

National Drought Management Authority
TURKANA COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



SEPTEMBER EW PHASE



Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Improving
Agro-Pastoral	Normal	Improving
Fisheries	Alert	improving
Formal Employment/Casual Labour	Normal	Improving
COUNTY	NORMAL	IMPROVING

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county received fair amounts of rainfall.
- The condition of browse and pasture is fair.
- State of water sources is within the normal range.
- The VCI is above normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Livestock have fair to good body condition.
- Milk production improved but still below the normal.
- The distance of livestock to water sources from grazing increased.
- The return distance of households to water sources remained similar to the distance recorded in the previous month.
- Terms of trade is favourable and above normal range.
- Percentage of children under five years, who are at risk of malnutrition, decreased compared to the previous month.
- The coping strategy index remained similar to the previous month.

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	176	60-100
VCI-3 month	40	>35
State of Water Sources	3	3-4
Vegetation Condition	Normal	Normal
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Conditions	Fair	Normal
Milk Production	43	> 128 litres
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No Deaths	No Deaths
Crops Condition	fair	Fair
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	38	>34
Milk Consumption	43	>50 litres
Return distance to water sources	9 km	<5.72 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	16%	<18%
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	14	<32

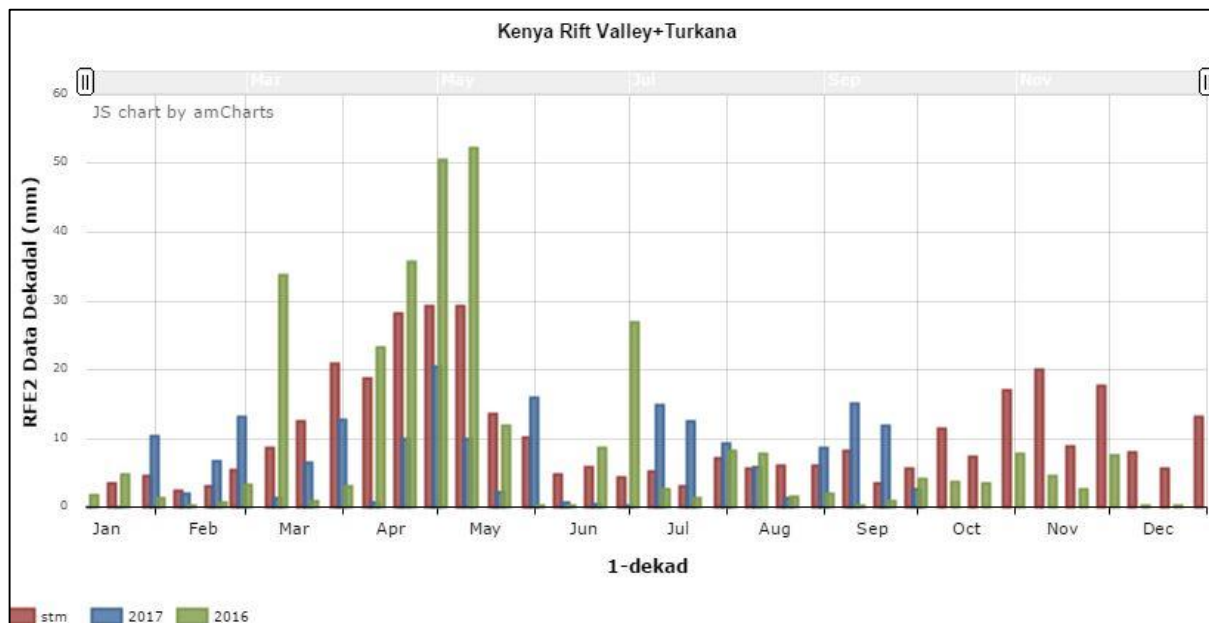
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|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Land preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding |
|--|---|---|---|

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- In September 2017, the county recorded an average amount of 9.81 mm of rainfall, compared to normal 5.55 mm normally; constituting 76 percent of above normal rainfall.
- The rains were fairly distributed but with poor progression over the month.
- The rains were off-season and were received during the first and third week of the month.



1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

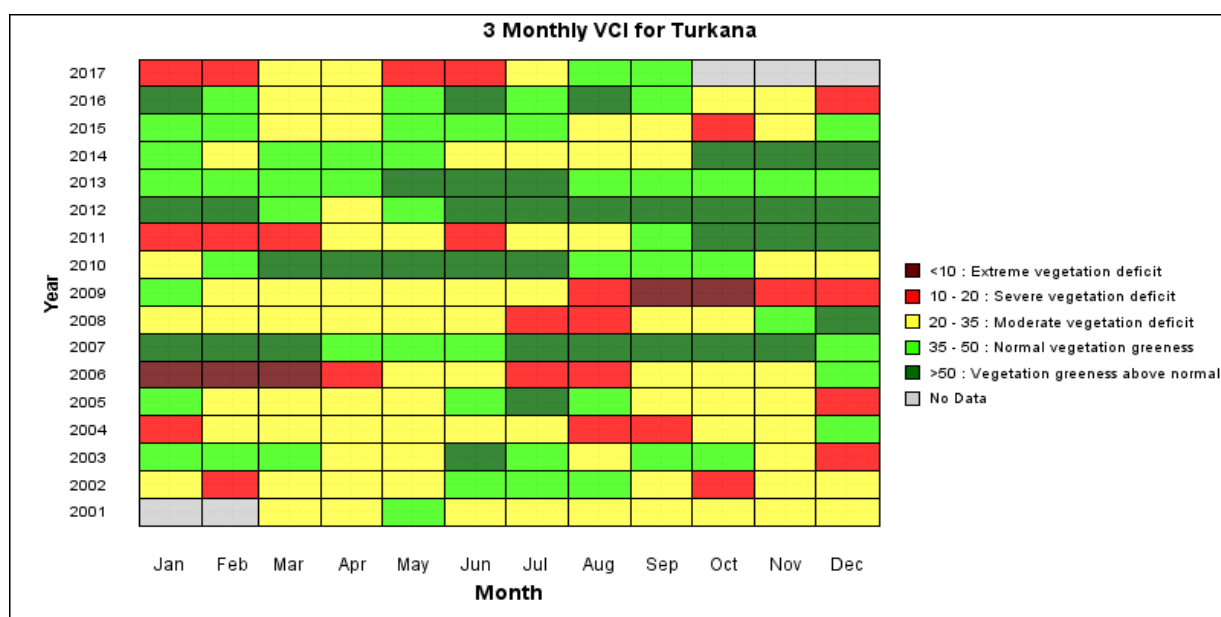
- Lodwar meteorological station recorded 8.4 mm of rains on 1st September 2017.
- Recorded rainfall is below the ten-year average (46 mm) for such time of the year.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

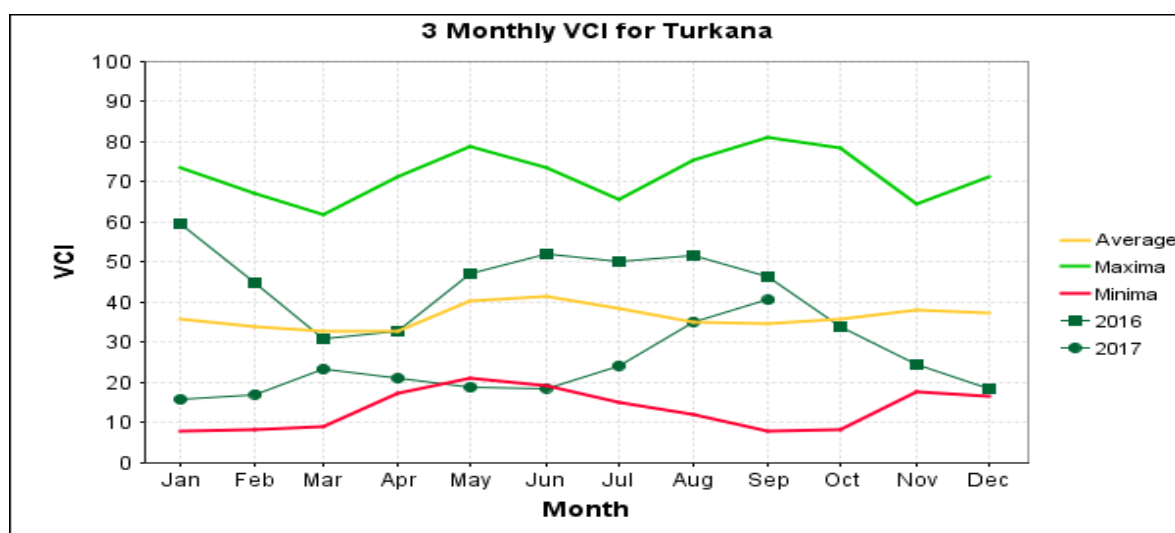
2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation greenness as measured by the VCI, was 40, indicating an increase from 35 recorded in the previous month.
- The increase is attributed to the rains received in the previous month which enhanced the vegetation cover.
- Compared to such time of a normal year, the VCI is above average.



- Turkana central livelihood zone had the highest VCI of 48 while Turkana South had the lowest of 37.



2.1.2 Pasture

- During the month, both quality and quantity of pasture was fair, having improved compared to the previous month.
- Pastoral livelihood zone had fairer pasture while fisheries had poor pasture situation.
- Pasture is tending towards the average for such time of a normal year and it is expected to last for two (2) months.

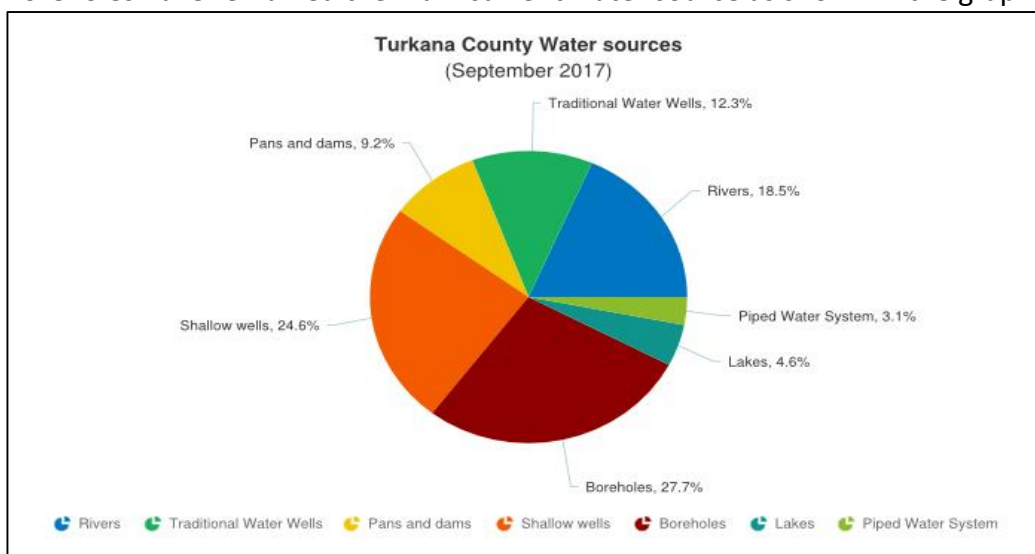
2.1.3 Browse

- During the reporting month, the situation of browse (both quality and quantity) was relatively good.
- Pastoral livelihood zone had healthier browse and fisheries had underperformed browse.
- Compared to the previous month, browse situation had improved. This is attributed to the rains received in the previous month.
- Browse is fair compared to the average for such time of the year.
- It is expected that the available browse lasts for three (3) months.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources: Percent of water sources in use

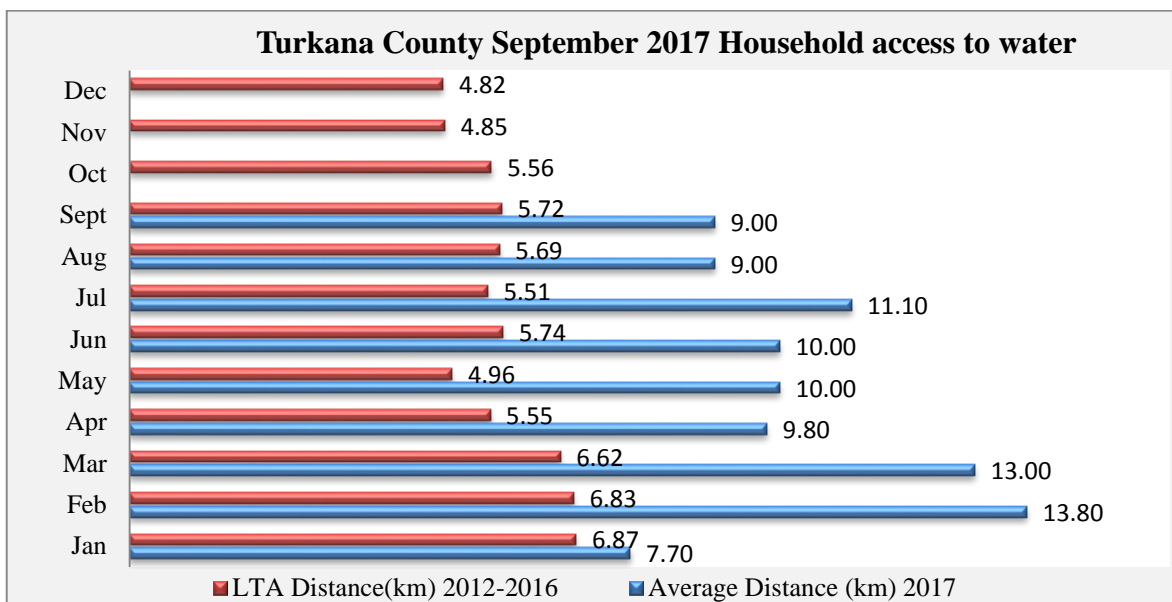
- During the month, the current main water sources used by households and livestock was 28 percent boreholes, 25 percent shallow wells and 19 percent rivers.
- Boreholes have remained the main current water source as shown in the graph below.



- The quality and quantity of water has improved compared to the previous month.
- The available water sources are expected to last for two (2) months.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

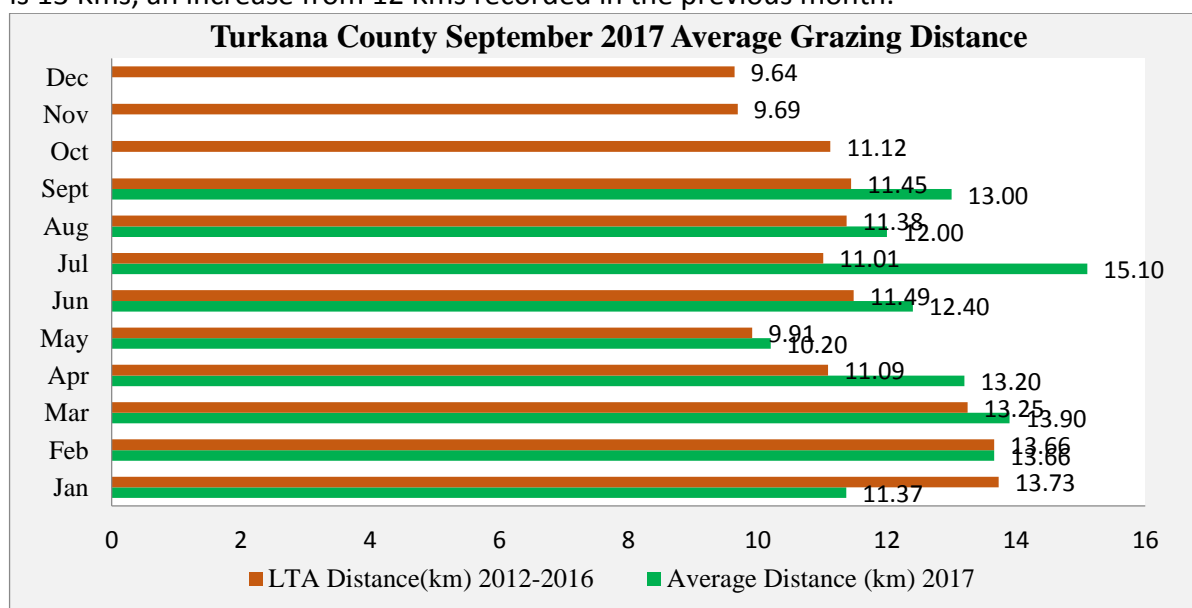
- The average return distance to main water sources by households is 9 km, indicating a similar distance recorded in the previous month.
- This is attributed to the rains received in the previous month that recharged water sources and hence livestock not trekking further.



- The average return distance to main water sources by households is below the average for such time of the year.
- The highest consumption of water per person per day was recorded in Agro-Pastoral livelihood zone and lowest in pastoral zone.

2.2.3 Livestock access

- The average return trekking distance of livestock from grazing areas to main water sources is 13 Kms, an increase from 12 Kms recorded in the previous month.



- Livestock in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone were watered more frequently than livestock in other livelihood zones.
- It is expected that the current livestock distance from grazing to water sources will increase further in the next two months if rains fail.

2.3 Implication to food security

- The improvement in browse and pasture will improve livestock body condition and enable farmers access favourable market prices hence purchase enough food for the household, leading to improved food security.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

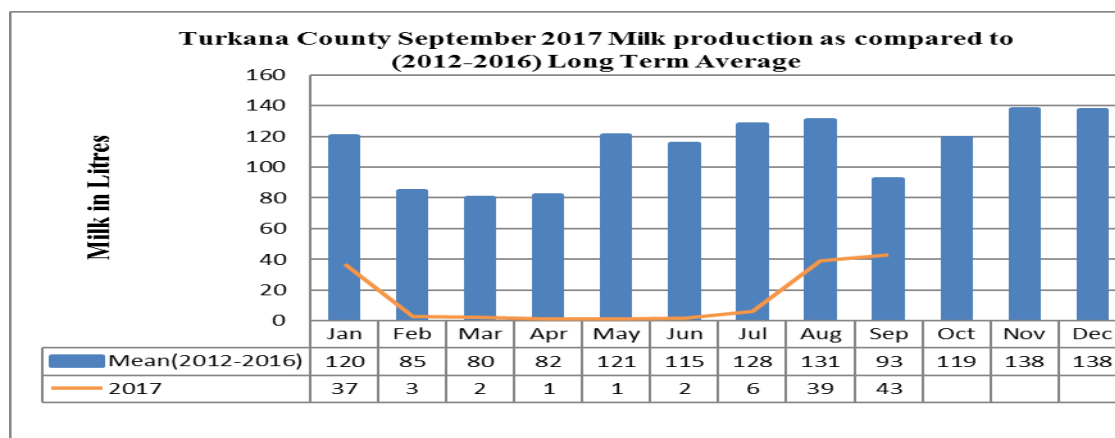
- Livestock body condition is fairly good according to the Early Warning System Classification.
- Livestock in pastoral livelihood zone had good body condition while fisheries had livestock with moderate body condition. Goats and camel had good body condition compared to sheep and cattle.
- Livestock body condition has improved compared to the previous month.
- This is attributed to the good quality and quantity of browse and pasture in the pastoral zone and generally in the county.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP), Mange, Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP) and Trypanosomiasis were the main diseases reported during the month.
- There were no major livestock deaths reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- During the reporting month, 43 litres of milk was produced, connoting an increase from 39 recorded in the previous month.
- This is due to good livestock body condition coupled with good forage situation hence improved milk production.



- The highest milk produced was in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone. Camel and goats were the main milk producing livestock species.
- Compared to the 5-year average, milk production is below the mean for such time of the year.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- Rain-fed crops are at harvesting and irrigated crops are at ponding/tussling stage.
- No major crop pests and diseases were reported during the month.

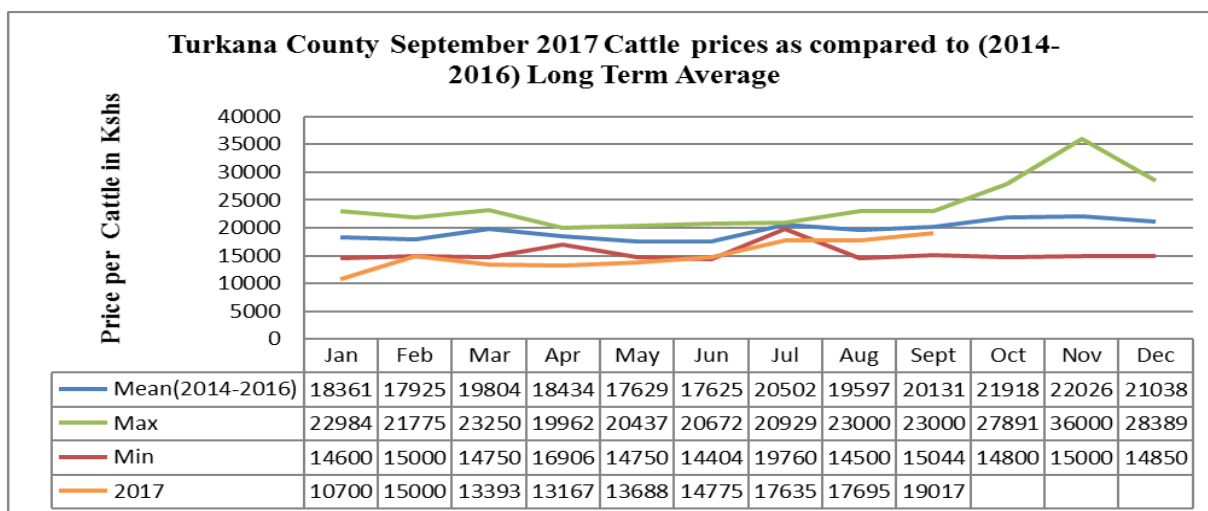
3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Household food security will improve due to improved milk production hence consumption.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

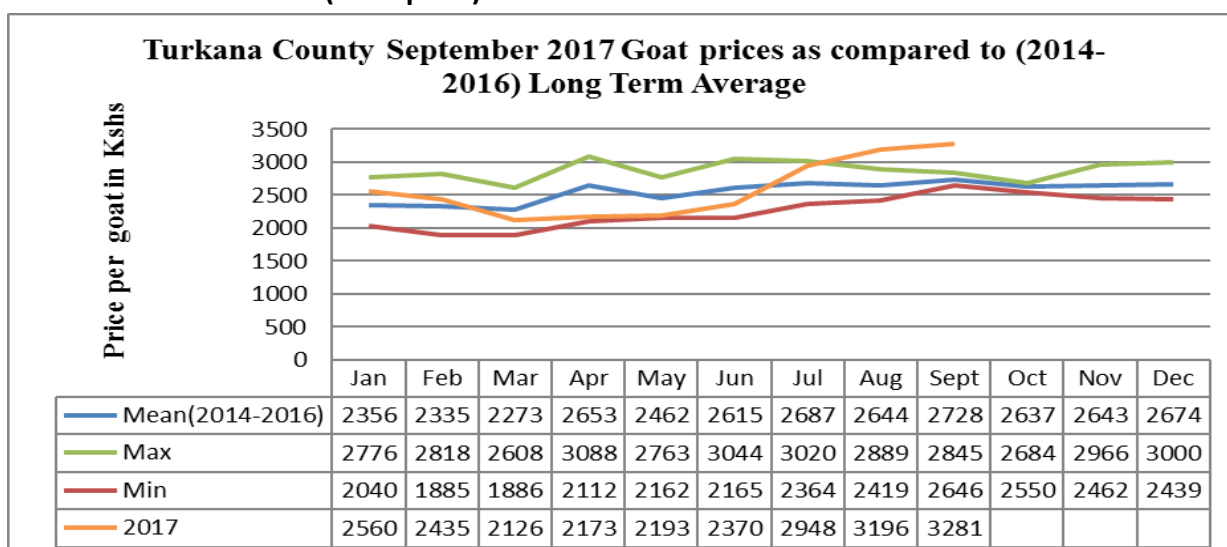


- A 4-year old medium size bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 19,017, an increase from Kshs 17,695 recorded in the previous month.
- The highest cattle price (Kshs 21,833) was recorded in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone and the lowest (Kshs 18,427) was recorded in pastoral zone.
- This is attributed to the good cattle body condition that attract good market prices.
- Cattle price is below the average (Kshs 20,131) for such time of a normal year.

4.1.2 Other outstanding observations

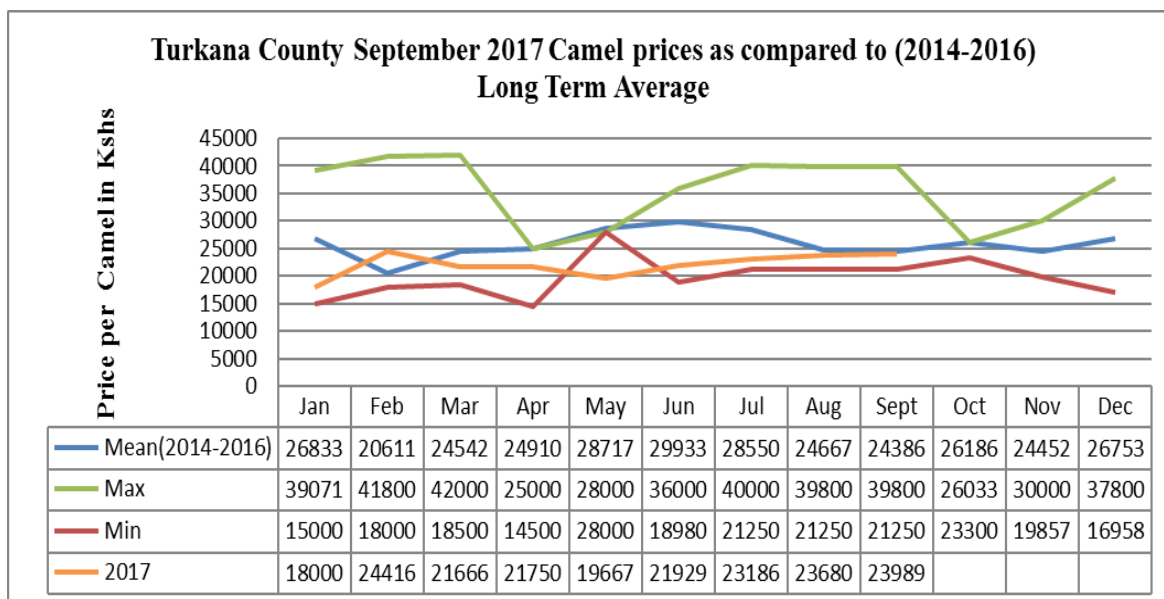
- Cattle remained less available in markets across the county.

4.1.3 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat price)



- A 2-year old medium size goat was sold at Kshs 3,281, which is an increase from Kshs 3,196 recorded in the previous month.
- This is attributed to the good goat body condition that sell at good market prices.
- Agro-Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest goat price of Kshs 3,400 and fisheries recorded the lowest price of Kshs 2,950.
- Compared to a three-year average, goat price is above the mean (Kshs 2,728) for such time of the year.

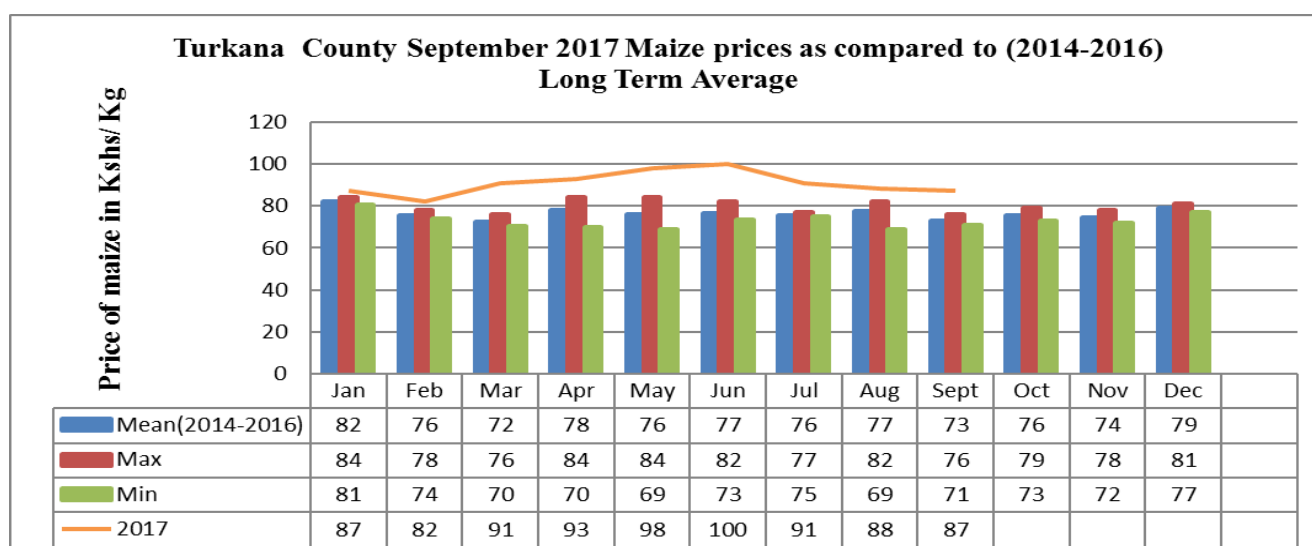
4.1.4 Camel Prices



- During the month, a 4-year old camel was sold at Kshs 23,989, depicting an increase from Kshs 23,680 recorded in the previous month
- This is attributed to good camel body condition that attract good market prices.
- The highest camel price of Kshs 24,433 was recorded in Pastoral livelihood zone while the lowest price (Kshs 23,333) was recorded in Agro-pastoral zone.
- Compared to a three-year average, camel price is below the mean (Kshs 24,386) for such time of the year.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize



- The county recorded maize price of Kshs 87 per kg, depicting a slight decrease from Kshs 88 recorded in the previous month.
- This is attributed to improved supply of maize to markets thereby sellers reducing prices.
- The highest price (Kshs 90) was recorded in pastoral livelihood zone and the lowest price (Kshs 86) was recorded in Agro-pastoral zone.
- Maize price is however still above the average of Kshs 73 for such time of a normal year.

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observations

- Maize was readily available in markets across the county.

4.2.2 Posho (Maize Meal)

- Posho was sold at an average price of Kshs 110, which is similar to the price it was sold in the previous month.
- Compared to a three-year average, Posho price is above the mean.

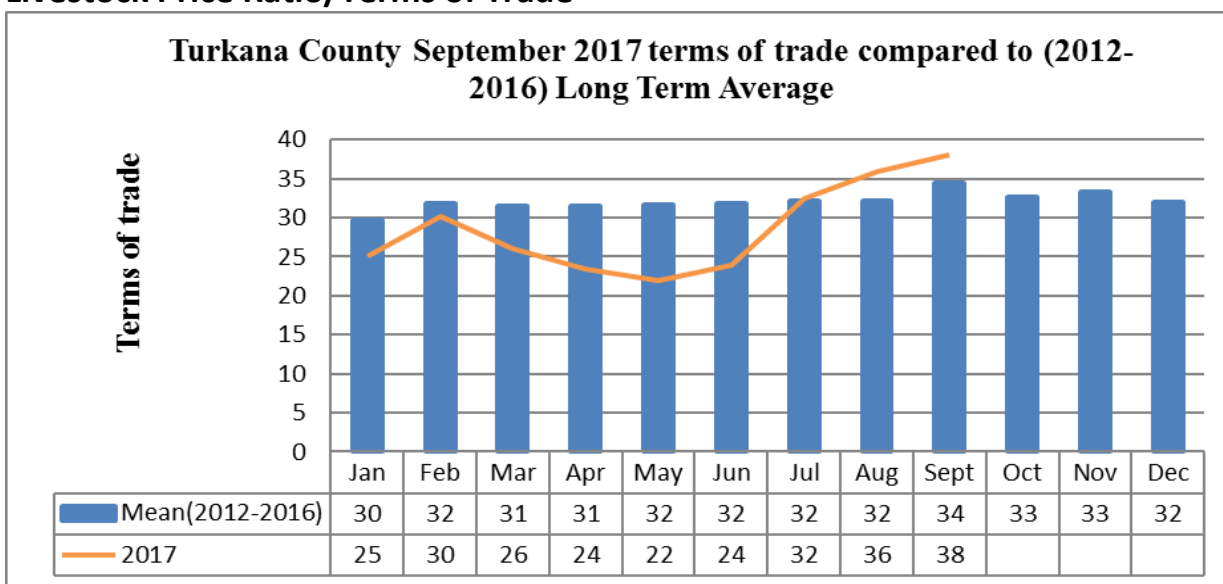
4.2.2.1 Other outstanding observations

- Posho was readily available in markets.

4.2.3 Beans

- During the month, beans was sold at Kshs 156 per kg, an increase from Kshs 150 recorded in the previous month.
- This is due to reduction of beans supply to markets, hence sellers selling beans at a high price.
- Beans was sold at the highest price of Kshs 163 in pastoral livelihood zone and lowest (kshs 145) in Agro-pastoral zone.
- Beans price is above the average for such time of the year.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade



- The county recorded Terms of Trade (ToT) of 38, indicating an increase from 36 recorded in the previous month.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest ToT of 40 whereas fisheries recorded the lowest of 34.
- Increase in ToT is attributed to good goat market price.
- Compared with the 5-year average, ToT is above the mean of 34.

4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Now that farmers are able to sell livestock (especially goat and camel) at good prices, food security will improve because they will buy adequate food.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

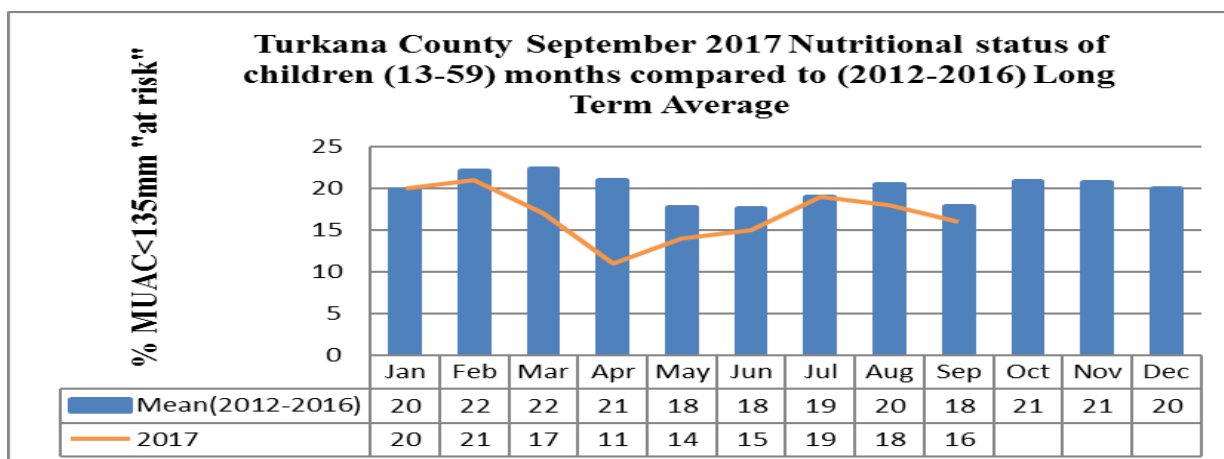
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- During the month, households reported milk consumption at 43 litres, an increase from 30 litres recorded in the previous month.
- Milk consumption was highest in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone and lowest in fisheries zone.
- This is below the average for such time of a normal year.

5.2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

- During the month, children sampled were 47.2 percent males and 52.8 percent females.

5.2.1 Nutrition Status



- The percentage of children under five years, as measured by Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) less than 135 mm, was 16 percent, a decrease from 18 percent recorded in the previous month.
- The decrease in percentage of children who at risk of malnutrition, (children with MUAC <135 mm), is attributed to the increase in milk consumption.
- Percentage of children who are at risk of malnutrition is below the five-year average (18 percent) for such time of the year.

5.2.2 Health

- There was no major epidemic disease outbreak reported during the month.

5.3 COPING STRATEGIES

- During the reporting month, Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was 14, showing a similar CSI as recorded in the previous month.
- This indicates that households used similar strategies of acquiring food during the month.
- The highest CSI was recorded in pastoral livelihood zone while Agro-pastoral recorded the lowest CSI of 13.

5.4. Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Food security will improve now that households are able to consume considerably good amount of milk.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- Emergency cash transfers in Turkana Central (1389 HHs), Kibish (750 households) and Turkana North (1557 households) **by save the children.**
- Cash transfers to regular beneficiaries and upscaling of emergency beneficiaries for Hunger Safety Net Programme targets **by NDMA.**
- Cash transfers program to schools for fees payment **by WFP.**

6.2.1 FOOD AID

- Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program in the county **by World Food Programme (WFP).**
- Supporting school meals programme **by World Food Programme (WFP).**
- Integrated health and nutrition in Turkana Central and Loima **by IRC.**
- Support emergency nutrition for one year in Turkana South sub-county **by World Vision Kenya.**

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- During the month, there were no major insecurity incidences reported.

7.2 Migration

- There was no major out or in migration during the reporting month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Owing to the good progress of farm crops (both rain-fed and irrigated), food security will improve as there will be considerably good harvests.
- The current good condition of forage, will keep livestock in good body condition hence improve food security as there will be livestock products (milk and meat) at the household level.
- The improving livestock body condition will enable farmers access good market prices and also enable them buy relatively enough food. This will improve food security in the county.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Agencies and sectors, led by the Ministry of Livestock, should enhance livestock restocking to farmers.
- Livestock deworming to be reinforced.
- Peace dialogues to be intensified in insecure areas.
- The Ministry of Agriculture should supply farmers who practice both rain-fed and irrigated farming with early maturing crops seeds varieties.
- Systematic livestock and crop surveillance to be done by the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture together with other partners in order to identify any livestock disease or crop pests that may arise.
- Strengthen existing Stabilization Centres in Turkana South (Katilu Health Centre), Turkana West (Lopiding Hospital) and Turkana East (Lokori AIC Health Centre).