

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**April EW PHASE**



**Maandalizi ya mapema**

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

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

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- ✓ April was mainly marked with dry weather conditions with severe vegetation greenness deficit. In a normal year, April is a wet month.
- ✓ This year, the long rains started late in the fourth week of April instead of third week of March.

**Production Indicators**

- ✓ Cattle body condition was poor while that of goats was fair.
- Continued intra – migration reported in Matapato, Mbirikani, Entonet, Rombo, Chylu and Kenyawa Poka.

**Access indicators**

- ✓ Distance to water sources for both domestic and livestock were longer than the long term averages.
- ✓ The TOT was above the long term average but on a declining trend.
- ✓ Milk consumption was below normal at this time of the year.

**Utilization Indicators**

- ✓ Nearly forty percent of the households in the County consumed poor diet due to lack of varieties of foodstuffs or money to buy food.
- ✓ Pastoral West was most hit with 9.3% of the under-fives at risk of malnutrition.

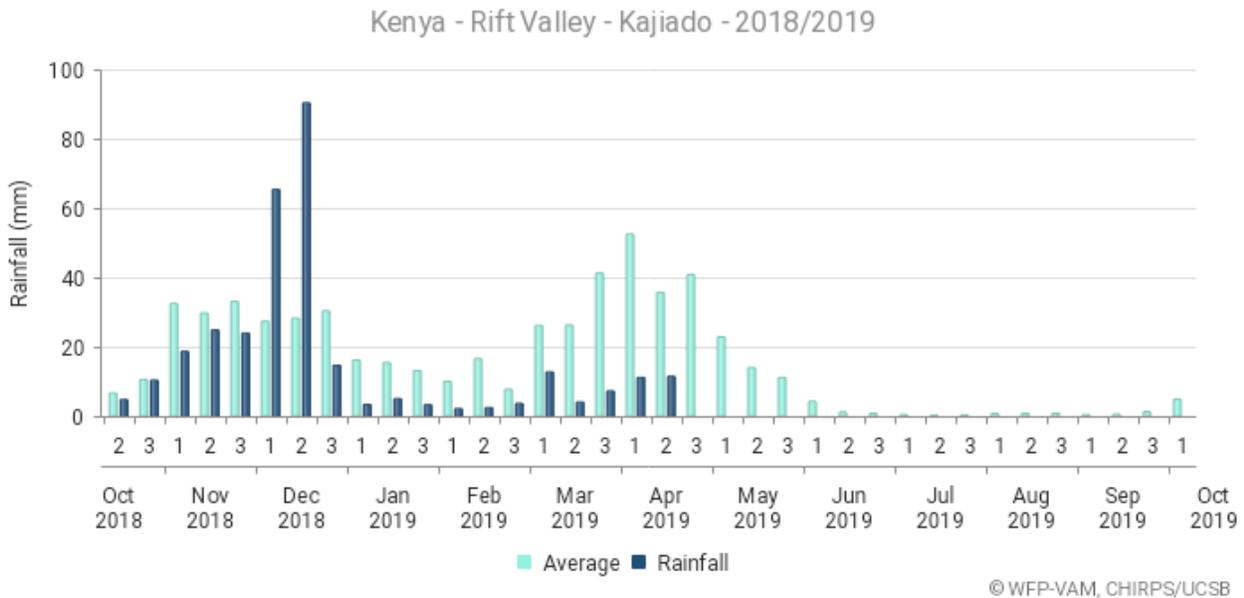
| Biophysical Indicators           | Observed Value/Range | Normal Range/LTA |        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------|
| 3-monthly VCI                    | 17.07                | >35              |        |
| State of water                   | Water available      | Adequate         |        |
| Pasture condition                | Depleted             | Good             |        |
| Browse condition                 | Fair                 |                  |        |
| Production Indicators            | Observed Value/Trend | Normal Range     |        |
| Livestock body condition         | Poor                 | Good             |        |
| Daily household milk production  | 3.1 litres           | >5 litres        |        |
| Livestock Migration              | Migration            | None             |        |
| Access Indicators                | Observed Value       | LTA              |        |
| Terms of trade                   | 79                   | 54               |        |
| Daily household milk Consumption | 2.2 litres           | >4 litres        |        |
| Distance to water sources        | Livestock            | 5.9 km           | 4.4 km |
|                                  | Household            | 5.8 km           | 3.4 km |
| Utilization indicators           | Value                | Normal Range/LTA |        |
| Coping Strategy Index (CSI)      | 5.54                 | <10              |        |
| 125mm <MUAC <135mm               | 7.3%                 | 9.7%             |        |

|  |   |  |  |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|--|---|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| <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>▪ Long rains</li> <li>▪ Planting/weeding</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</li> <li>▪ weeding</li> </ul> |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|  |   |  |  |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Jan  | Feb   | Mar  | Apr  | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |

Seasonal Calendar

## 1.0 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The onset of 2019 long rains was in the fourth week of April. This was a late onset as the season normally starts in second dekad of March (Figure 1).
- In the last week of April the County received good rain for four days and was evenly distributed across the County.



*Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado, April 2019*

## 1.1 Flooding

Flooding was reported in Patimaro area of Matapato South ward.

## 2.0 VEGETATION AND WATER CONDITIONS

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The County vegetation condition continued to deteriorate below normal greenness since March (Figure 2).
- By April, the County had severe vegetation deficit with the sub-Counties vegetation condition indices ranging between 14.55 and 20.94.
- The average 3-monthly vegetation condition for the County was 17.07.

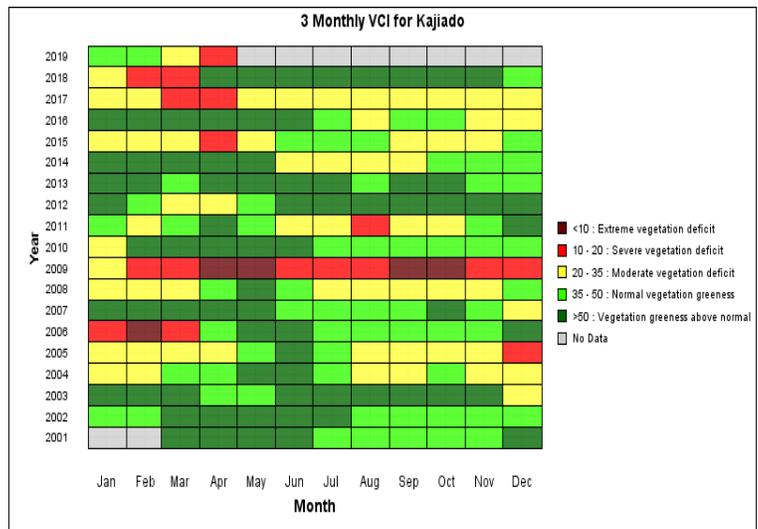


Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI matrix; Kajiado, 2001-2019

### 2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- By April this year, pasture was nearly depleted in most parts of the County. In a normal year, pasture would have regenerated by this time. Browse was still fair across the County.
- With rains in April, pasture was likely to regenerate by start of May.

### 2.3 Water Sources

- Twenty four out of forty five communities (53%) report boreholes/shallow well as the major source of water in the first and second dekads of April (Figure 3).
- High concentration of livestock and people at strategic boreholes was observed. This exposed livestock to possible disease outbreaks.
- Following rains that the County received at the end of April, pans were now the common sources of water for livestock. Most pans were nearly sixty percent recharged and would last for at least a month.

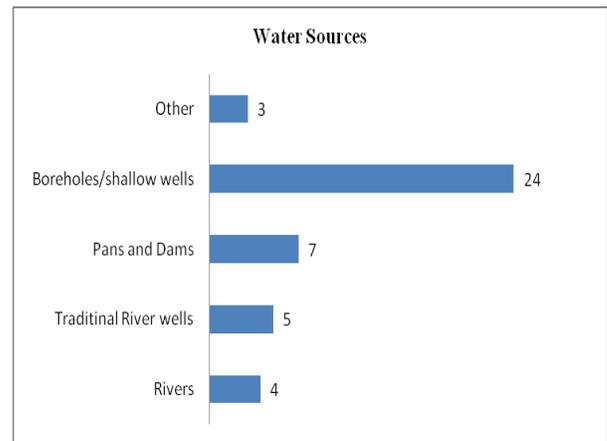


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, April 2019

## 2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The major water source for domestic use in the first two dekads of April was boreholes. This was probably why the distance remained longer than the long term average for the month. In a normal

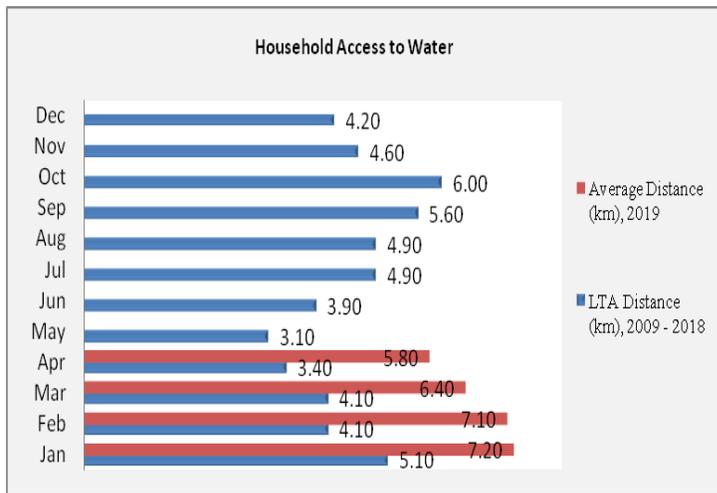


Figure 4: Average return distance from homesteads to water sources; Kajiado, 2009-2019

County got in the last week of April, the distance that people travel to get water for domestic purposes was expected to reduce significantly in May.

- In a normal year, households would be drawing water from other sources such as seasonal streams.
- The distance covered by individuals to get water for domestic use in April this year was 5.8 kilometres compared to the long term average of 3.4 kilometres.
- In March this distance was 6.4 kilometres.
- Following the some rains that the

## 2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- On average, livestock covered a return distance of 5.9 Kilometres in April compared to 7.5 kilometres in March (Figure 5).
- Before the rains, livestock covered more than 8 kilometres in search of water.
- Further reduction in this distance was expected in May as pans that are closer to grazing fields were now recharged.
- The long term average distance in April is 4.4 kilometres.

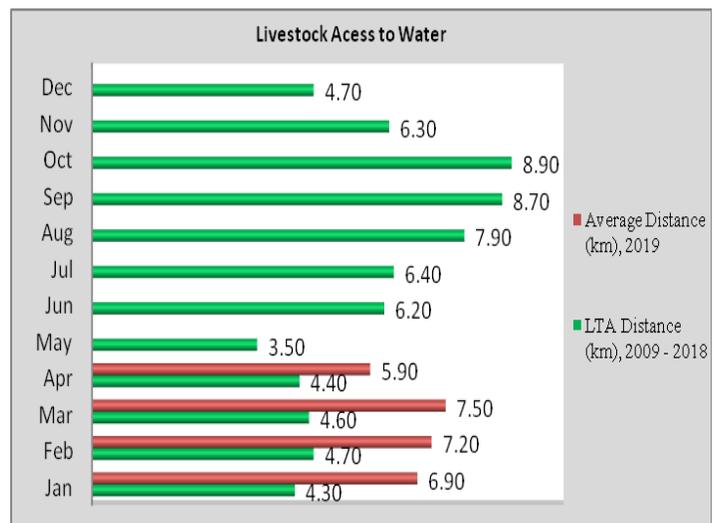


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing fields to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

### **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

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

- In April, cattle body condition was poor with some ribs being visible. No significant variation across the County due to depletion of pasture. Body condition for sheep and goats was still fair.
- With the expected regeneration of pasture in the next two weeks and current availability of water, cattle body condition was expected to improve.

#### **3.2 Livestock Diseases.**

- Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease were reported in Kajiado East (Kenyewa Poka and Imaroro) and Kajiado South (Lenkism) since March.
- Blue Tongue disease and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were also reported across the County in April.

#### **3.3 Livestock Mortalities`**

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

#### **3.4 Livestock Migration**

- Migration of livestock within the County such as that from Mbirikani, Rombo and Entonet to Chylu hills were observed in March and early part of April.
- Return migration were now expected within the first week of May with possible regeneration of pasture.

#### **3.5 Milk Production**

- Cattle are the main source of milk for the households in the County. The average household milk production in April was 3.1 litres. In Agro-pastoral and mixed farming households, milk production per day was less than two litres.
- The long term milk production in a household per day is 5.1 litres.

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

- During the last week of April, farmers in mixed farming and agro-pastoral areas were planting.
- In a normal year, farmers would be now weeding and maize would be about two feet high.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 Prices of Livestock

#### 4.1.1 Prices of Cattle

- The price of livestock remained stable for the period between March and April despite deterioration of their body condition. Supply of livestock to the market was low compared to demand.
- On average, the market price of a medium size bull was Ksh. 31,000 in March and Ksh. 30,800 in April (Figure 6).
- In Pastoral West (Magadi and Ewuaso), the market price of medium size bull ranged between Ksh. 22,000 and Ksh.25,000.

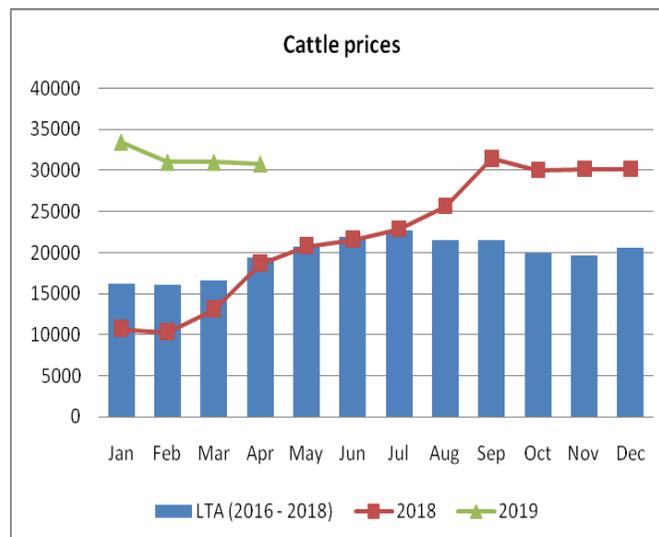


Figure 6: Cattle prices; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

- For the past three years, the average market price of a medium size bull in April is Ksh. 19,400.

#### 4.1.2 Goats Prices

- Like cattle, the average market price of goats was stable for the period between March and April possibly due to less supply in the market compared to demand.
- In March, the average market price of a three-year old goat was Ksh. 3,970 and Ksh. 4,090 in April (Figure 7).
- In Ewuaso (Pastoral west), a three-year old goat was selling at Ksh. 3,030.
- For the previous three years, the market price of a three-year old goat averaged Ksh. 2,830.

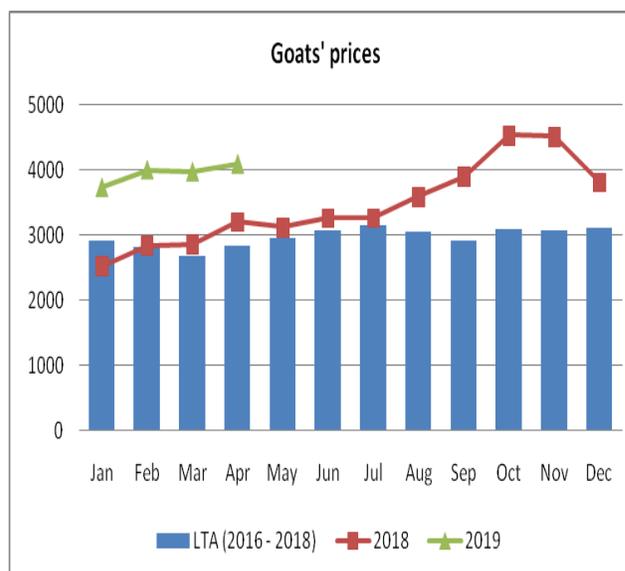


Figure 7: Goats' prices; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

## 4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

### 4.2.1 Maize Prices

- A kilogram of maize was retailing at Ksh. 49 in March and Ksh.52 in April (Figure 8). The increase in price of maize during march-April period

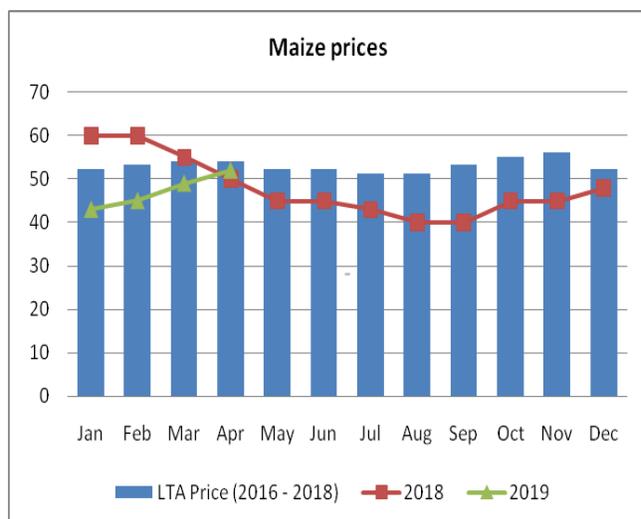


Figure 8: Average prices of maize; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

was probably due to low supply in the Market.

- In Mixed farming areas of Loitokitok, a kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh. 37 and Ksh. 54 in Pastoral West (Mosiro, Ewuaso and Magadi).
- The average market price of maize in April for the past three years is Ksh. 54 per kilogram.

### 4.2.2 Beans Prices

- The market price of beans increased from Ksh. 90 per kilogram in March to Ksh. 102 per kilogram

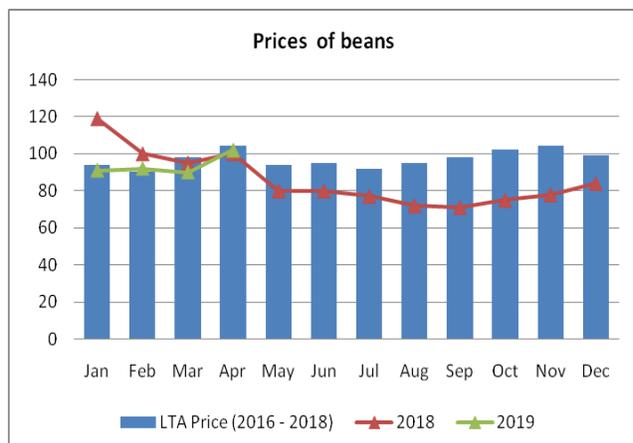


Figure 9: Average price of beans; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

in April (Figure 9) probably due to low supply in the market.

- Poor accessibility in Kajiado West make the prices of food stuff higher compared to other places. A kilogram of beans in Ewuaso (Pastoral west) was selling at Ksh. 118 per kilogram.
- The average price of beans for the month of April during the past three years is Ksh. 104 per kilogram.

### 4.3 Prices of Milk

- On average, the farm-gate price of milk remained high at Ksh. 60 per litre since January this year due to low production.
- No livelihood variations in milk prices observed during the month of April.

#### 4.4 Terms of Trade

- The purchasing power for pastoralists was stable for March-April period. The terms of trade (TOT) in April were 79 kilograms of maize per goat and 81 kilograms of maize per goat in March (Figure 10).
- In Pastoral west the TOT was 56 kilograms of maize for a goat.
- The average (TOT) in the month of April during the last three years period is 54 kilograms of maize per goat.

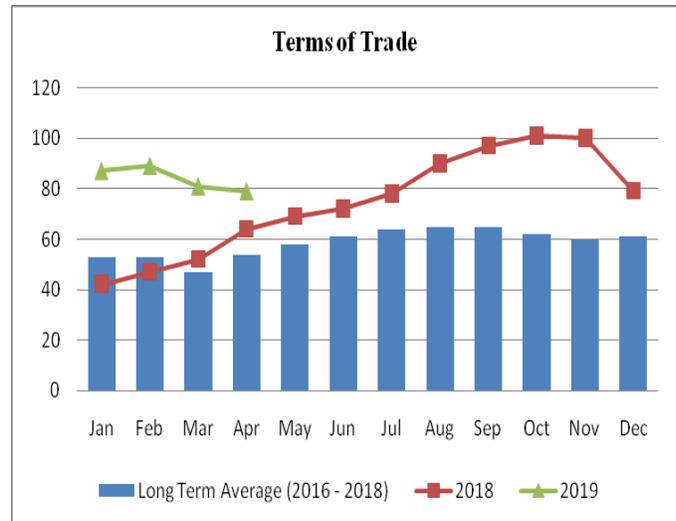


Figure 10: Trends in ToT; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION, NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND DISEASE

### 5.1 Milk Consumption

- On average, the daily household milk consumption in April was low at 2.2 litres due to low production. The long term average for this time of the year is 4.7 litres.

### 5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Thirty four percent of the households in the County were now consuming poor diet due to lack of variety of food or money to buy variety of foodstuffs.
- Pastoral west was highly hit with forty percent of the households consuming poor diet or were at borderline (Figure 11).

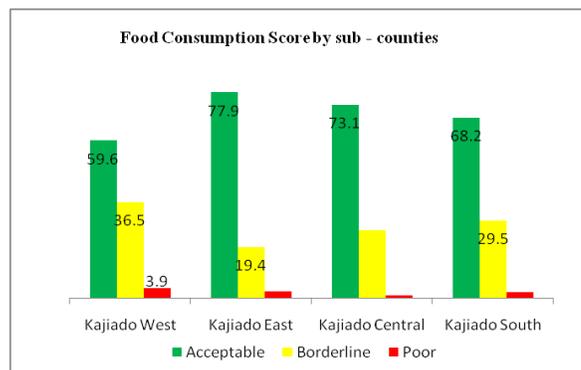


Figure 11: Food consumption score; Kajiado, April 2019

### 5.3 Coping Strategies

- The coping strategy index for the County increased from 3.22 in March to 5.54 in April indicating that households strained more to have food or money to buy food.
- In order to deal with lack of food, households reduced the size of meals they consumed per day while others consumed less preferred food.

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

- In April the risk of under-nutrition of children aged 6 - 59 months rose to 7.3% compared to 6.7% in March (Figure 12).

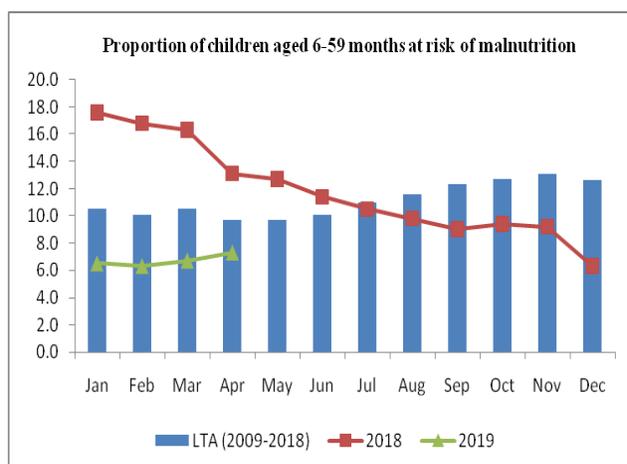


Figure 12: Risk of malnutrition for children aged 6 - 59 months; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

- The long term average for the month of April is 9.7%.
- Pastoral west was more affected with 9.3% children at risk of malnutrition.
- Consumption of poor diet in most households probably resulted into malnutrition among under-fives.

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

### **6.1 Food Security Prognosis**

The rains that the County received in April may influence food security and its outcomes in the County for the next three months;

- ✓ Water for livestock will be available at least for the next two months. Pans were nearly 60% recharged.
- ✓ Forage was likely to improve by second week of May and possibly last for at least two months.
- ✓ Livestock productivity especially their prices were likely to improve while food production from rain fed agriculture was likely to be minimal.
- ✓ Risk of malnutrition among under-fives was not likely to improve soon as access to dietary diversity was likely to be limited due to unavailability of varieties foodstuffs.

### **6.2 On going Interventions**

- ✓ Livestock vaccination against Foot & Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease:- *by County Government*
- ✓ Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction trainings in Matapato North with the objective of building the capacities of the communities to deal with potential disasters- *By Feed the Children.*
- ✓ Renovation of schools (Pelewa ECDE, Inaarok and Pakase primary schools):- *by County Government*
- ✓ Rehabilitation of Paranae, Oloibelibeli and Merisho boreholes: - *by County Government*

### **6.3 Recommendations for Action**

- ✓ Provision of food aid to 18,000 households across the County:- *Action by Ministry of Interior and Coordination , County Government and partners*
- ✓ Upscale livestock vaccination against Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) especially along the migratory corridors:- *by County Government and partners*
- ✓ Vaccination against Rift Valley Fever as the County is on high alert for the disease:- *by County Government and partners*
- ✓ Integrated outreaches in Kajiado West, Central and South:- *Action by County Government and partners*