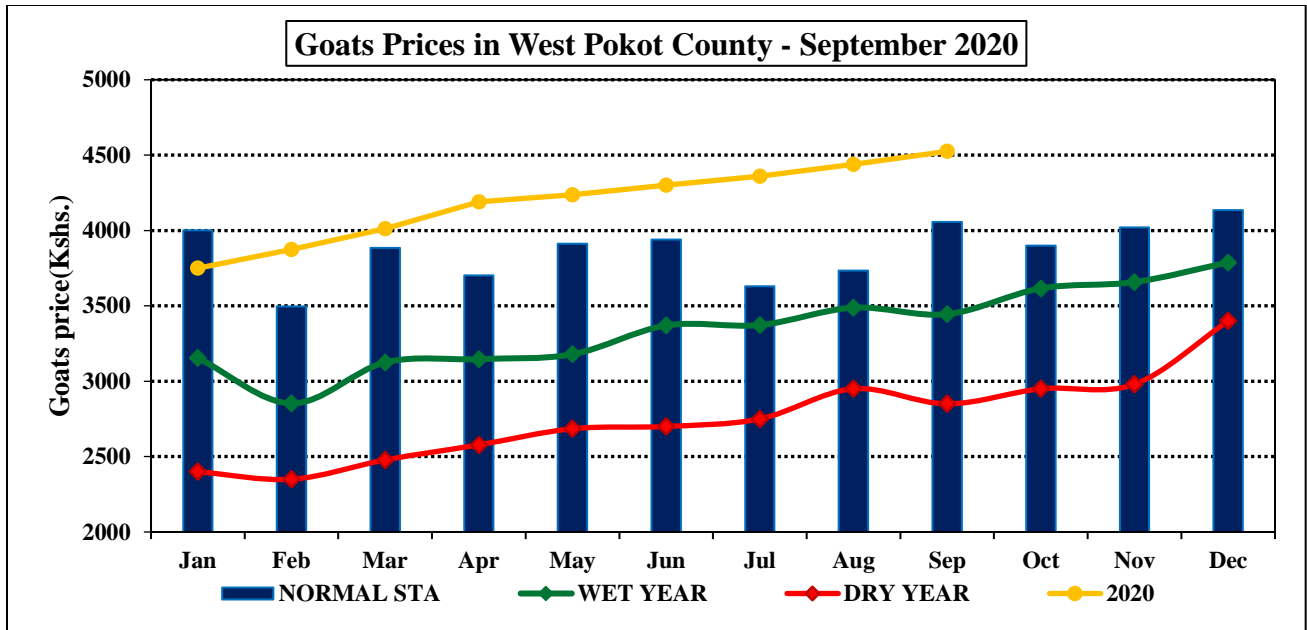
4.1.1 Cattle prices

- During the month under review, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 24,875, representing an increase in price as compared to Kshs 24,272 reported in the previous month.
- The upward trend in cattle price is owed to good body condition along with adequate forage condition, as well as good recharge of water sources for livestock.
- In comparison to the long term average, the current cattle price is 34 percent above the long term average.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County recorded an average price of Kshs 4,525 for a 2-year old medium size goat, which signified a rise in comparison with Kshs 4,438 recorded in the previous month.

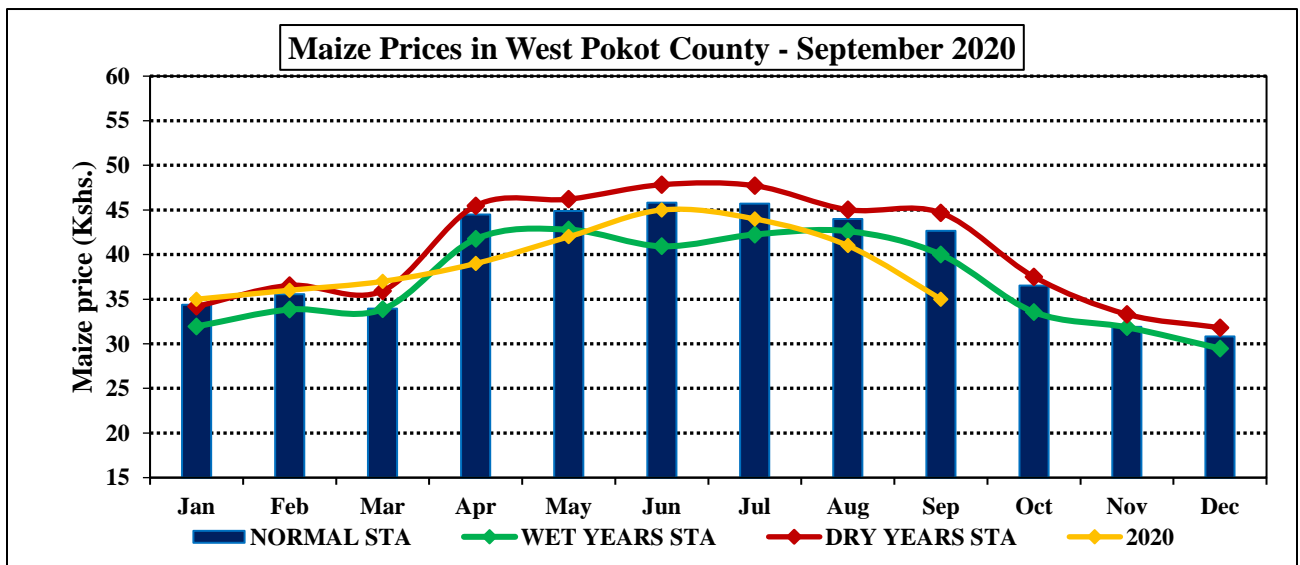


- The price increase is linked to good body condition for goats in the livelihoods. The current goat price is 12 percent above long term average for September.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

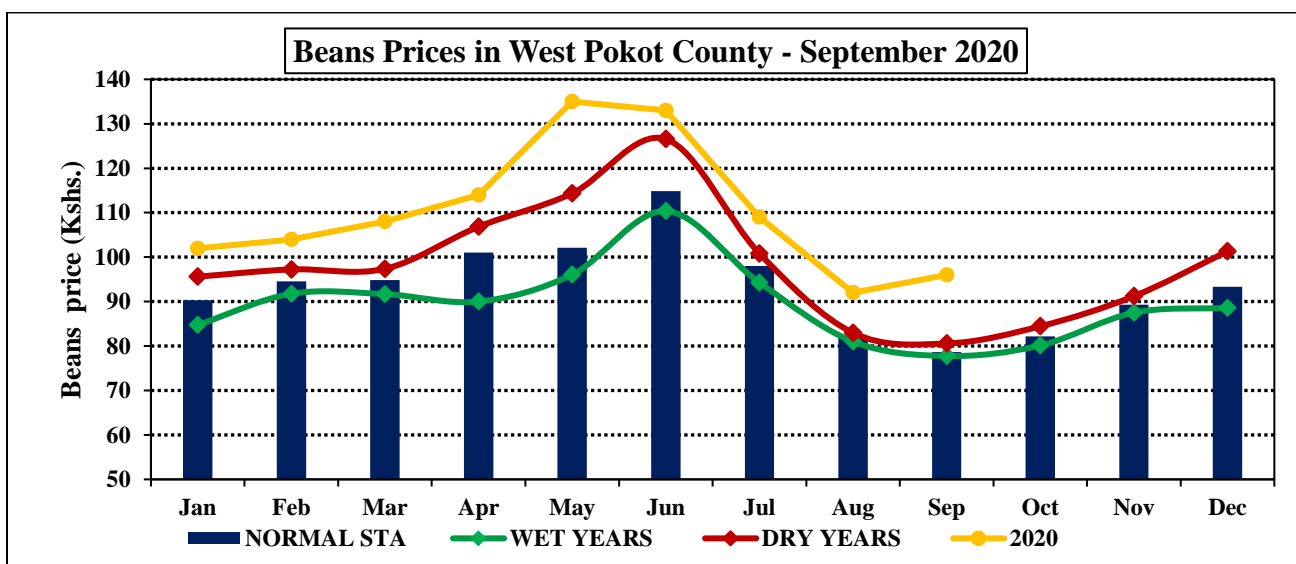
- The maize was sold at Ksh 35 per kg, a drop from (Ksh 41) that was recorded in the previous month.
- When compared to the long term average, the current price is 18 percent below the long term average price.



- The decrease in price is due to the availability of local harvests supplies in the market mainly in Sigor and Anet areas in Pokot Central Sub County.
- Most of the households depended more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is likely to remain low with ongoing harvesting season.

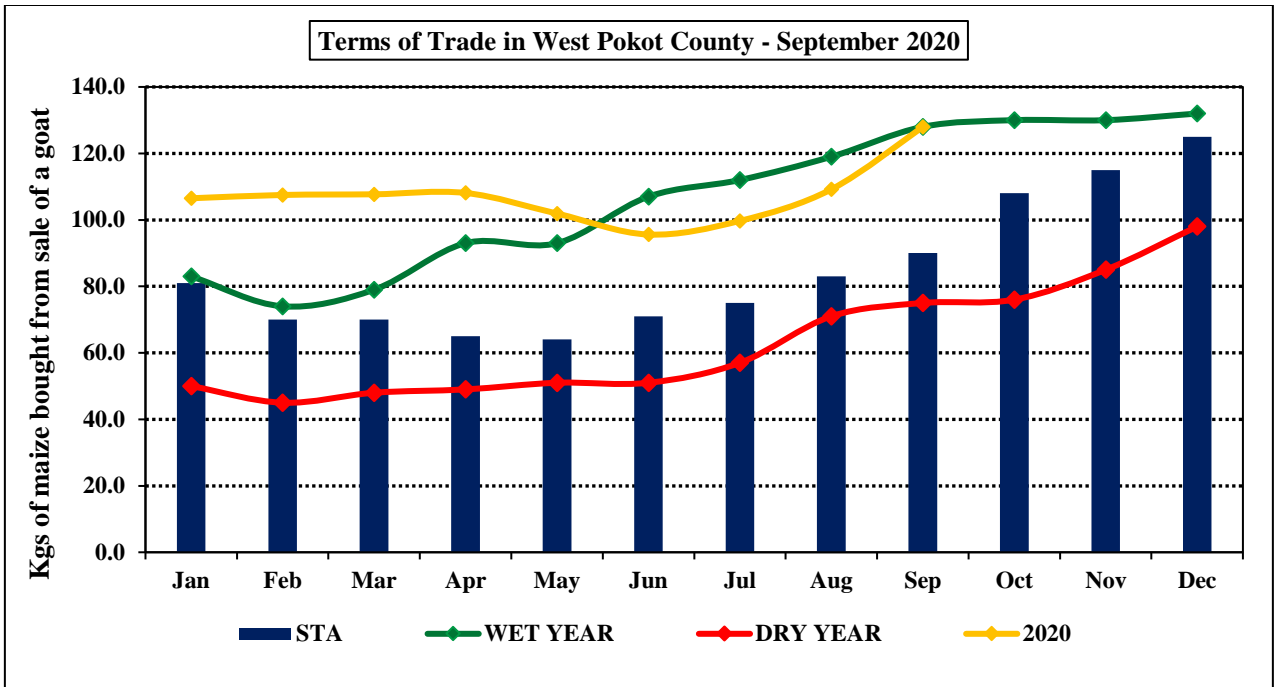
4.2.2 Beans

- During the month, the beans traded at Kshs 96 per kg, demonstrating a price increase in comparison to Kshs 92 recorded in the previous month.
- The price up trend is attributed to fluctuation of 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 22 percent above the LTA price (Ksh.79) for similar period of the year.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

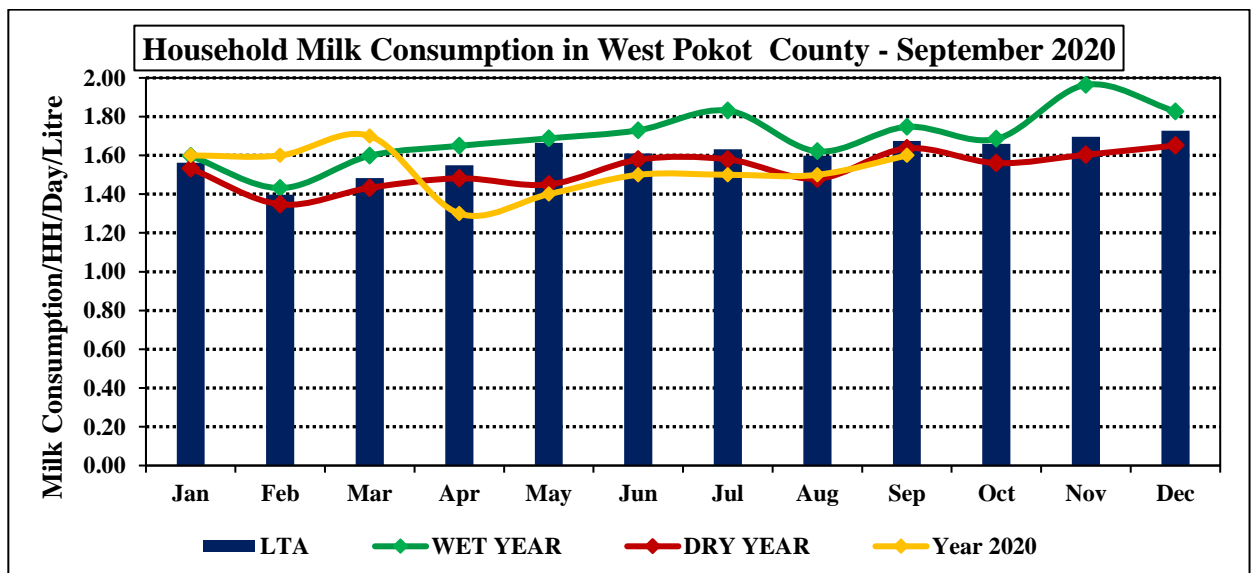
- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is at 128, an increase from 109 recorded in the previous month, demonstrating that households obtained more amount of maize for sale of a goat.
- The upward trend in ToT is attributed to decreasing maize prices along with high goat prices.
- The TOT variation is expected over the next three months as the price of maize is likely to remain low with the ongoing harvests.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

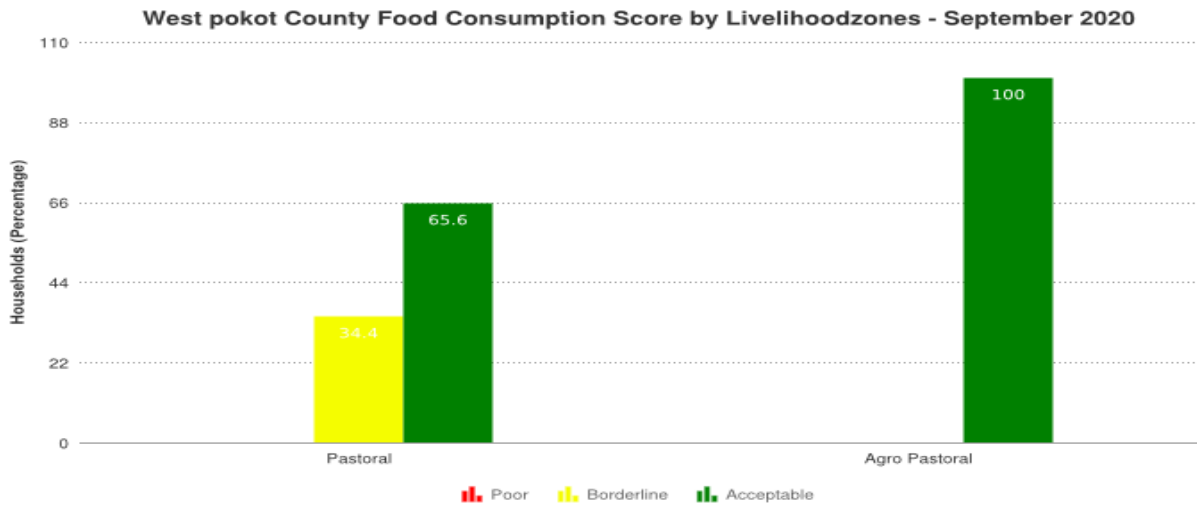
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- In September, the households across livelihood zones had milk consumption of 1.6 litres of milk on average, an increase as compared to that recorded in August. The consumption is 6 percent below long term average.



- The uptrend in milk consumption is owed to the enhanced milk production coupled with improved livestock body condition and adequate forage. Availability of milk is good in September

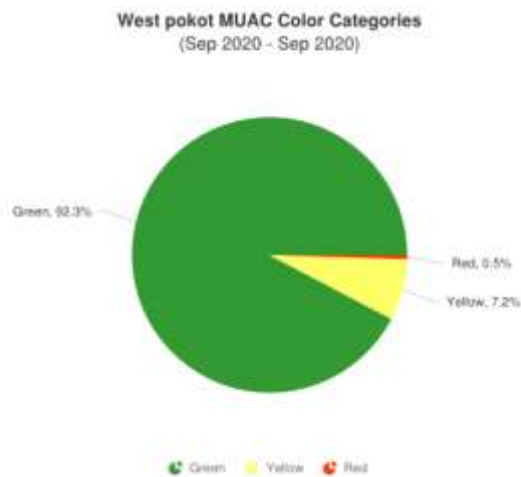
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE



- The households' proportions of 79%, 21% and 0% were reported of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased for both the acceptable category and borderline category as compared to that of August. The FCS is generally acceptable within the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones was at 54; signifying stability as compared to 51 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 66% 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 AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status



The proportion of children under the age of five years who were 'at risk' of malnutrition was 7.7 percent September (Moderate acute- 7.2 percent and Severe acute- 0.5 percent malnutrition. In comparison to the long term average MUAC of SAM of 1.3

percent, proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition is below the normal range due to above normal milk consumption and acceptable food consumption score across the households

5.3.1 Health

- Malaria was reported as common ailment among the sampled households across the livelihood zones.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- During the month under review, the County CSI was at 1.0, a drop from 1.3 recorded in the previous month. The drop depicts that households continue to employ few strategies to cope, which could be linked to favourable food commodity availability and enhanced access at households and markets respectively.
- The pastoral zones recorded a CSI of 1.9 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 0.4.
- 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

- The county government is undertaking lumpy skin disease vaccination in Pokot Central Sub County.
- Ministry of health COVID-19 pandemic control measures are being enforced across the County.
- Nutrition department are conducting integrated outreaches 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 within the month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Maize prices are expected to drop while goat price is projected to go up, as such terms of trade would improve within the period.
- Milk availability is anticipated to remain stable with adequate pasture and water hence improving livestock production.
- Malnutrition cases are likely to decrease over the period, as children are likely access more milk.
- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is likely to stabilize owing to good water point recharge with the ongoing rains.
- The livestock productivity is likely to improve as the forage conditions stable with the ongoing rains causing good livestock body condition hence fetching good livestock prices

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. AGRICULTURE

- Support farmers to minimize post-harvest losses on maize through proper drying, handling and storage.

2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Support livestock disease surveillance and vaccination particularly in wards with reported disease incidences.
- Open all livestock markets across the County to ensure pastoralist get good prices

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.

5. 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.