Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

**LIVELIHOOD ZONE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EW PHASE</th>
<th>TRENDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alert</td>
<td>Worsening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alert</td>
<td>Worsening</td>
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</tbody>
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### Biophysical Indicators

- **Rainfall (% of normal)**: 100 - 80-120
- **VCI-3 month**: 48.05 - 35-50
- **VCI-3 month forecast Nov-04**: 56 - 35-50
- **Forage Condition**: Fair to poor - Good to fair

### Production indicators

- **Maize Crop Condition**: N/A
- **Livestock Body Condition**: Fair to Poor - Good to fair
- **Milk Production (in litres)**: 0.9 - ≥0.9
- **Livestock Migration Pattern**: Not normal
- **Livestock Deaths (from Drought)**: No death

### Access Indicators

- **Terms of Trade (ToT)**: 113 - ≥109
- **Milk Consumption (in litres)**: 0.6 - ≥0.7
- **Return Distance to Water Sources (Km)**: Household 7.6 - ≤7.0
- **Livestock 7.1 - ≤7.0**
- **Cost of Water (20 litres Jerry can)**: At Source 2.5 - ≤5Ksh
- **Vendor 20.30 - 10-20**

### Utilization indicators

- **Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)**: 5.6 - ≤7.8
- **Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)**: 11.1 - ≤7.0
- **Food Consumption Score (%)**
  - Acceptable: 67.4 - ≥80
  - Borderline: 32.6 - ≤20
  - Poor: 0 - 0

### Short rains harvests
- Short dry spell
- Reduced milk yields
- Increased HH Food Stocks
- Land preparation

### Planting/Weeding
- Long rains
- High Calving Rate
- Milk Yields Increase

### Long rains harvests
- A long dry spell
- Land preparation
- Increased HH Food Stocks
- Kidding (Sept)

### Short rains
- Planting/weeding

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**Dry Season**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The month of September was generally sunny and dry across the livelihood zones and this is normal at this time of the year.
- During the month of September 2021, the county received moderate drizzle to light rainfall of between 1-20 millimetres of total rainfall (Kenya Meteorological Department).

1.2 Forecast for October to December (OND) 2021 Short Rains

- Based on Kenya Meteorological Department seasonal climate outlook for October to December 2021 issued on 09th September 2021, most parts of the county are likely to experience depressed rainfall which will be poorly distributed in both time and space.
- Majority of areas in the county will receive less rainfall amount by 20 to 50 millimetres of the long term mean as shown in figure 1.
- The seasonal rains are expected to start late between 8th to 15th November 2021 and end by 20th to 30th December 2021.

1.3 Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Forecast

- Figure 2 shows the updated forecasts of SPI for OND issued on September 2021 indicating the average chance of SPI≤-0.09 is 46 percent. However, the probabilities exceed 75 percent in most parts of the county and this implies that, there is a high chance that the county will slide into alert worsening phase. Moreover, the average chance of SPI≤-0.98 is 16 percent. However, the forecast probabilities exceed 25 percent in most parts of the county, implying a higher chance of sliding into alarm worsening drought phase. The forecast shows that, there is early signs suggesting a raised probability of below normal rainfall for October to December 2021 season over most parts of the county and the prevailing drought is likely to continue hence a need to take early actions to cushion households from the adverse impacts of drought.
2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation greenness improved by 15 percent to stand at a 3 month VCI of 48.05 in September from 41.68 in previous month. This is an indication of normal vegetation greenness.

- Mwingi North sub county had moderate vegetation deficit at a 3 month VCI of 28.9 with a stable trend as shown in figure 3.

- However, Kitui Rural, Mwingi Central and Mwingi West sub counties had normal vegetation greenness at a 3 month VCI of 35.83, 38.74 and 41.12 respectively while Kitui West, Kitui East, Kitui South and Kitui Central sub counties had above normal vegetation greenness at a 3 month VCI of 51.15, 53.31, 56.11 and 62.82 respectively.

- The county vegetation greenness is normal the long term mean as shown in figure 4.

![](image1.png)

**Figure 3: Mwingi North 3 Month VCI Matrix and Trends**

![](image2.png)

**Figure 4: Kitui County 3 Month VCI Matrix and Trends**

2.1.2 Vegetation Condition Index Forecast

- Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook for the month of October and November 2021, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates normal to above normal vegetation condition across the sub counties with an improving trend (figure 5). This condition is likely to impact positively on availability and accessibility of livestock feeds during forecasted period.

![](image3.png)

**Figure 5: Kitui County 3 Month VCI Forecast**
2.1.3 Soil Moisture Forecast

- The TAMSAT-ALERT Soil Moisture Forecast issued on 26th September 2021 indicates that, there is an increased probability of Kitui County having a lower tercile soil moisture conditions as shown in figure 6. This implies that, the county will continue to experience below normal soil moisture conditions and this will impact negatively on vegetation condition, livestock feeds and crop production.

![Figure 6: Soil Moisture Forecast](image)

2.1.4 Pasture

- Pasture condition ranged from fair to poor with a declining trend as shown in figure 7. This condition was due to poor 2021 long rain performance and progression of the dry spell.
- On average, about 85 percent of pasture was poor in both quality and quantity in September compared to 70 percent in previous month. The remaining 15 percent of pasture was regarded as fair.
- The available pasture is likely to last for ≤1 month across the livelihood zones compared to 1-2 months normally.
- Pasture condition was better in year 2020 compared to similar period in year 2021.

![Figure 7: Kitui County Pasture Condition](image)

2.1.5 Browse

- Browse condition ranged from fair to poor across the livelihood zones with a declining trend as shown in figure 8.
- On average, about 52 percent of browse was poor in both quality and quantity in September compared to 41 percent in previous month. The remaining 48 percent of browse was regarded as fair.
- Browse is likely to last for less than a month compared to 1-2 months normally across the livelihood zones.
- Browse condition was better in year 2020 compared to similar period in year 2021.

![Figure 8: Kitui County Browse Condition](image)
2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- The main water sources for both human and livestock consumption in September were boreholes, traditional river wells, piped water system and shallow wells as shown in figure 9.
- This situation is normal at this time of the year.
- However, water levels in open water sources were below 15 percent of their capacity in most parts of the county and majority of pans and dams had dried up in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones.
- Water availability at open water facilities is likely to last for \(\leq 1\) month across the livelihood zones compared to 1-2 months normally. This is mainly due to high levels of siltation, breached embankment, eroded spillway, high evaporation rates and poor recharge from 2021 long rains.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The average return distances from the households to water sources increased by 29 percent to stand at 7.6km in September from 5.9km in previous month. This was due to drying-up of nearby water sources and frequent breakdown of boreholes.
- Households in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone trekked an average of 8.3km compared to 6.7km in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The current water distance is nine percent higher than the long-term mean as shown in figure 10.
- Water consumption per person per day remained stable at 16 litres in September as it was in previous month.
- The proportion of households treating water before consuming stood at 9.3 percent in September compared to 8.3 percent in previous month. Water treatment chemicals was the most preferred treatment method.
- The proportion of households buying water stood at 62 percent in September compared to 58 percent in previous month.
- The price of water per 20-litre Jerry can at source was normal at 2-5 shillings. However, water retailed at 20-30 shillings from vendors.
2.2.3 Livestock Access

- Livestock trekking distances have been in an increasing trend since May 2021 and this is due to frequent breakdown of boreholes and drying up of nearby water sources as a result of poor recharge, eroded spill way, breached embarkment, high siltation and evaporation rates.
- The average return distances from livestock grazing areas to watering points rose by 13 percent to stand at 7.1km in September from 6.3km in previous month.
- Livestock in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones trekked a distance of 7.2km compared to 6.1km in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.

Moreover, livestock in Nuu ward trekked a return distance of more than 13km.
- Livestock watering frequency was daily in Mixed Farming and 3-4 days per week in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones compared to daily normally.
- The current average distance from livestock grazing areas to watering points is two percent above the long term mean as shown in figure 11.

2.3 Implication of the Above Indicators to Food Security

- Declining water and fodder access and availability is likely to worsen food security situation.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition ranged from fair to poor for all species across the livelihood zones with a worsening trend. This was due to declining forage and water availability.
- On average, 22 percent of cattle had thin fore ribs visible body condition in September compared to 11 percent in previous month.
- The other 56 and 22 percent of cattle had borderline (fore ribs not visible, 12th & 13th ribs visible) and moderate (neither fat nor thin) body conditions respectively.
- None of the cattle had good smooth appearance body condition in September.
- Livestock body condition was better in year 2020 compared to similar period in year 2021.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- During the month of September, they were 16 confirmed cases of livestock diseases and four deaths due to livestock diseases. The livestock diseases and deaths reported included: five cases of heartwater disease in cattle/goats with four deaths from the disease in Mutitu/Kaliku ward in Kitui east, five cases of trypanosomiasis disease in cattle in Athi and Mutha wards in Kitui south, two cases of foot and mouth disease(FMD) in cattle in Nzambani ward in Kitui east, two cases of east coast fever(ECF) disease in cattle in Zombe/Mwitika and Nzambani wards in Kitui east and two cases of anaplasmosis disease in Waita ward in Mwingi Central.
3.1.3 Milk Production
- Milk production has been on a decline trend since May 2021 and this is due to deteriorating livestock body condition and progression of the dry spell.
- The average daily milk production per household remained stable to stand at 0.9 litres in September as that in previous month.
- Households in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone produced an average of 1.2 litres per day compared to 0.8 litres in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The current milk production is normal as shown in figure 13.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION
3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops
- Land preparation and terraces in few pockets of the county had started in anticipation of the 2021 short rains.
- In addition to rain-fed cropping, farmers along main rivers (Athi, Tana, Tiva and Thua) had horticultural crops that were at various stages of development.

3.3 Implication of the Above Indicators to Food Security
- Households are likely to continue depending on markets for food commodities following depletion of food socks at household levels. This will diminish household terms of trade and impact negatively on food consumption patterns.
- Livestock productivity is likely to worsen further following declining fodder and water availability and access.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE
4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING
4.1.1 Cattle Prices
- The average market price of cattle increased by 13 percent to stand at Ksh.32,564 in September from Ksh.28,750 in previous month. This was due to increased demand of cattle in the local market compared to supply.
- Cattle prices were higher in Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Ksh.34,617 compared to Ksh.30,000 in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The current market price of cattle is 19 percent higher than the long-term average as shown in figure 14.
4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat price)

- The average market price of goat remained stable to stand at Ksh.3,846 in September from Ksh.3,859 in previous month.
- Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone recorded a higher price of Ksh.3,850 compared to Ksh.3,843 in Mixed Farming livelihood zone. The demand is higher in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The current market price of goat is normal as shown in figure 15.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of maize per kilogram remained stable at Ksh.34 in September similar to that in previous month. This is due to availability of the commodity in the market from outside the county.
- Maize price was similar across the livelihood zones and ranged at Ksh. 30-35 per kilogram.
- The current market price of maize normal at this time of the year as shown in figure 16.

4.2.2 Beans

- The average market price of beans per kilogram increased by nine percent to stand at Ksh.94 in September from Ksh.86 in previous month.
- Beans price was higher in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Ksh.95 compared to Ksh.93 in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The current beans price is above normal by nine percent as shown in figure 17.
- Beans was mainly obtained from outside the county.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

- The household purchasing power has been on a decline trend since May 2021 and this is due to depletion of food stocks at household level.
- Terms of trade remained stable to stand at 113 in September from 114 in previous month. This implies that, households were able to purchase 113 kilograms of maize from exchange of a goat in September compared to 114 in previous month.
- There was no major variation across the livelihood zones.
- The current terms of trade is four percent higher than the long-term mean as shown in figure 18.
4.4 Implication of the Above Indicators to Food Security

- Prices of staple food commodities are likely to rise following depletion of household food stocks and dependence on markets for food commodities. This will impact negatively on household food consumption patterns.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The average daily milk consumption per household declined by 25 percent to stand at 0.6 litres in September from 0.8 litres in previous month.
- Milk consumption was higher in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 0.9 litres compared to 0.7 litres in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The current milk consumption is 13 percent lower than the long-term average as shown in figure 19.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The proportion of households in acceptable food consumption category declined to 67.4 percent in September from 72.6 percent in previous month.
- The remaining 32.6 percent of the households were in borderline food consumption category as shown in figure 20.
- About 76.9 percent of the households in Mixed Farming livelihood zone were in acceptable food consumption category compared to 67.3 percent in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- On average, households consumed cereals six days per week; pulses and oils five days per week; sugars and sugary products four days per week; vegetables three days per week; meat, eggs or fish, milk and fruits once per week as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Meals Eaten per Day in the Last One Week (Recall Period)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cereals</th>
<th>Pulses</th>
<th>Vegetables</th>
<th>Meat, Eggs or Fish</th>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Oil</th>
<th>Sugars</th>
<th>Fruits</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Marginal Mixed Farming</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed Farming</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Trend analysis for children at risk of malnutrition indicates an increasing trend since July 2021 and this is due to diminishing household purchasing power and reduced food stocks at household level due to low production. This has impacted negatively on household access to diversified foods.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition increased to 5.6 percent in September from five percent in previous month.
- The current level of children at risk of malnutrition is 2.2 percent lower than the long-term mean as shown in figure 21.

5.3.2 Health

- In September 2021, the proportion of children suspected to have fever with chills like malaria, fever with breathing difficulties and diarrhoea cases stood at 4.1, 0.3 and 0.8 percent compared to 4.0, 0.5 and 0.7 percent in previous month respectively.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The mean of reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) increased by 13 percent to stand at 11.1 in September from 9.8 in previous month. Between July to September rCSI has been similar to dry year.
- Households in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone had a high rCSI of 13.5 compared to 8.0 in Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- Reliance on less preferred or less expensive food, reduced portion size of meals and reduced number of meals eaten per day were the most frequent coping mechanisms adopted across the livelihood zones.
- The current rCSI is 58 percent higher than the long-term mean as shown in figure 22.
- About 34.4, 19.3 and 5.6 percent of households were employing stressed, crisis and emergency food-based coping mechanisms in September compared to 26.6, 19.4 and 3.6 percent respectively in previous month as shown in figure 23.
- In Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone, 28, 23.3 and 10 percent of households employed stressed, crisis and emergency food-based coping mechanisms compared to 42.5, 14.2 and 0.0 percent in Mixed Farming livelihood zone respectively.
- Moreover, 7.8, 2.6 and 5.6 percent of the households employed stressed, crisis and emergency livelihood coping mechanisms to cope with lack of food or money to buy food.
6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- Promotion of high value horticultural crops, mango production & value addition and promotion of viable and equitable commercialization of the agricultural sector through value chain development and strengthening sorghum & millet value chains across the county; by County Government of Kitui in collaboration with various partners.
- Rehabilitation of water supplies, drilling of boreholes and construction of earth dams by County Government of Kitui in collaboration with various partners.
- Vitamin A Supplementation/Deworming, Growth Monitoring, Iron and Folic acid supplementation (IFAS) by Ministry of Health supported by development partners.
- Dissemination of climate and agro-weather advisories by Kenya Meteorological Department, County Government of Kitui and partners.

6.2 FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- Therapeutic integrated management of acute malnutrition for the under-fives, pregnant and lactating mothers [supplementary feeding program (SFP)], Outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) and Stabilization centres by Ministry of Health supported by several partners.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No abnormal incidences of insecurity, conflict or human displacement were reported in the county.

7.2 Migration

- Livestock in-migration from Tana River County was reported in Tseikuru, Endau/Malalani, Ngomeni and Mutha Wards in search of water and pasture. This situation might lead to resource-based conflicts.
- Other livestock migratory routes reported in the county included, livestock moving from Endau and Kyamatu to Mutha and Tana River County, from Kyamatu and Mui to Mutitu, from Ngomeni (Mandongoi, Kasiluni and Nzaini areas) to Kyuso and Tseikuru, from Nguni to Sosoma, from Waita (Mutwang’ombe area) to Ndithi and Nyanyaa and from Nuu to Engamba hills.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Based on ForPAC updated forecasts of Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) for October to December 2021 season issued on September 2021, there is a higher than usual chances that, the county will pass thresholds signifying alert and alarm worsening phase. This is a raised probability of below normal rainfall for October to December season. This forecast show that, the prevailing drought conditions are likely to worsen as the period progress hence a need to take early actions to cushion households from the adverse impacts of drought.
- The weather outlook for October to December (OND) 2021 short rain season issued by Kenya Meteorological Department on 09th September 2021 indicates an increased probability that the county will experience depressed rainfall with late onset, early cessation and poor distribution in both time and space. The below average rainfall will be coupled by warmer than average temperatures and this will lead to poor recharge and regeneration of rangeland resources.
- However, Sussex Vegetation Outlook for the month of October and November 2021 indicates normal to above normal vegetation greenness across the county is likely to be experienced. These conditions might lead to improved situation on availability and accessibility of livestock feeds.
- Conversely, The TAMSAT-ALERT Soil Moisture forecast issued on 26th September 2021 indicates increased probability of most parts of the county to experience below normal soil
moisture conditions and this will impact negatively on regeneration of livestock feeds and crop production.

- Following poor performance of crop production, household terms of trade and food consumption patterns are likely to diminish coupled by reliance on markets for food commodities.
- Based on FEWS NET price projections for August 2021 to January 2022, maize grain prices will continue ranging between Ksh. 30-37 throughout the projected period. This will be driven by increases in household market dependency, the prevailing national maize surplus following speculative regional imports earlier in the year, supply from the high and medium potential areas of the North Rift and Western Kenya, and cross-border imports from Tanzania.
- Livestock prices are expected to decline following anticipated upsurge of livestock diseases, and deteriorating fodder and water availability and accessibility.
- Upsurge of livestock in and out migration will lead to resource-based conflicts and diminish rangeland resources.
- Following increased number of non-operational water resources, trekking distances to water sources are expected to increase leading to congestion at remaining water resources by both livestock and human hence outbreak of communicable diseases.
- The anticipated increase in human wildlife conflicts will worsen food security situation in the county.
- In the event of a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government is likely to impose more stringent measures which will constrain income generating activities thus, lead to loss of income and livelihoods.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediate/Short term
National Government, County Government and Development partners to collaborate on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>INTERVENTION</th>
<th>TARGET AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Scale up of water harvesting for crop production (construction of Strategic water pans)</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td>Provision of solar water pumps for cluster irrigation schemes.</td>
<td>39 wards in the county for 200 clusters</td>
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<td>Provision of assorted drought tolerant seeds and inputs to the most affected households (aprox. 47,000)</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Intensive disease control for endemic notifiable diseases</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td>Mass vaccination (against FMD, CCPP and LSD and Anthrax), Treatment, deworming and Supplementation</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td>Voluntary livestock destocking</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hay and pellets procurement and distribution</td>
<td>County Wide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promote pasture conservation and management practices</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Stock taking and inspection of non-operational strategic boreholes</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Repair and maintenance of strategic boreholes</td>
<td>21 Wards at County wide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development of Sump well, pipeline extension, hybridization of boreholes (solar and Kenya power installation), rehabilitation and construction of earth dams</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td>Capacity building of water management committees and pump attendants</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>INTERVENTION</td>
<td>TARGET AREA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>Promoting home-based water treatment and conservation measures</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Community based screening and referrals for malnutrition (mass screening, campaign, outreaches and active case finding)</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Installation of Hand washing facilities and supply of water, thermo guns and masks for students/pupils</td>
<td>County wide</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water trucking to affected institutions</td>
<td>Tseikuru, Ngomeni, Nguni, Nuu, Endau/Malalani and Mutha wards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>Mapping of vulnerable and at-risk households, affected food systems by COVID-19 and responding through safety-nets</td>
<td>County wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Security</td>
<td>Support community-based conflict early warning and enhance surveillance</td>
<td>Tseikuru, Ngomeni, Nguni, Endau/Malalani and Mutha wards</td>
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</tbody>
</table>