

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**MAY 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 water situation in the county would be described as adequate in May. Surface water sources were fully recharged during the rains.
- ✓ The vegetation condition was far above normal due heavy rainfall that the county got during March-May period.

**Production Indicators**

- ✓ Due to accessibility of forage and water, livestock body condition in May was normal; good smooth appearance for all species.
- ✓ Household milk production remains significantly low for this time of the year due to low calving and kidding.

**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)	140	80 -120	
State of water	Adequate	Adequate	
3-monthly VCI	84.15	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	69 kg of maize/goat	57 kg of maize/goat	
Household milk Consumption per day	2 lt	3-4 lt	
Distance to water source	Livestock	2.9 km	3.6 km
	Household	3.2 km	3.1 km
Utilization indicators	Value	Long Term Average	
MUAC (% <135 mm)	12.7%	9.8%	

<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

- Figure 1 shows rainfall performance for Kajiado County.
- The county received slightly above normal rains in the second dekad of May. During the third dekad, the county received little rains suggesting possible normal cessation of long rains.
- Spatial distribution of rains in May was even.

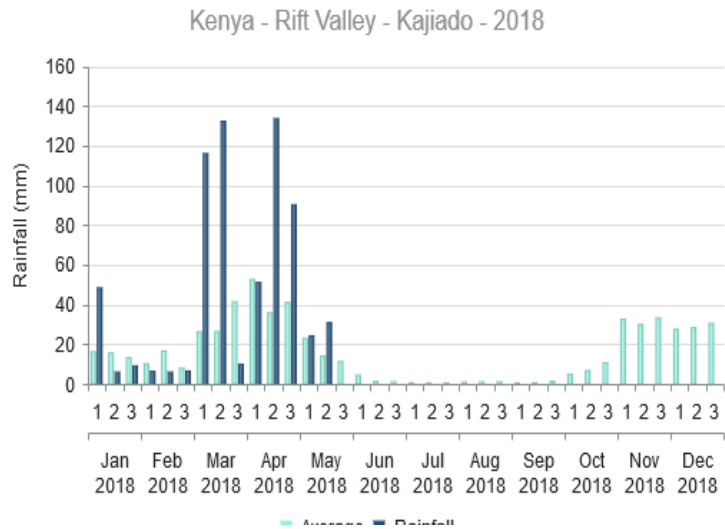


Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado County

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The vegetation greenness in the county remained above normal during April-May period (Figure 2).
- In May the average county vegetation condition index was 84.15 compared to 56.06 in April.
- The vegetation greenness was expected to remain above normal for the next one month due to the heavy rains that the county received in March and April.

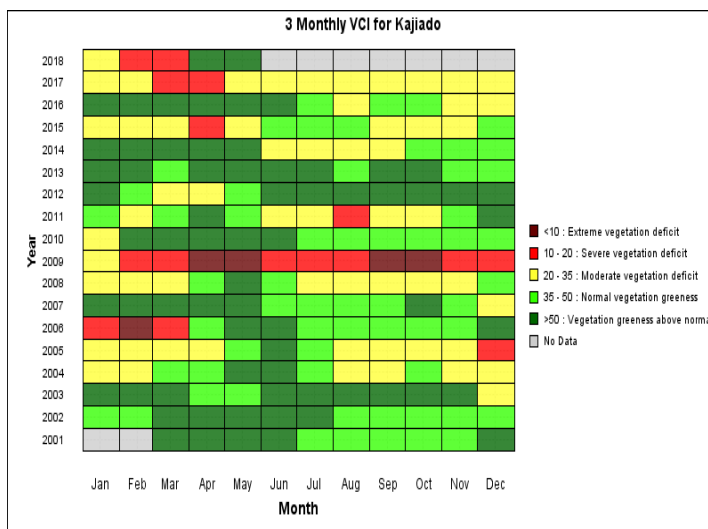


Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado, 2001 - 2018

### 2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- Pasture and browse was good and above normal in all parts of the county for March-May period.
- Given the current low tropical livestock units in the county which resulted from recent drought, the available pasture and browse would last for the next three to four months.

### 2.3 Water Sources

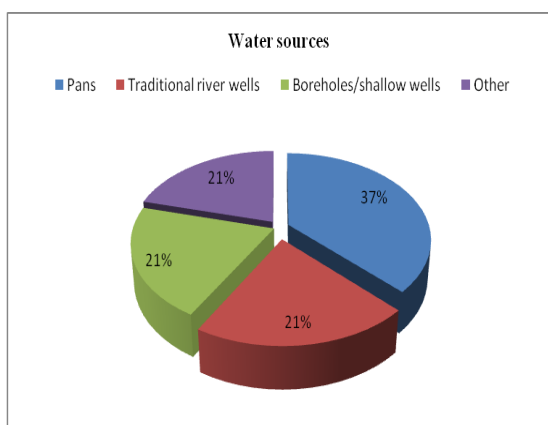


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, May 2018

- The water sources were the same for the period between March-May with 37% of communities reporting pans as the main source of water May (Figure 3).
- Other current sources of water include piped water and streams/rivers.
- The available water from pans was expected to last for the next three months.

## 2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The average return distance to water sources from homesteads in April and May was nearly the same at 2.8 km and 3.2 km respectively. The long term average distance that households covered to fetch water in May is 3.1 km (Figure 4).
- In April and May, most households got water for domestic use from same sources mainly rivers, river wells and pans. This stabilized household water access April-May period.
- Households in mixed farming zones covered less than 2 km to water points and back.
- As rains cease, this distance was expected to increase slightly in June.

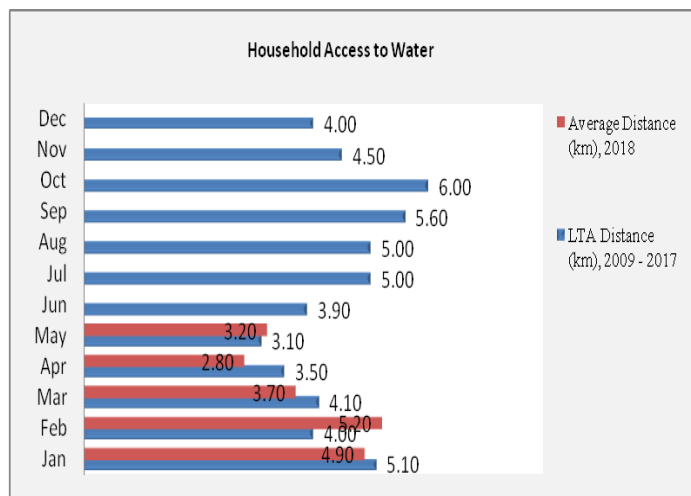


Figure 4: Average return distance from homesteads to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2018

## 2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- During March-May period, pans and ponds were the main source of water for livestock. These sources were fully recharged during the rains.
- The distance that livestock covered from the grazing fields to water points during March-May period was stable at less than 3 km (Figure 5) with no livelihood variations.
- Most pans would last for the next two months after which the livestock watering distance would probably increase.
- Currently livestock are watered daily.

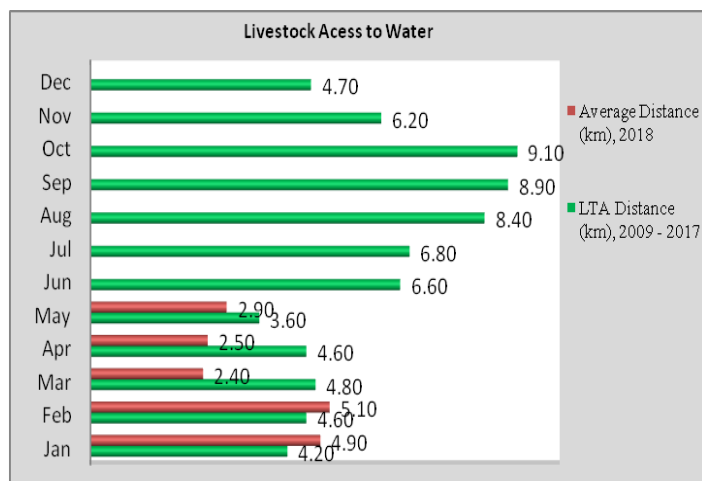


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing fields to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2018

## **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

### **3.1 Livestock Body Condition**

- Body condition of livestock all species in April and May was; good and smooth appearance. No livelihood variations in livestock body condition that was observed during the period.
- Due to availability of pasture, browse and water, livestock body condition was likely to remain normal in the next four months.

### **3.2 Livestock Diseases**

- There were reports of suspected cases of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Blue Tongue across the county in May.

### **3.3 Livestock Mortalities**

- No cases of unusual livestock mortalities reported in the month of May.

### **3.4 Livestock Migration**

- In April and May, livestock grazed in their normal areas. They were not expected to migrate within the next three months.

### **3.5 Milk Production**

- The daily household milk production remained unusually low at this time of the year. In a normal year, household daily milk production in April and May range between five to six litres.
- In May this year, household milk production was about two litres. This was attributed to low calving, low kidding and reduced tropical livestock unit due to recent drought.

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

- A few farmers in Mixed farming and Agro-Pastoral areas have started harvesting beans. About 5% of the areas planted with beans have been harvested.
- Maize is now at tussling stage. The Fall Army Warm invasion was likely to reduce the maize yields to below normal.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 Livestock Marketing

- The main livestock markets in the county are Shompole, Kiserian, Ilbisil and Rombo. Most of them operated normally in May.

#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- On average Market price of a mature bull was Ksh. 20,800 in May and 18,700 in April (Figure 6). The slight increase was probably due to low supply. The tropical livestock units are now low due to recent drought.
- There were no significant livelihood differences in prices of cattle in May.
- The current price is similar to the long term average for similar months
- Prices of livestock were expected to continually increase at a low phase for the next two months.

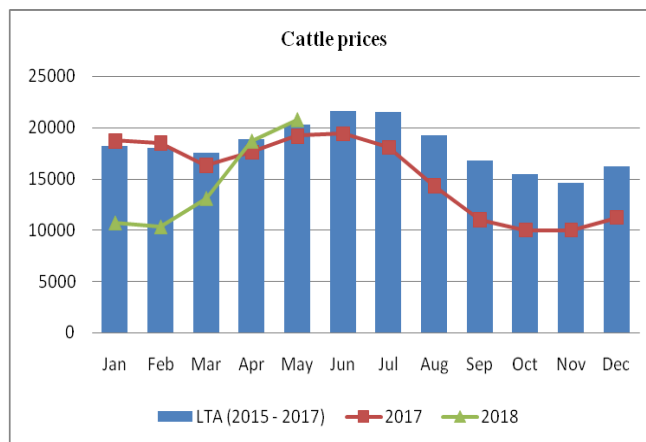


Figure 6: Trends in cattle price; Kajiado, 2015-2018

#### 4.1.2 Goats Prices

- The average market price of goats was stable in April and May at Ksh. 3,190 and Ksh 3,110 respectively for a two year old goat (Figure 7). Their body condition is good and has stabilized.
- 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 remain stable for the next three months.

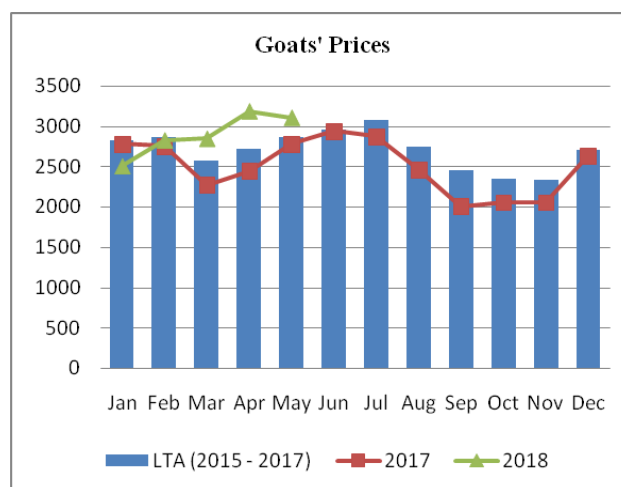


Figure 7: Average price of goats; Kajiado County, 2015-2018

## 4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

### 4.2.1 Maize Prices

- The average retail price of maize reduced further from Ksh. 50 in April to Ksh. 45 in May (Figure 8). Beans are currently being harvested and may have influenced the current prices of maize.
- There were no significant livelihood variations in prices of maize in May.
- Further reduction of prices of maize was anticipated in the next two months when farmers start harvest the crop.

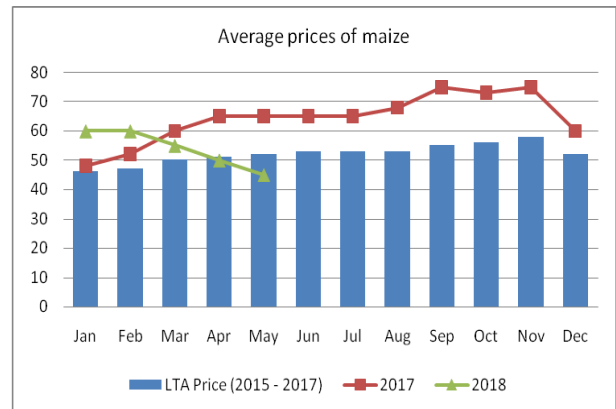


Figure 8: Average prices of maize; Kajiado 2015-2018

#### 4.2.2 Beans Prices

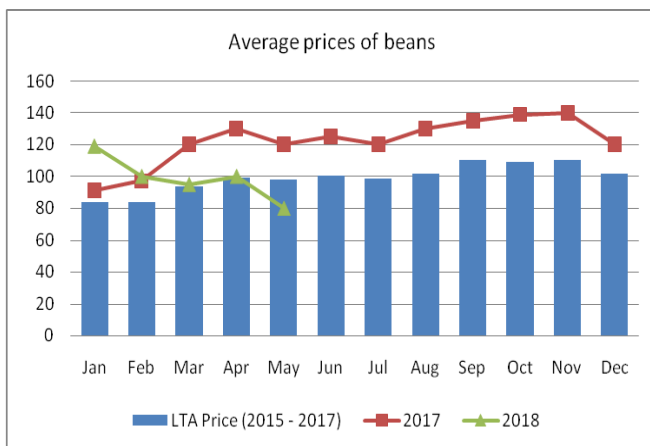


Figure 9: Average prices of beans; Kajiado, 2015 - 2018

- The average retail price of beans dropped significantly from Ksh. 100 in April to Ksh. 80 in May (Figure 9) due to anticipated harvest. A few farmers had started harvesting beans by end of May.
- No livelihood variations in prices of beans that were observed in May.
- Probably the price of beans will reduce further in June when farmers harvest the crop.

#### 4.3 Prices of Milk

- The average price of milk is high at Ksh. 50 per litre due to low production. Normally a litre of milk cost Ksh. 40. Prices of milk are expected to remain high for a couple of months due low production.

#### 4.4 Terms of Trade

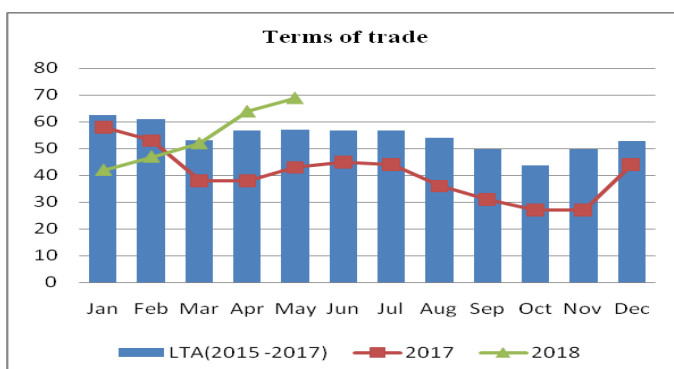


Figure 10: TOT for Kajiado; 2015 - 2018

- Decline in prices of food stuffs and increase of livestock prices resulted in improvement of terms of trade (TOT) from 64 kg of maize per goat in April to 69 kg of maize per goat in May (Figure 10).
- The current TOT is above the LTA of 57 kg of maize per goat.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 Milk Consumption

- On average, households were consuming about 2 litre in May compared to 1 litre in April per day. In a normal year daily household milk consumption in May is 4-5 litres. Both production and consumption of milk was expected to improve in June.

### 5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Most households (40.7%) in Kajiado west were consuming poor diet (Figure 11). The sub-county is largely pastoral and low milk production is a challenge to dietary intake.
- There are some households that lost nearly all livestock during the drought period. These households are still struggling to buy food.

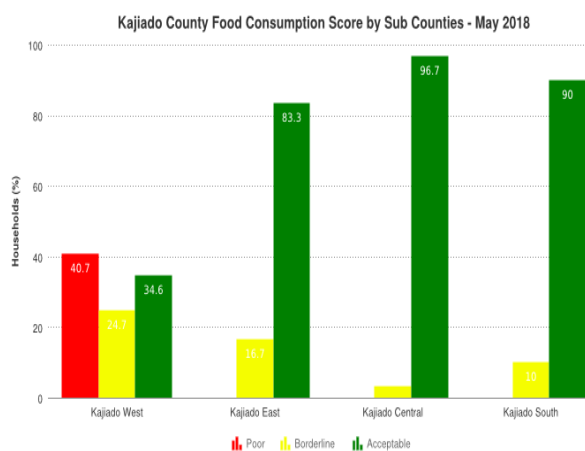


Figure 11: Food consumption score; Kajiado County, 2018

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

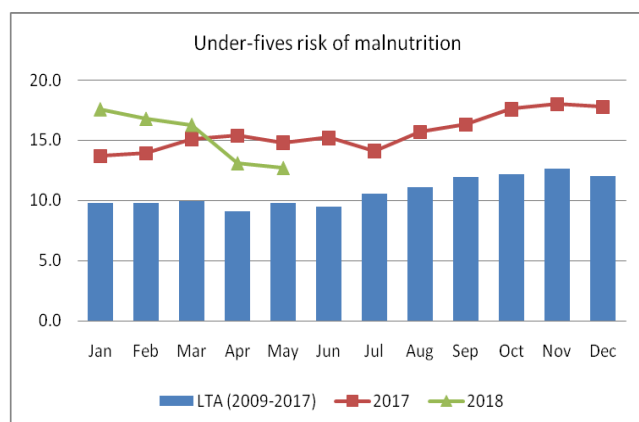


Figure 12: Risk of malnutrition for under-fives; Kajiado, 2009 - 2018

- The proportion of under-fives at risk of malnutrition declined from 16.3% in March to 12.7% in May (Figure 12). Most of the households could now afford variety of food.
- The long term average level of risk of malnutrition is 9.8%.
- Low milk production continues to challenge dietary intake among under-fives especially in pastoral areas.

### 5.4 Coping strategies

- Most of those households in pastoral areas who lost nearly all their livestock during the drought were borrowing food from their neighbours and friends.



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

### **6.1 Food Security Prognosis**

- The county received above normal rains during the 2018 long rains seasons. Both spatial and temporal distribution was even.
- Currently, pasture and browse condition as well as water situation is above normal and would probably last for at least four months.
- Livestock productivity continues to improve and so do the terms of trade for pastoralists.
- Crop yields by June were likely to be near normal. This was likely to result into further reduction of prices for foodstuffs.
- Based on these factors, the county was likely to remain in normal food security situation for the next six months.

### **6.2 On going Interventions**

- Human and livestock diseases surveillance by county government.
- Twenty-three primary schools in Matapato north and south provided with school meals (two months ration) by World vision.
- Ministry of health carried out integrated outreaches (Malezi Bora) across the county.

### **6.3 Recommendations for Action**

- Vaccination campaign against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Blue. *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- Sensitization on pasture conservation; *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- Repair of infrastructure including roads and boreholes that were damaged by the heavy rains. *Action by County Government.*
- Sensitization of communities on the ipomoea eradication. *Action by County Government.*