

National Drought Management Authority
KAJIADO COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN; FEBRUARY 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



February EW PHASE

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL CENTRAL & SOUTH	NORMAL	STABLE
AGRO-PASTORAL	ALERT	STABLE
PASTORAL WEST	ALERT	WORSENING
MIXED FARMING	ALERT	WORSENING
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ Some off season rains received, however they were below normal with no significance impact on vegetation.
- ✓ Vegetation condition was normal, however Kajiado west was poor with a VCI of 34.

Production Indicators

- ✓ The projected crop yield was 25% below long term average for the season.
- ✓ Livestock body condition was good while milk production was less than expected for this time of the year.
- ✓ Intra – migration reported in Kajiado west.

Access indicators

- ✓ Distance to water sources for both domestic and livestock were above the long term averages.
- ✓ The terms of trade was in favour of livestock keepers at 67.92% above the long term average.
- ✓ Milk consumption was below normal at this time of the year.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ In Pastoral west, about 32.3% of the households were consuming poor diet, most households in other parts of the County were able to consume acceptable diet.
- ✓ CSI was stable, indicating that households were utilizing normal coping strategies.
- ✓ The proportion of under-fives who were at risk of malnutrition was below the long-term probably indicative of good health and improved nutrition status. Cholera reported in Kajiado west.

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA
3-monthly VCI	43.05	>35
State of water	Adequate	Adequate
Pasture condition	Fair	Good
Browse condition	Good	
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range
Livestock body condition	Good	Good
Daily household milk production	2.2 litres	>3.03 litres
Livestock Migration	None	None
Access Indicators	Observed Value	Normal Range/LTA
Terms of trade	89	>53
Daily household milk Consumption	2.0 litres	>3 litres
Distance to water sources	Livestock	7.3 km
	Household	7.2 km
<4.70 km	<4.10 km	
Utilization indicators	Value	LTA
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	3.87	<10
125mm <MUAC <135mm	6.3%	<10.5%

<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"> Long rains Planting/weeding 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 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Normally, February is characterized by short dry spell in anticipation of the onset of long rains beginning in mid-March and some off-season rains mainly in the northern (Ngong and Kiserian) and eastern (Isinya-Kiserian) parts of the county.
- During the first and second weeks of February, the County received some 5 days off-season rains in Ngong, Kiserian, Namanga and Kajiado Township, the rains were however depressed and poorly distributed (Figure 1).
- The month remained majorly hot and dry and this is normal for this time of the year.

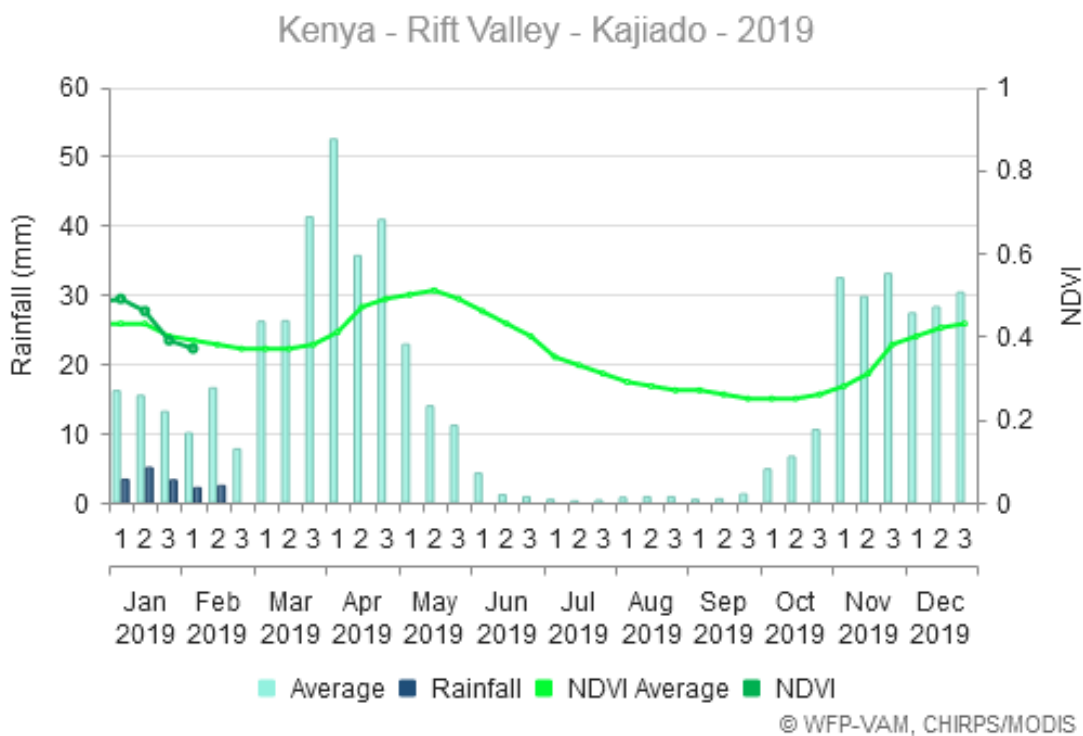


Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado, February 2019

2.0 VEGETATION AND WATER CONDITIONS

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The average county vegetation condition index (VCI for 3months), was 43.05 compared to 47.32 recorded in the previous month. This indicates a reduction in vegetation greenness in the county (Figure 2a) attributed to the below normal performance of the short rains (late onset, early cessation, poor temporal and spatial distributions). However, the current condition compares well with the normal for such a time of the year.
- Except for Kajiado West sub-County which recorded Vegetation condition index of 34 and was in moderate vegetation deficit (Figure 2b), the rest of the sub counties were in normal vegetation greenness.
- The vegetation condition was expected to deteriorate further until mid March 2019 when long rains are expected to start.

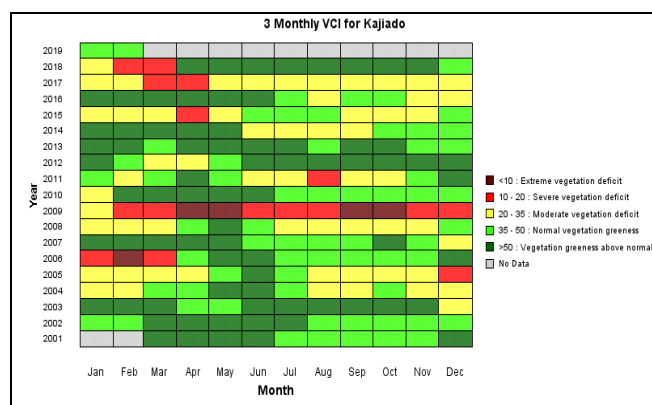


Figure 2a: 3-monthly VCI matrix; Kajiado February 2019

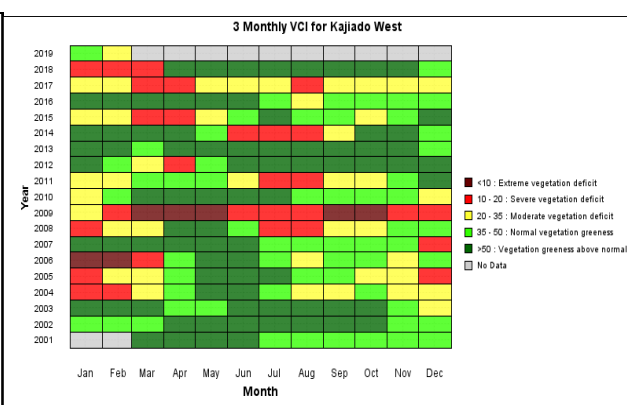


Figure 2b: 3-monthly VCI matrix; Kajiado West February 2019

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

2.2.1 Pasture Condition

- Pasture was fair to poor in pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones while good in the mixed farming livelihood zone.
- Poor pasture conditions was observed in pastoral west areas of Magadi, Ewaso Kedong, Mosiro wards and South Lenkism and Mbirikani wards. In these areas, pasture regeneration was below normal as they did not receive meaningful rainfall during the short rain season.
- The available pasture was projected to last for one to one and half months.
- Browse was good across the county and was expected to last for the next two to three months.
- The current pasture and browse condition was normal for this time of the year.

2.3 Water Sources

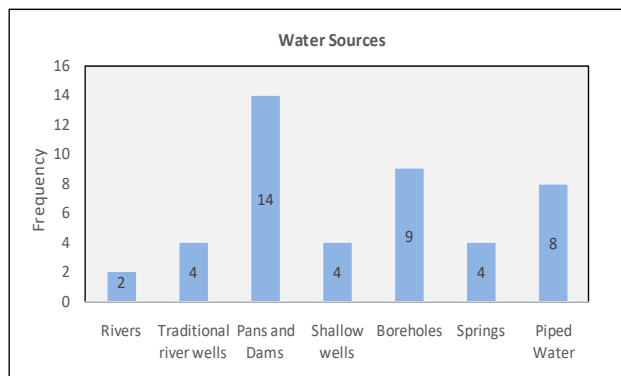


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, February 2019

- Main water sources for both domestic and livestock use during this time of the year remained water pans/dams, traditional river wells, boreholes, piped water, springs traditional river wells and shallow wells.
- 70% of the 20 key informants interviewed identified pans/dams as one of the three most common water sources for livestock use while 45%, 40% reported boreholes and piped water as majorly used for domestic purpose respectively (Figure 3).
- The current water sources are expected to last until onset of the long rains except Lenkisim, Najile ,Ewuaso, Mosiro, Mbirikani and Oldonyonyokie of pastoral livelihood zones where most water pans /dams were already dry and the existing ones expected to last for less than 2 weeks. This was attributed to poor recharge during the short rains period.

2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The average household's distances to water sources remained stable at 7.2 km compared to the previous month, in December 2018 it was 5.5 km. The stability is attributed to the use of permanent water sources for domestic use.
- The current distance is 76% above the long term average of 4.1 km for such a time of the year (Figure 4).
- The highest increase in distance to watering points (67%) was in Oldonyonyokie from 6 km in January to 10 km.
- The cost of water for domestic use ranged from Ksh. 5 (at the source) to Ksh. 50 (from water vendors) for a 20-litre jerrican same as previous month.

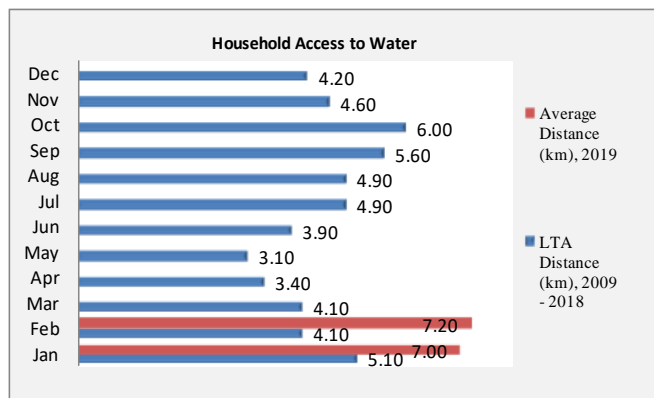


Figure 4: Average return distance from homesteads to water sources; Kajiado February 2019

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- Livestock return distance to watering sources increased slightly from 6.9 km in January to 7.3 km (Figure 5).
- The current distance is 55.32% above the long term average of 4.7 km
- Livestock watering frequency ranged from three days (in Pastoral west) to seven days (in mixed farming) a week.
- The poor recharge of open water sources as a result of the below normal performance of short rains has seen the drying up of some water pans resulting into the increase in distances.
- Distances are expected to reduce with the expected onset of long rains in mid March 2019.

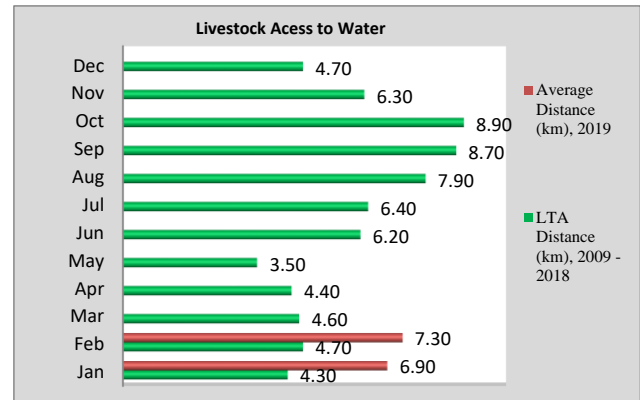


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing fields to water sources; Kajiado, February 2019

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- In February, cattle body condition ranged from fair in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones to good in mixed farming livelihood zone. This was attributed to the fair pasture conditions, increased trekking distance and diseases reported in these areas.
- However, shoats had good body condition across all the livelihood zones. Good body condition for the shoats was attributed to availability of browse.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) continued to be reported in Kajiado South and West sub-counties in February.

3.3 Livestock Mortalities`

- No reports of unusual livestock mortalities during the month of February.

3.4 Livestock Migration

- There has been no inter-county livestock migration since April 2018. However, intra migration was reported in Magadi, Mosiro, Mbirikani and Lenkism.

3.5 Milk Production

- The average daily household milk production remained low at 2.2 litres. The current household milk production per day was 27.34% below the long term mean of 3.03 litres.
- Household milk production declined due to the reduction in the Tropical livestock units since they lost their herds in the 2016/2017 drought and are yet to recover.
- There was variation in milk production across livelihood with pastoral households producing 3.5 litres per day and agro-pastoral households producing 2.0 litres per day.

3.6 Rain-fed Crop Production

- Most crops suffered moisture stress during the season as a result of the poor performance of the short rains leading to delayed development.
- Harvesting of crops started late than normal, beans harvesting was complete while maize was on-going. The projected yield for beans and maize was at below 25% of the seasons long term average.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

4.1.1 Main Livestock Markets

- The main livestock markets in the County are Shompole, Kiserian, Ilbisil, Kimana and Rombo and were all in normal operation.

4.1.2 Cattle Prices

- On average, the price of a medium size bull was reported at Ksh.31, 000, in January the price was at Ksh.34, 000 (Figure 6).
- The slight reduction in prices was attributed to the reduction in body condition especially in Kajiado west coupled with low volume at market places.
- The lowest prices was recorded in Oltepesi ,Mosiro and Magadi Kajiado west. This was attributed to reduced body condition, poor pasture, existence of livestock disease and cholera outbreak.
- The current price is however 100% above long term mean at Ksh. 16,000.

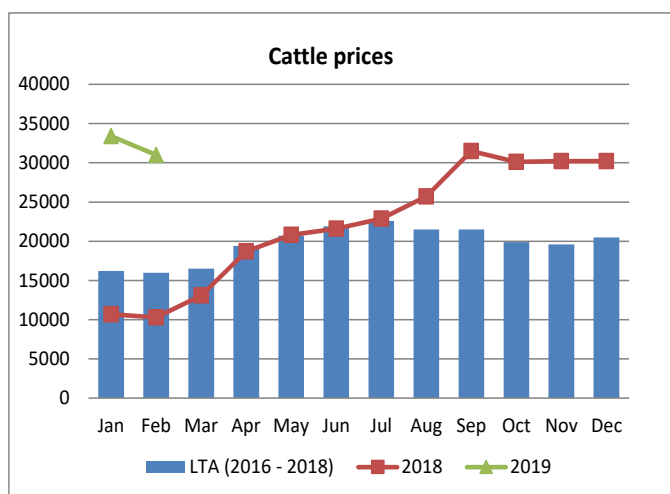


Figure 6: Cattle prices; Kajiado, February 2019

4.1.3 Goats Prices

- The average price of a three-year old goat increased by 7.24% to Ksh.4, 000 from Ksh. 3,730 in January 2019 (Figure 7).
- The improved goat prices during this period was attributed to stability of their good body condition and high demand at market. Households are restocking shoats as they appear more resilient.
- There was no significant variation in prices of goats across livelihoods.
- The current price was 42.35% above the three year average at Ksh. 2,810.

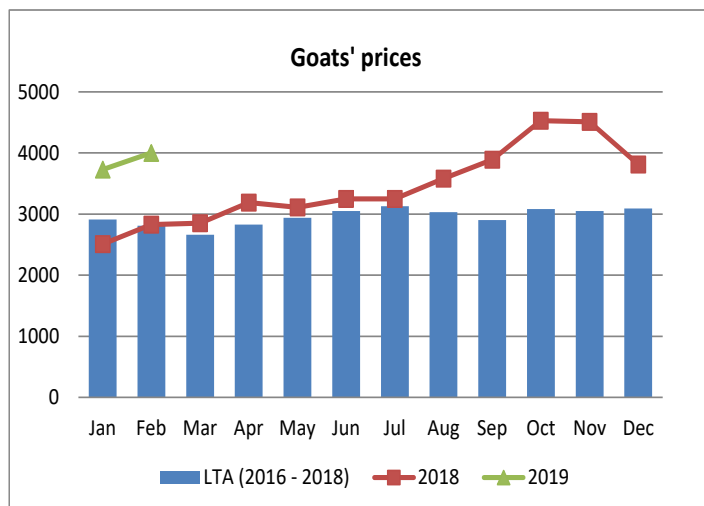


Figure 7: Goats' prices; Kajiado, February 2019

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

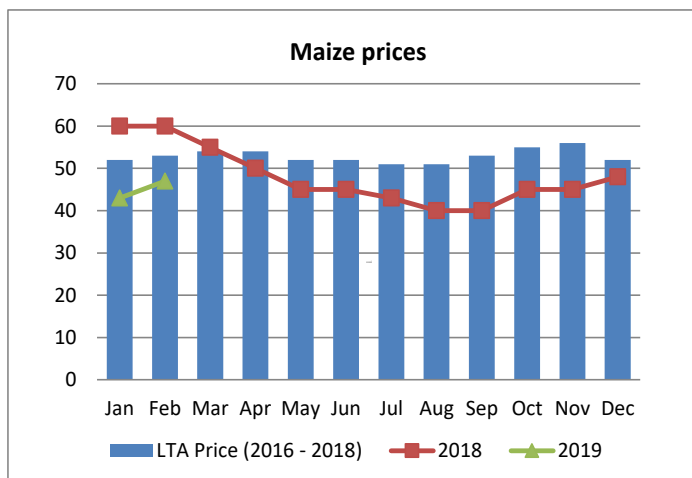


Figure 8: Average prices of maize; Kajiado, February 2019

- The average price of a kilogram of maize increased compared to January. The current price was Ksh 45 compared to Ksh 43 in January (Figure 8).
- In mixed farming zones of Loitokitok a kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh. 30 and Ksh. 50 in pastoral west including Shompole, Mosiro, Ewuaso and Magadi.
- The price increase is attributed to the poor performance of the crop during the short rains season. The crop suffered moisture stress due to late onset and early cessation of the short rains.

- The current price was 15.09% below the three year average price at Ksh. 53 per kilogram.

4.2.2 Beans Prices

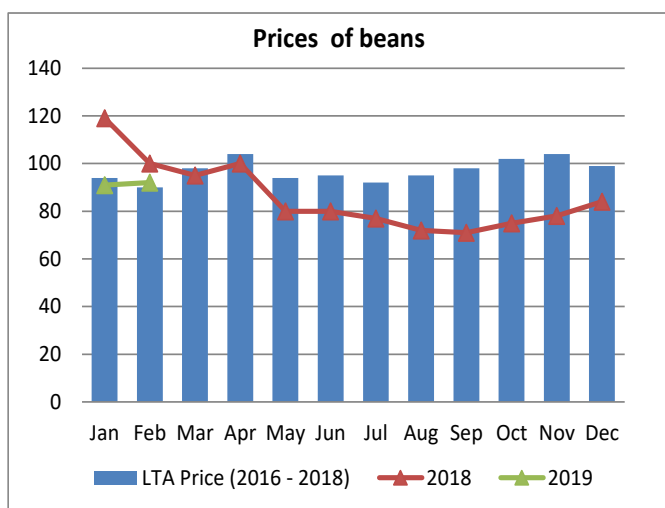


Figure 9: Average prices of beans; Kajiado, February 2019

- Beans price has been on the increase since December 2018. In December 2018 a kilogram of beans was selling at Ksh. 84 and in February Ksh. 92 (Figure 9).
- The continuous rise in beans price was due to below normal performance in addition to high demand at market.
- Highest prices were reported in pastoral Ewuaso, Magadi and Mosiro at Ksh. 120 per kilogram while in mixed farming areas of Kimana and Loitokitok beans was selling at Ksh. 85 per kilogram.

- The observed difference in prices of beans would be explained probably by the accessibility of the area by traders.
- The current prices is normal compared to the three year average at Ksh. 90 per kilogram.

4.3 Prices of Milk

- The farm-gate price of milk remained stable at Ksh. 60 per litre for the last four consecutive months with no livelihood variations.

4.4 Terms of Trade

- The terms of trade (TOT) continued performing in favour of the livestock keepers. In February, 89 kilograms of maize could be exchanged for sale of a goat (Figure 10).
- The favourable terms of trade was attributed to increase in goat prices due to good body conditions and high demand at market.
- The current average TOT was 67.92% above the three year average at 53 kilograms of maize for a sale of a goat.

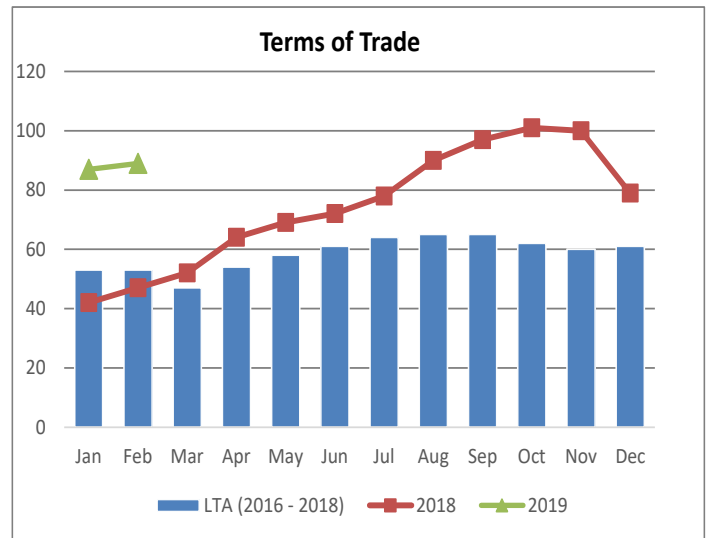


Figure 10: Trends in ToT; Kajiado February 2019

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION, NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND DISEASE

5.1 Milk Consumption

- The average daily household milk consumption remained at two litres with no livelihood variations.
- The current milk consumption is below the long term average at three litres a day per household.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- In February, 32.3 percent of households in Kajiado west sub-county were consuming poor diet (Figure 11). This was attributed to high prices of food stuff, reduced milk availability due to intra-migration and confirmed cholera outbreak.
- Intra-migration was occasioned by poor pasture condition (VCI = 34) as was observed in Magadi, Ewuaso and Mosiro wards.

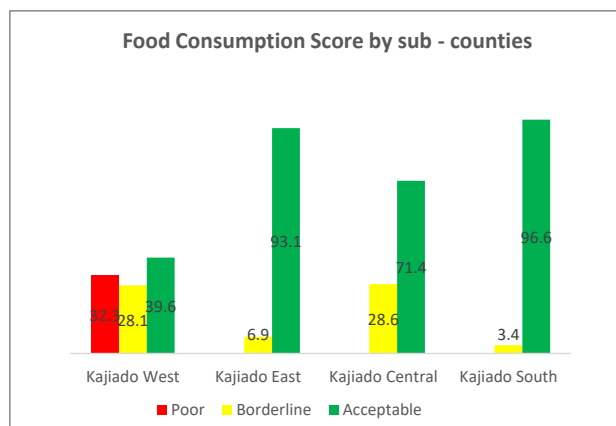


Figure 11: Food consumption score; Kajiado, February 2019

5.3 Coping Strategies

- The CSI was stable at 3.87 compared to the previous month at 3.85, indicating that households were utilizing normal coping strategies.
- However, in Kajiado west a number of households were borrowing food, reducing the number and sizes of meals in order to cope with lack of food or money to buy food.

5.4 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

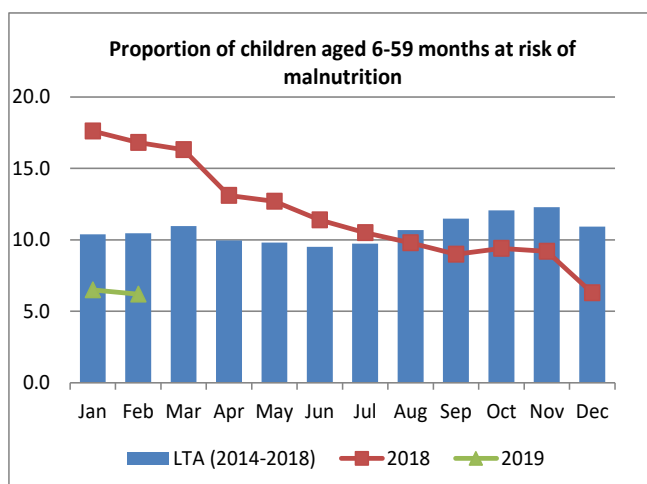


Figure 12: Risk of malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months; Kajiado, February 2019

- The proportion of children aged 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition was 67.7% below the long term mean indicative of good health and improved nutrition status (Figure 12).
- The county average percentage was at 6.3%. The stable nutrition status was attributed to favourable terms of trade.
- Kajiado west reported the highest MUAC at 10.2%, this was attributed to low milk

availability and cholera outbreak.

5.5 Human Diseases

- Cases of cholera were reported in Shompole, Entasopia, Oloika, Pakase, Musenge, Mosiro, Magadi wards. Response by county health department and partners was ongoing.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- ✓ The county was likely to continue experiencing dry weather condition for the next one month.
- ✓ Available pasture and browse would likely last up to the long rain season except for Kajiado west.
- ✓ No external migrations are expected in search of pasture and water during this period.
- ✓ Average County livestock productivity including body condition and prices will probably remain stable for the next one month as pasture and browse is available.
- ✓ The TOT would probably stabilize for the next two months if prices of livestock remain high.
- ✓ Despite crop failure in the county, food commodities will probably be available from external sources. Markets are operating normally and basic foodstuffs would be affordable.
- ✓ The risk of malnutrition among under-fives are expected to remain stable for a couple of months. Most of households are consuming variety of food with less stressful coping strategies.

6.2 On going Interventions

- ✓ Vitamin A Supplementation: - *Action by County Department of Health and partners.*
- ✓ Mass screening and outreaches in Kajiado west, Central and South: - *Action by County Department of Health and partners.*
- ✓ Livestock vaccination against Foot & Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease:- *Action by County Government*
- ✓ Review of the County Contingency Plan:- *Action by National Drought Management Authority and partners*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- ✓ Up scaling livestock vaccination against Foot & Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease:- *Action by County Government and partners*
- ✓ Provision of water treatment kits:- *Action by County Government and partners*