

# National Drought Management Authority

## KAJIADO COUNTY

### DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING FEBRUARY 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



#### FEBRUARY EW PHASE

Drought Status: **ALARM**



Mipango ya kukabiliana na ukame

#### Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	ALARM	WORSENING
AGRO-PASTORAL	ALARM	WORSENING
MIXED FARMING	ALERT	STABLE
COUNTY	ALARM	WORSENING

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA	
State of water	Inadequate	Adequate	
3-months VCI	10 - 20	35 - 50	
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range	
Cattle body condition	Emaciated	Good	
Household milk production per day	Negligible	3 litres	
migration pattern	Within county	No Migration	
Access Indicators	Observed Value	Long Term Average	
Terms of trade	47	54	
Household milk Consumption per day	Negligible	2 litres	
Distance to water source	Livestock	5.2 km	4.6 km
	Household	5.2 km	4.0 km
Utilization indicators	Value	Long Term Average	
MUAC (% <135 mm)	16.8%	9.9%	

#### Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

##### Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ The county did not receive any rains in February. This is normal for the county.
- ✓ The county was in severe vegetation deficit with some declining trend.

##### Production and Access Indicators

- ✓ Cattle are emaciated; their fore ribs are visible.
- ✓ There were rampant livestock movement with the county in February. Some early return migration due to pasture related conflict was observed in January.

##### Access indicators

- ✓ The current ToT is 13% below the long term average.
- ✓ Milk production as well as consumption was negligible.

##### Utilization Indicators

- ✓ More than a quarter of households in Kajiado West were consuming poor diet for the last three months.
- ✓ The risk of malnutrition for under-fives was 70% above the long-term average.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains harvest</li> <li>Short dry spell</li> <li>Reduced milk yields</li> <li>Increased HH food stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting/Weeding</li> <li>Long rains</li> <li>High calving rate</li> <li>Milk yields increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long rains harvest</li> <li>A long dry spell</li> <li>Land preparation</li> <li>Increased HH food stocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains</li> <li>Planting/weeding</li> </ul>								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

### 1.1 Rainfall Performance

- The county did not receive any rains in February (Figure 1). Most of the days were hot and dry.
- Ordinarily, the area around Ngong received some rains in January and February.

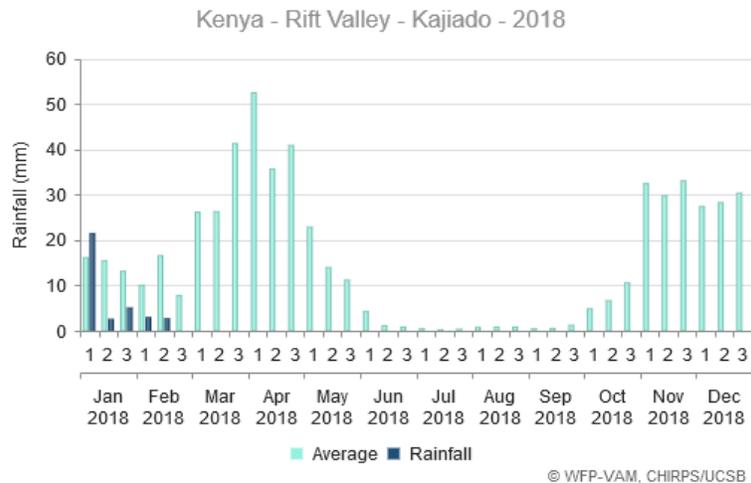


Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado County

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The county vegetation condition deteriorated from moderate deficit in January to severe deficit in February (Figure 2).
- Three sub counties; Kajiado Central, Kajiado South and Kajiado West were in severe vegetation deficit band with declining trend since January.

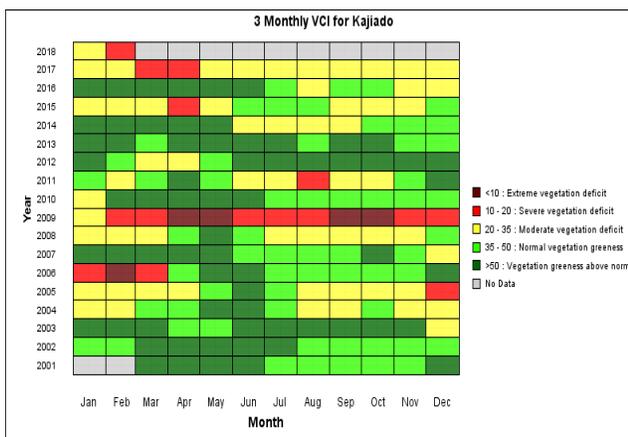


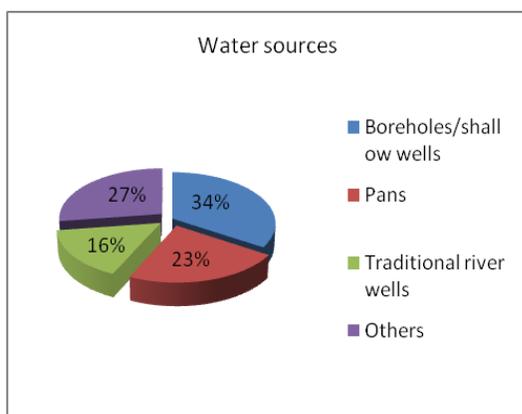
Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado County

### 2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- Pasture was depleted in pastoral and agro-pastoral zones. In a normal year, pasture is fair in these zones in February.
- In the upper mixed farming areas of Loitokitok, cattle were feeding on maize stalks following the crop failure.
- Regeneration of pasture has been poor due to poor rainfall performance during previous three seasons.
- Browse was fair with a deteriorating trend across the county and would last for the next one month.

### 2.3 Water Sources

- Boreholes/shallow wells (34%) and pans (23%) were the main sources of water for both livestock



and domestic use (Figure 3). These are the normal water sources during this time of the year.

- Other sources of water were piped water and streams/rivers.
- Use of water from pans for domestic use exposed households to water borne diseases.
- Water from pans would last for the next one month.

Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado County, February 2018  
Drought Early Warning Bulletin, Kajiado February 2018

## 2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The average distance that the households travelled in February to and from water points was 5.2 km compared to 4.9 km in January (Figure 4).
- The current distance is longer than the long term average
- In pastoral areas especially in Kunchu, Mbirikani, Mosiro and Torosei, households covered 5 - 10 km to get water.
- The current distance is expected to remain stable in the next one month.

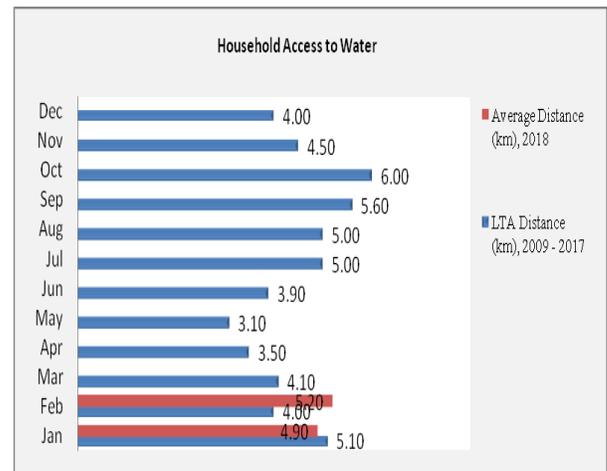


Figure 4: Average return distance from household to water sources; Kajiado county

## 2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- On average, the return distance covered by livestock from grazing areas to water was stable at 4.9 km in January and 5 km in February (Figure 5).
- The grazing areas as well as the watering points were the same during the two months period.
- The current distance is slightly longer than the long term average for this time of the year.
- In Kunchu, Mbirikani and Magadi, livestock trekked 20 km from grazing areas to water points.
- Distance covered by livestock in search of water from grazing areas is likely to remain stable in March as water points and grazing areas remain the same.
- High concentration of livestock at strategic water sources was observed in January and February.

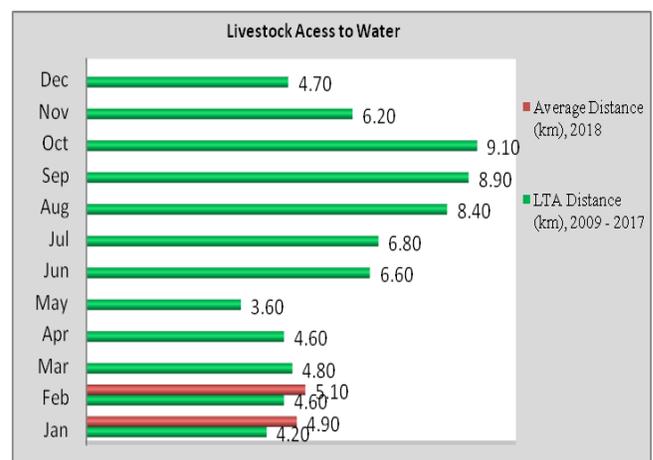


Figure 5: Return distance from grazing areas to water sources; Kajiado county

### **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

#### **3.1 Livestock Body Condition**

- Due to diminished pasture, cattle in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods were emaciated and still deteriorating. In mixed farming areas, cattle body condition was poor.
- Body condition of goats was fair across livelihoods and was expected to remain so for a month.
- In a normal year cattle would be in fair body condition while that of goats would be good.

#### **3.2 Livestock Diseases**

- There were reported cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Kajiado East and South in January and February.
- Cases of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) continue to be reported in Kajiado south since January.

#### **3.3 Livestock Mortalities**

- Livestock mortalities due to drought were reported in February. Since setting in of the drought in 2016, pastoralists have lost over 70% of their cattle.

#### **3.4 Livestock Migration**

- Livestock that had migrated to Machakos and Makueni migrated back in January due to pasture related conflict. Normal return migration would be in April after the onset of long rains.
- Those that had moved to Nairobi, Thika and Nakuru counties are still there. Also those that moved to Chylu hills last year are still there.

#### **3.5 Milk Production**

- Household milk production was insignificant due to poor cattle body condition. In a normal year, household produced two to three litres of milk per day.

#### **3.6 Rain-fed Crop Production**

- Beans harvest was about 60% of the long term. The projected maize crop failure in agro-pastoral was 80% and 60% in mixed farming areas due to poor rains.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 Livestock Marketing

- All the major livestock markets in the county; Shompole, Ibisil, Kimana, Rombo and Kiserian remained in normal operations in January and February.

#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average price of cattle continued to decline due to deterioration of their body condition.
- In January, a three year old bull sold at Ksh. 10,700 and Ksh. 10,300 in February (Figure 6).
- No significant livelihood variation was noted in prices of cattle in February.
- The current price is below long term average and was expected to decline further by March.

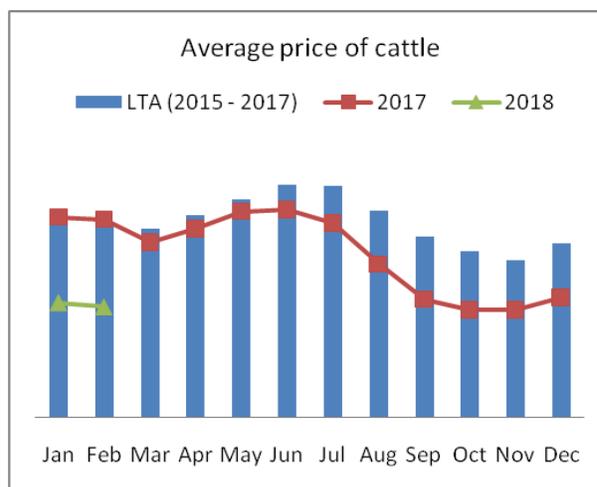


Figure 6: Trends in cattle price; Kajiado 2015-2018

#### 4.1.2 Goats Prices

- Low supply of goats in the market coupled with some crop harvest in February pushed their average price to Ksh. 2,830 in February from Ksh. 2,510 in January (Figure 7).
- There were no significant livelihood variations in price of goats in February
- The current average price of goats is likely to remain stable for a month.

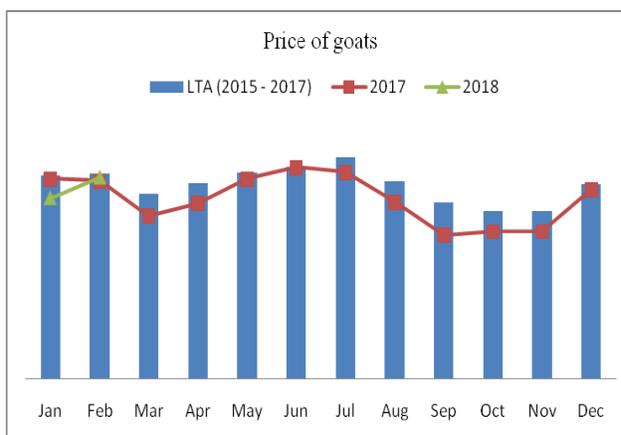


Figure 7: Trends in goats' price, Kajiado, February 2018

## 4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

### 4.2.1 Maize Prices

- Price of maize was stable between January and February at Ksh. 60 per kilogram (Figure 8).
- The stability of prices of cereals was due to some harvest in the importing counties.
- In Ewauso a kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh. 65.
- The price of maize was expected to decline slightly in the coming months. Farmers in the Mixed farming areas of Loitoktok and from the neighbouring counties continue to harvest the crop.

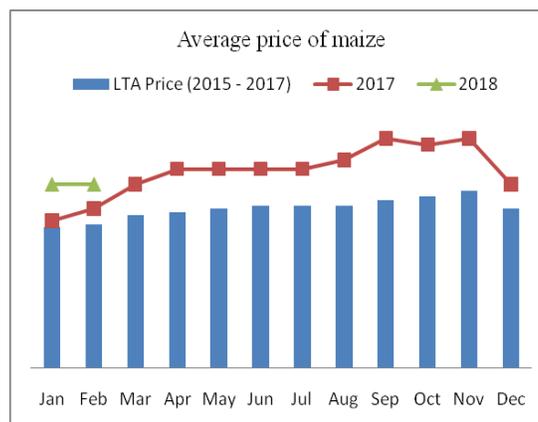


Figure 8: Trends in maize prices; Kajiado County, February 2018

### 4.2.2 Beans Prices

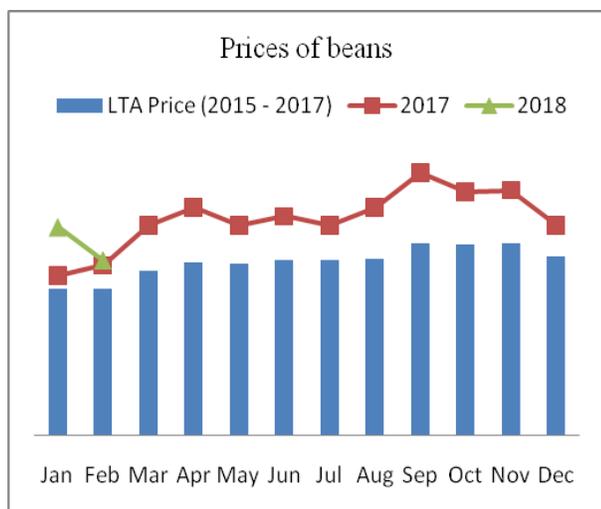


Figure 9: Trends in prices of beans; Kajiado County, February 2018

- The market price of beans reduced from Ksh. 119 in January to Ksh. 100 per kilogram in February (Figure 9).
- The average price of beans in Magadi was Ksh. 120 and Ksh. 150 in Mosiro.
- The decline in price of beans was due to some harvest of the crop in January.
- It is expected that the retail price of maize will decline further due to the expected imports from neighbouring counties.

## 4.3 Prices of Milk

- One litre of milk was selling at Ksh. 60 compared to Ksh. 45 in a normal year. High prices of milk were attributed to low production.
- The average price of milk was likely to remain the same in the coming one month. The level of production was not expected to change.

#### 4.4 Terms of Trade

- Reduction of the average price of cereals and legumes in February resulted in increased terms of trade in favour of pastoralist.

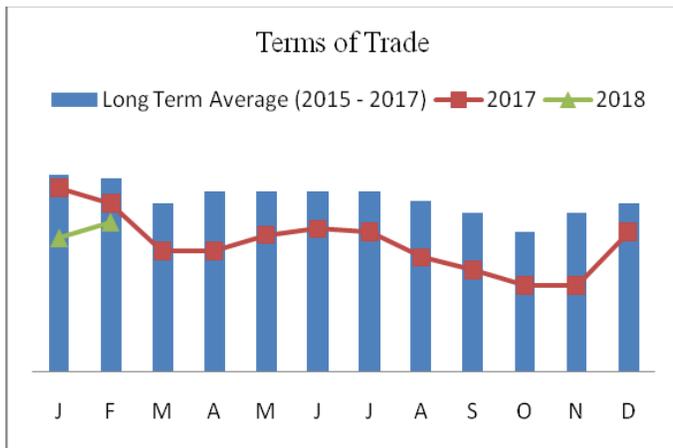


Figure 10: *Trend in terms of trade; Kajiado County, February 2018*

- In January one would buy 42 kilograms of maize by selling a goat while in February one would exchange a goat for 47 kilograms of maize (Figure 10).
- The terms of trade were likely to remain stable in the next one month.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 Milk Consumption

- Household milk consumption had diminished since December 2017 due to insignificant production.
- In a good year, milk consumption in February is 2-3 litres.

### 5.2 Food Consumption Score

- In February, 38.6% of households in Kajiado West consumed poor diet (Figure 11). The sub county is mainly pastoral with limited infrastructure such as roads and markets.
- Consumption of poor diet is likely to continue in pastoral livelihood due to diminishing of milk production and consumption.

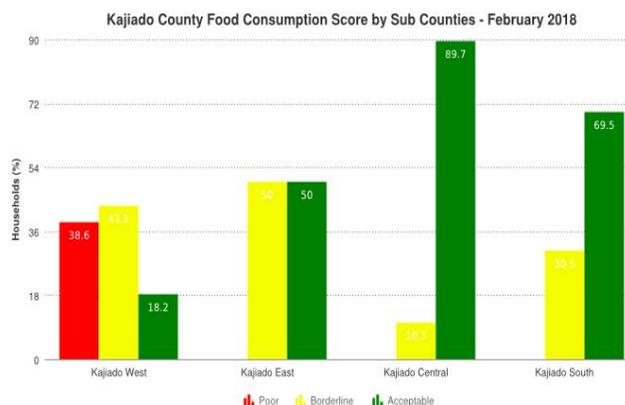


Figure 11: *Food Consumption Score; Kajiado County, February 2018*

### 5.3 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

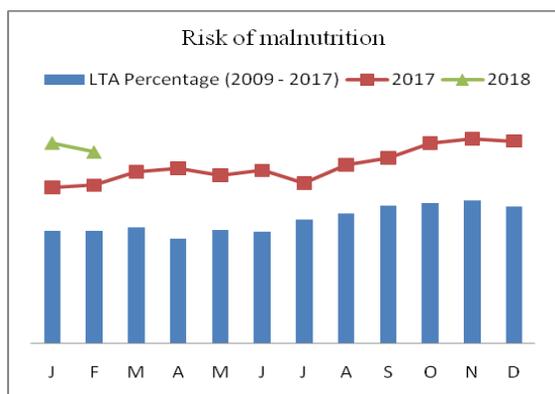


Figure 12: *Risk of malnutrition for under-fives; Kajiado County, February 2018*

- The risk of malnutrition for under-fives remains above the long term average at 17.6% in January and 16.8% in February (Figure 12) due to poor feeding practices among households.
- The current trend was likely to continue in pastoral areas as no significant change in consumption pattern is expected until livestock productivity improves.
- Areas marked for higher risk of malnutrition include; Mbirikani, Lorng'osua, Torosei, Meto, Esoit, Maisikiria, Lenkism, Mashenani, Lolakir, Esineti, Oloirero, Inchakita, Magadi, Ewuaso and Mosiro.

### 5.4 Coping strategies

- Households were now reducing both the number and the portions of meals taken in a day especially by adults in order to cope with food shortage or lack of money to buy food.

## **6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Food Security Prognosis**

- With some off-season rains in March and expected long rains, the drought situation would stabilize. The livestock productivity would slightly improve by mid-March.
- The recovery process will be slowed down by the huge livestock mortalities in pastoral zones.
- Water access by livestock and for domestic use was likely to improve with the heavy off-season rains in March.
- With loss purchasing power, pastoralists were likely to continue consuming poor diet. This may keep the risk of malnutrition for under-fives elevated.
- Some harvest of crop from 2017 shorts within the county and in the neighboring counties was likely to contain the aggravating food security.

### **6.2 On going Interventions**

- County Government supported vaccination of cattle against Food and Mouth Disease in Kajiado East and South sub-counties.
- Integrated outreaches in Kajiado South (Mbirikani, Lenkism, Rombo), Kajiado Central (Dalalekutuk, Matapato north and south, Purko) and Kajiado West (Magadi, Loondokilani, Mosiro).
- Construction girls' dormitory at Ondonyodnyokie secondary school in Magadi.

### **6.3 Recommendations for Action**

- Continue supporting weak and milking herd by providing livestock feeds mainly pellets, hay and concentrates. *Action by National Drought Management Authority, County Government and partners.*
- Vaccination campaign against FMD and CCPP. *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- Support integrated outreaches in Kajiado Central, South and West. *Action by ministry of health in collaboration with National Drought Management and other partners.*
- Provision of relief food to drought most affected households: *Action by County Government, National Government and partners.*
- De-silting of water pan and repair broken gen sets: *Action by County Government and partners.*