

National Drought Management Authority
KAJIADO COUNTY
DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING APRIL 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



APRIL EW PHASE

Drought Status: NORMAL



Shughuli za kawaida

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
AGRO-PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
MIXED FARMING	NORMAL	STABLE
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ The county continued to receive heavy in April with good temporal and even spatial distribution.
- ✓ Flash floods were reported in many parts of the county.
- ✓ Water was adequate with most pans fully recharged.
- ✓ The vegetation condition improved from severe deficit in February to above normal in April due to good rains.

Production Indicators

- ✓ Livestock body condition was normal; good smooth appearance for all species. Forage and water was adequate
- ✓ Household milk production remains significantly low for this time of the year due to low calving and kidding.
- ✓ There was no migration in April. This is normal for this time of the year.

Access indicators

- ✓ The current ToT is above the long term average and expected to remain stable to the next three months.
- ✓ Milk consumption was low due to low production

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ Most of the households were consuming acceptable diet.
- ✓ The risk of malnutrition for under-fives was above the long-term average with a declining trend.

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA	
Rainfall (% normal)	231	80 -120	
State of water	adequate	Adequate	
3-monthly VCI	55.06	35 – 50	
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range	
Cattle body condition	Good	Good	
Household milk production per day	2 lt	5-6 lt	
migration pattern	No migration	No migration	
Access Indicators	Observed Value	Long Term Average	
Terms of trade	64 kg of maize/goat	57 kg of maize/goat	
Household milk Consumption per day	1 lt	3-4 lt	
Distance to water source	Livestock	2.5 km	4.6 km
	Household	2.4 km	3.5 km
Utilization indicators	Value	Long Term Average	
MUAC (% <135 mm)	13.1%	9.1%	

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

Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall Performance

- The county continued to receive heavy rains in the month of April. During the second dekad of April, the county received exceedingly above normal rains (Figure 1).
- Temporal rainfall distribution was good while spatial distribution was even.
- According to Meteorological department, the long rains were expected to continue up to May.

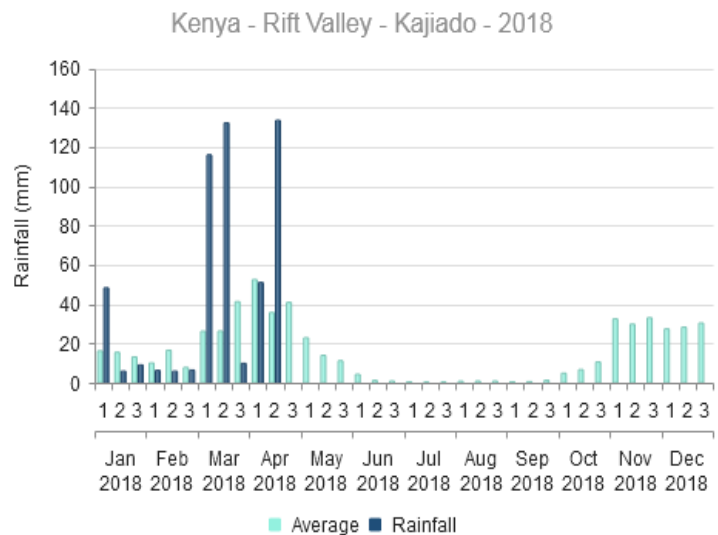


Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado County

1.2 Other Events

1.2.1 Floods and Mudslides

- Several incidences of flash floods were reported in the county in April. Human and livestock fatalities due to floods and mudslide were consequently reported. Nearly all the dry weather roads have been washed away paralysing the transport system and making some areas inaccessible. Schools have also been affected.
- Areas adversely affected by floods include; Isinya, Kiserian, Rongai, Ngong, Kaimurunya, Gisagi, Ololua, Pakase, Kamukuru, Lenkism, Maili Tisa and Kilonito.
- The county government has supplied food, mosquito nets, blackest and drugs to over 300 affected households.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The vegetation condition in four sub-counties; Kajiado Central, Kajiado East, Kajiado South, and Kajiado West improved from severe deficit in March to above normal in April. In Kajiado North vegetation condition improved from moderate deficit to normal during the same period.

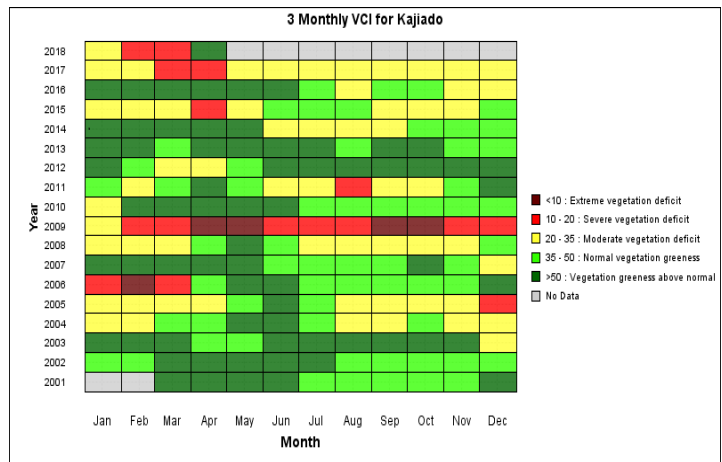


Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado, 2001 - 2018

- Figure 2 shows the 3-monthly cumulative vegetation condition for the county. The vegetation condition index for the county in April was 55.06 which indicate above normal vegetation greenness.

- Due to the ongoing rains, the county vegetation greenness will probably remain above normal or normal for the next one month.

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- Pasture and browse was good and stable in all parts of the county in March and April. Forage regeneration during the two months was above the normal compared to the same period of the year due to heavy rains that the county continue to receive.
- The available pasture and browse would last for three to four months mainly due to reduction of Tropical Livestock Units during the drought.

2.3 Water Sources

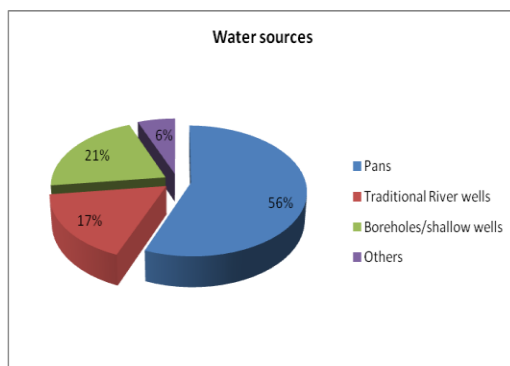


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, April 2018

- More than half (56%) of the communities got water from pans in April (Figure 3). Pans were now fully recharged after heavy rainfall that the county was experiencing.
- Other sources of water for the communities in April were streams/rivers and piped water.
- The available water would last for three months.

2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- Most households draw water for domestic use from rivers, river wells, piped water and boreholes.
- Use of rivers and river wells significantly reduced the return distance that households travelled to get water for domestic use from 6.2 kilometres in February to 2.8 km in April (Figure 4).
- Households in mixed farming zones were travelling less than one kilometre to get water for domestic use.
- The current average distance that households travelled to the water points is shorter than the long term average for the same period of the year.
- It was expected that the distance covered by the households to fetch the water will probably remain stable during March-May period due to continuation of rains.

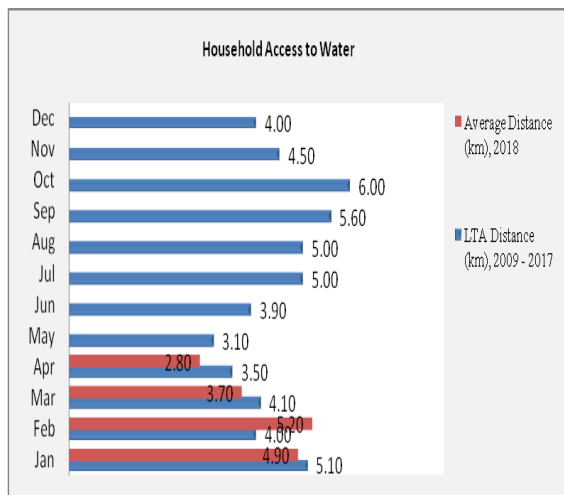


Figure 4: Average return distance from homestead to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2018

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- The main source of water for livestock in March and April was pans. During the two months period, nearly all pans were fully recharged with some experiencing overflows.
- The average return distance that the livestock covered from grazing fields to water points was stable and below the long term average during the two months.
- In March this distance was 2.4 kilometres and 2.3 kilometres in April (Figure 5).
- There were no variations across the livelihoods in the distance that livestock covered from grazing fields to watering points in the month of March and April.
- The current distance was expected to remain stable for the next one month due to continuation of rains

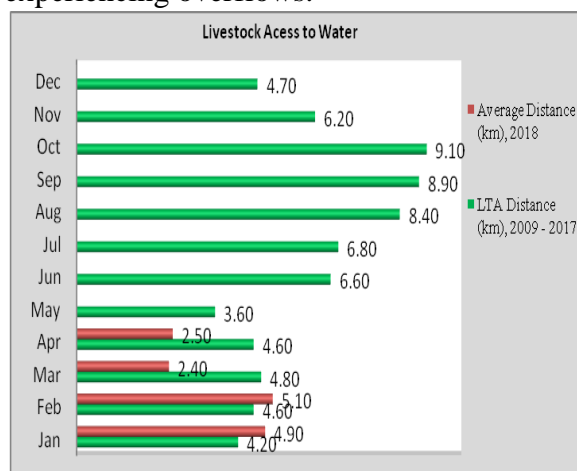


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing areas to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2018

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- There was some improvement in livestock body condition in April compared to last month. Body condition of livestock all species was now normal; good and smooth appearance across livelihoods.
- Improvement in livestock body condition was due to adequacy of good pasture and browse as well as water during March-April period. The county continued to receive good rains since March.
- The livestock body condition was expected to remain normal for the next four months.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- Suspected cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia(CCPP) were reported across the county.
- Also suspected cases of East Coast Fever and trypanosomiasis were reported in Kajiado West and South.

3.3 Livestock Mortalities

- There were no reports of unusual livestock mortalities in the month of April.

3.4 Livestock Migration

- There were no livestock migrations in April. Livestock remained in their normal grazing areas.
- In areas where land is communally owned, livestock were in their normal wet grazing areas.

3.5 Milk Production

- The daily household milk production was low at about 2 liters due to low calving, low kidding and reduced tropical livestock unit the recent prolonged drought that has just ended.
- In a normal year, household daily milk production in April range between five to six litres.

3.6 Rain-fed Crop Production

- The average area planted during the long rains season was nearly 80%. Unusually early onset of rains interrupted normal land preparations.
- Rain-fed crops were in good condition. Maize is three feet high while beans were flowering.
- The Fall Army worm pose great threat to maize crop production.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- The main livestock markets in the county are Shompole, Kiserian, Ilbisil and Rombo. Heavy rains in April lowered accessibility to most of the markets resulting into low livestock supply.

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The market price of a mature bull now averaged Ksh. 18,700 compared to Ksh. 13,100 in March (Figure 6) due to improvement in their body condition coupled with demand for restocking.
- There were no notable variations in prices of cattle among livelihoods in April.
- The current price was normal for this particular time of the year and was expected to remain so for the next three months.

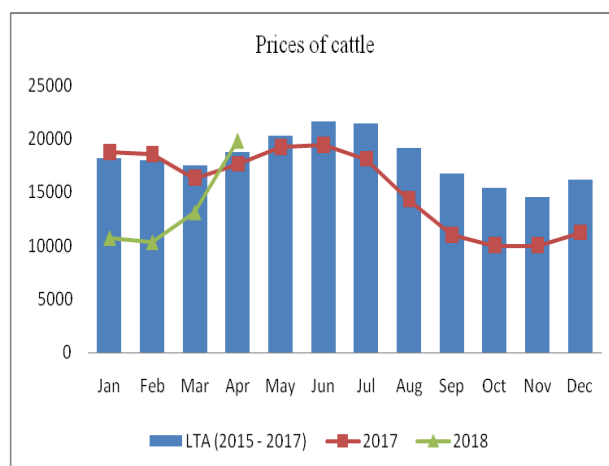


Figure 6: Trends in cattle price; Kajiado, 2015-2018

4.1.2 Goats Prices

- Price of goats improved between March and April mainly due to demand for restocking.
- In April a two-year old goat was selling at Ksh. 3,190 compared to Ksh. 2,850 in March (Figure 7).
- No livelihood variations in goats' prices were observed during the month.
- The current price is above the long term average for similar period of the year and was expected to improve further in May.

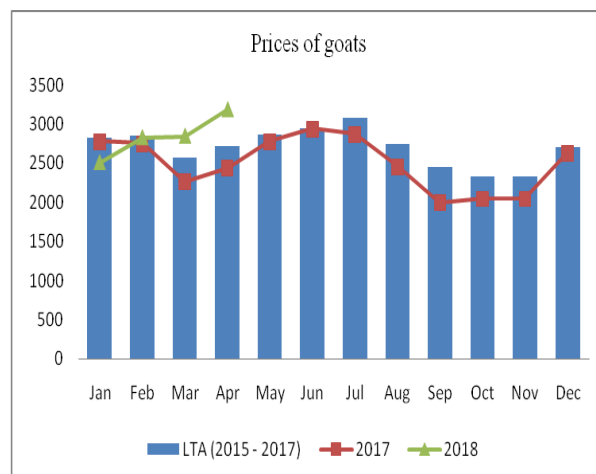


Figure 7: Average price of goats; Kajiado County, 2015-2018

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

- The retail price of maize declined from Ksh. 60 per kilogram in January to Ksh. 50 per kilogram in April (Figure 8) due to factors such as reduction of prices of some other food stuffs.

- In mixed farming areas of Loitokitok, the market price of a kilogram of maize was Ksh. 30 while in Pastoral areas of Mosiro it was Ksh. 65.
- Further reduction of prices of maize was anticipated in the next two months when farmers start harvest legumes.

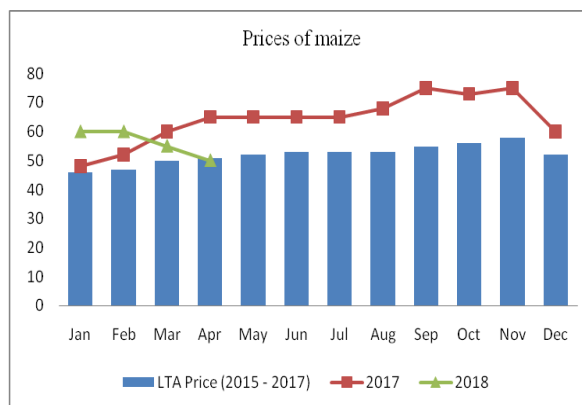


Figure 8: Average prices of maize; Kajiado 2015-2018

4.2.2 Beans Prices

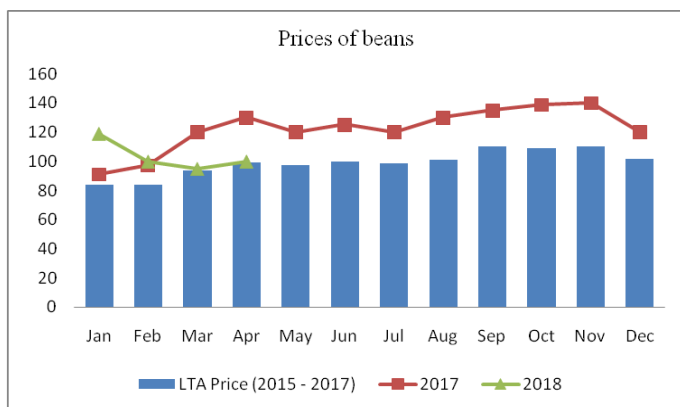


Figure 9: Average prices of beans; Kajiado, 2015 - 2018

- The retail price of beans slightly increased during March - April period due to low supply. In March a kilogram of beans was selling at Ksh. 95 and Ksh. 100 in April (Figure 9).
- In Pastoral areas of Mosiro a kilogram of beans was selling at Ksh. 120 and Ksh. 80 in mixed farming areas of Loitokitok.

- Probably the price of beans will reduce by June when farmers start harvesting the crop.

4.3 Prices of Milk

- The price of milk still remains high due to low supply. In March and April, milk price stabilized at Ksh. 60/lt. Price of milk was likely to remain high for the next two months due to low production.

4.4 Terms of Trade

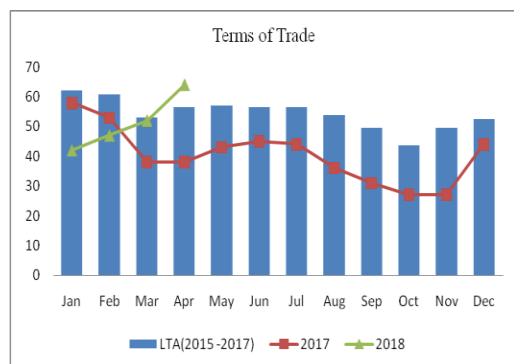


Figure 10: Terms of trade; Kajiado, 2015 - 2018

- Reduction in prices of food stuffs coupled with increasing prices of livestock in April improved terms of trade (TOT) for pastoralists.
- In March and April one would buy 52 kg and 64 kg of maize respectively by selling a goat (Figure 10).
- The TOT was likely to stabilize for the next three months.
- The LTA for April is 57 kg of maize per goat.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

- The average daily household milk consumption was nearly a litre due to low production. In a good year, milk consumption is 4- 5 litres per day per household.
- Milk production in May was expected to improve slight and so will be the consumption.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- In March and April, food consumption was stable with most households consuming acceptable diet (Figure 11).
- However, in Kajiado West nearly half (46.3%) of households were at border line. Most parts of the sub-county were cut-off following heavy rains.

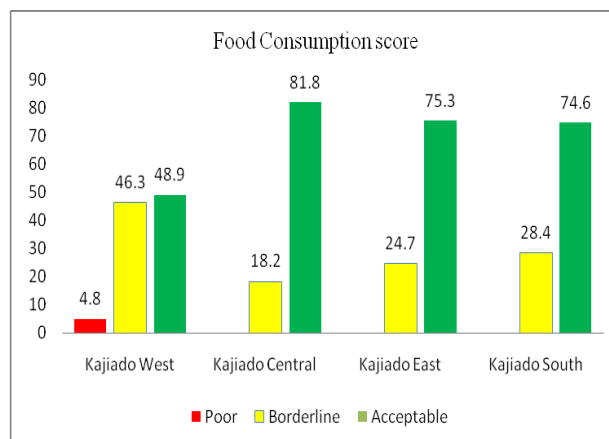


Figure 11: Food consumption score; Kajiado, April 2018

5.3 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

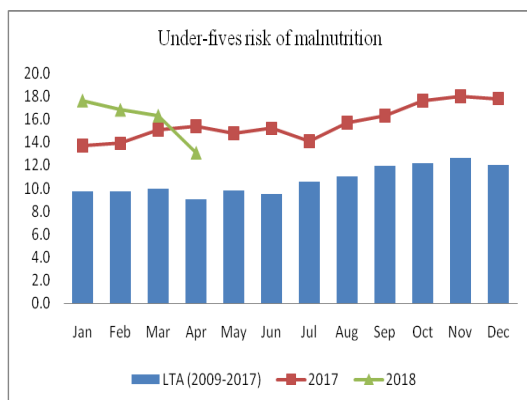


Figure 12: Risk of malnutrition for under-fives; Kajiado, 2009 - 2018

- The risk of malnutrition for under-fives declined from 16.3% in March to 13.1% in April (Figure 12).
- Most households (except those displaced by floods) would afford acceptable diet in April.
- Low milk production continues to challenge dietary intake among under-fives especially in pastoral areas.

5.4 Coping strategies

- Households affected by floods were now depending on food aid. Most of these households have lost their assets during the flooding incidences.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- The county continues to receive above normal rains in April. Pasture, browse and water are now adequately available and would last for the next four months.
- Livestock productivity has significantly improved. Crop yields by June in the county and the neighbouring counties are projected to be normal.
- Destruction of roads networks was likely to reduce access to some areas especially in Kajiado West. This was likely to increase prices of food reaching the market
- On this basis, the county would remain in normal food security situation for the next six months.

6.2 On going Interventions

- Provision of food aids, blackest, mosquito nets and preventive drugs to over 300 households affected by floods; by county government.
- Close to 92,000 sheep in Kajiado Central and East were vaccinated against Blue Tongue; by county government
- Five critical boreholes were rehabilitated; by county government

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- Restocking especially small stock to the most vulnerable households. *Action by County Government, Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project and other partners.*
- Vaccination campaign against FMD, CCPP. *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- Provision of relief food and preventive drugs to households displaced by floods: *Action by County Government, National Government and partners.*
- Sensitization on pasture conservation; *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- Updating of County Contingency Plans; by *National Drought Management Authority, County government and partners*