

National Drought Management Authority
KAJIADO COUNTY
DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING JUNE 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JUNE EW PHASE

Drought Status: NORMAL

Shughuli za kawaida

Early Warning Phase Classification

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

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ The County did not receive rains in June. This was normal for this time of the year.
- ✓ Despite poor rains during March-May period, the County vegetation greenness bounced back to normal in June after severe deficit in April.

Production Indicators

- ✓ Livestock were in moderate body condition. They appeared neither thin nor fat.
- ✓ Household daily milk production was slight below the long term average for the month.

Access indicators

- ✓ The terms of trade have been above the long term average and stable for the past three months.
- ✓ Milk consumption was less than normal due to below normal production.
- ✓ Distance covered by livestock to water sources from grazing field was shorter than the long term average while that covered by households was longer than long term average.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ About three quarters of households were consuming acceptable diet with risk of malnutrition for under-fives falling below the long term average for the period.

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA	
State of water	Fair	Adequate	
3-monthly VCI	36.23	35 - 50	
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range	
Cattle body condition	Moderate	Good	
Daily household milk production	4.0 lt	> 6 lt	
Migration pattern	No migration	No migration	
Access Indicators	Observed Value	Long Term Average	
Terms of trade	80 kg of maize/goat	61 kg of maize/goat	
Daily household milk Consumption	3.0 lt	>= 4.0 lt	
Distance to water sources	Livestock	5.4 km	<= 6.2 km
	Household	5.2 km	<= 3.9 km
Utilization indicators	Value	Long Term Average	
MUAC (% <135 mm)	7.3%	<= 10.1	
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	5.3	< 10	

<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
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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall Performance

- No significant rains were received in the month of June. June is normally a cool month with insignificant amount of rains (Figure 1).
- The onset of the 2019 long rains was extremely late while the cessation was normal. Its performance was poor both in terms of amount as well as temporal and spatial distribution.

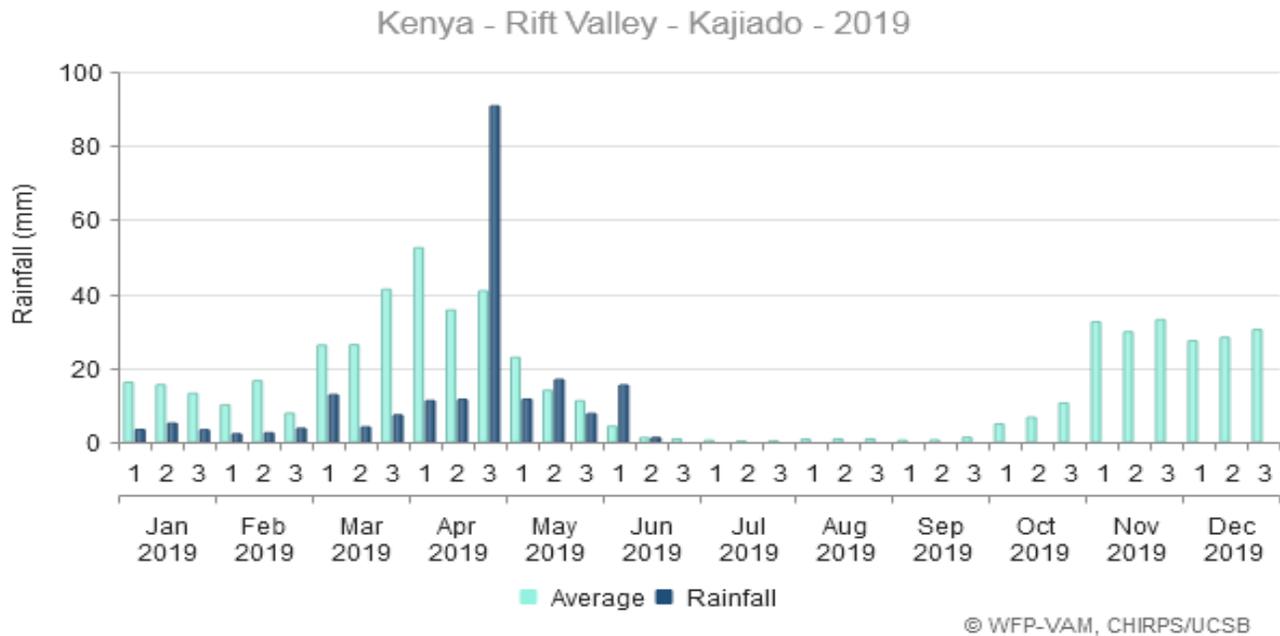
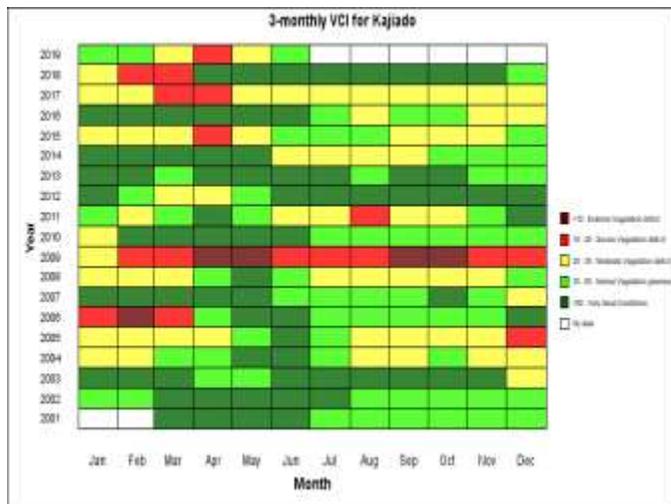


Figure 1: Rainfall performance for Kajiado County

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The vegetation greenness improved from severe deficit in April to normal in June possibly due to



long rains that the County received in April (Figure 2). The County vegetation condition index (VCI) in April was 17.07 and 36.23 in June.

- In June Kajiado North Sub-County was in moderate vegetation with vegetation condition index of 24.56.
- The County greenness was expected to remain within the normal band but in declining trend for the next three months.

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

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- Pasture in most parts of the County was fair and expected to last for the next two months. The poor 2019 long rains resulted into below normal regeneration of pasture.
- Pasture in Magadi, Mosiro and Kuku wards was poor and may not last for more than one month.
- Browse was good across the County and would last for at least the next three months.

2.3 Water Sources

- Key informants provided at most three sources of water in their communities.
- Eighteen out of twenty one (85.7%) Key Informants reported boreholes/shallow wells as one of their three sources of water (Figure 3).
- In May, all (100%) of the key informants mentioned pans/dams as one of the three water sources in their areas. The shift from pans to boreholes/shallow wells was due to drying up of some pans in June.

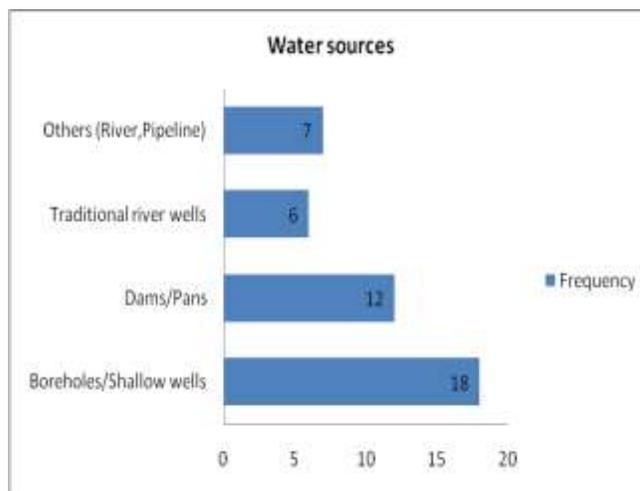


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, June 2019

2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The average return distance that individuals covered to access water for domestic use in June was 5.2 km. In May, this distance was 4.0 km. The long term average distance for the month is 3.9 km (Figure 4).
- The increase in distance to water sources from homesteads in June compared to May was due to drying up of some sources such as seasonal river wells. Most households were drawing water from boreholes/shallow wells.

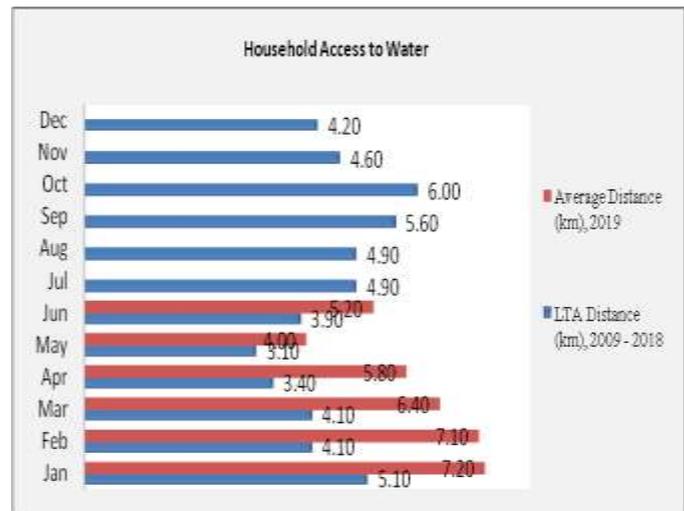


Figure 4: Average return distance from homesteads to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

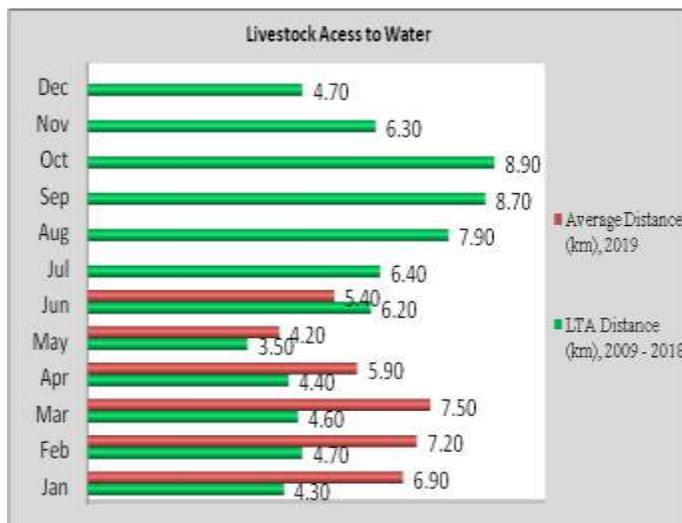


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing fields to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

- The average return distance covered by livestock from grazing fields to watering sources increased from 4.2 km in May to 5.4 km in June (Figure 5) possibly due to drying up of some pans in the month of June.
- Livestock in Lenkism and Mbirikani were covering a return distance of nearly 8 km from grazing fields to the water points.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock all species across livelihoods were in moderate body condition in the month of June as pasture and browse were now fairly available.
- In May cattle in West pastoral were in fair body condition while those in Central and South pastoral were in good body condition.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were confirmed cases of Lumpy Skin Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumoia in the County by June.
- Vaccination against Lumpy Skin Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumoia (as preventive measure) across was now ongoing.

3.3 Livestock Mortalities

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

3.4 Livestock Migration

- During the month of June, there was no inter-County migration of livestock in search for pasture. No such migration was expected within the next one month as pasture was fairly available in various parts of the County.

3.5 Milk Production

- Milk production improved in June with 4.0 litres per day per household compared to April when households produced 3.1 litres a day. The increased milk production in May and June was probably due to fairly available pasture and water during the period.
- In a good year, the average household milk production is about 6 litres a day.

3.6 Rain-fed Crop Production

- Maize was in vegetative stage while beans were podding. In a normal year maize would have tassled and beans would have been harvested.
- Crops were severely moisture stressed and the harvest is projected to be below 40 percent of long term average.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- Ilbisisl, Shompole, Kiserian, Kimana and Rombo are the major livestock markets in the County. These markets were operating normally in June..

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

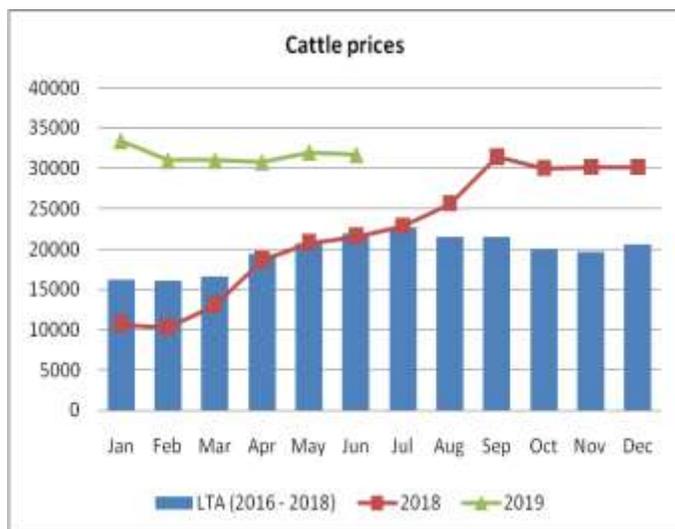


Figure 6: Average price of cattle; Kajiado County, 2016-2019

- Prices of cattle remained nearly stable between May and June due to stability of their body conditions.
- In June an average bull was selling at Ksh. 31,700 and Ksh 32,000 in May (Figure 6).
- The average price of cattle for the last three years is Ksh. 21,900.
- No significant livelihood variation in cattle prices that were observed in June.

4.1.2 Goats Prices

- The market price of a two year old goat averaged Ksh. 4,200 in May and Ksh. 4,240 in June (Figure 7).
- The stability of the goats' prices during May-June period was due to their good and stable body condition during the period.
- In pastoral west (Ewuaso), the average price of a goat was Ksh. 2,920
- The average price for the last three years is Ksh. 3,050.



Figure 7: Average price of goats; Kajiado County, 2016-2019

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

- On average, a kilogram of maize was retailing at Ksh. 52 in June (Figure 8) with significant variations among livelihoods..
- In pastoral south maize was selling at Ksh 40 per kilogram and in pastoral west it was selling at Ksh. 65 per kilogram.
- Last month maize was selling at Ksh. 54 per kilogram
- The current price was similar to the average price for the past three years.

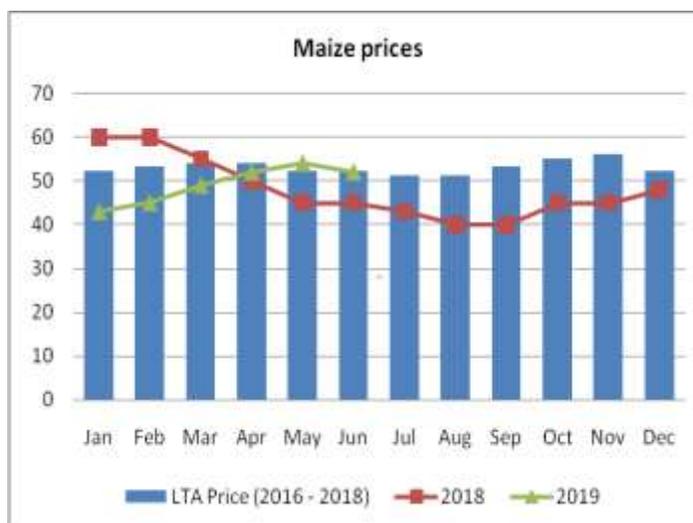


Figure 8: Average prices of maize; Kajiado 2016 - 2019

4.2.2 Beans Prices

- The retail price of beans averaged Ksh. 94 per kilogram in June (Figure 9). In pastoral south (Rombo) and in mixed farming areas of Kimana and Loitokitok a kilogram of beans was selling at

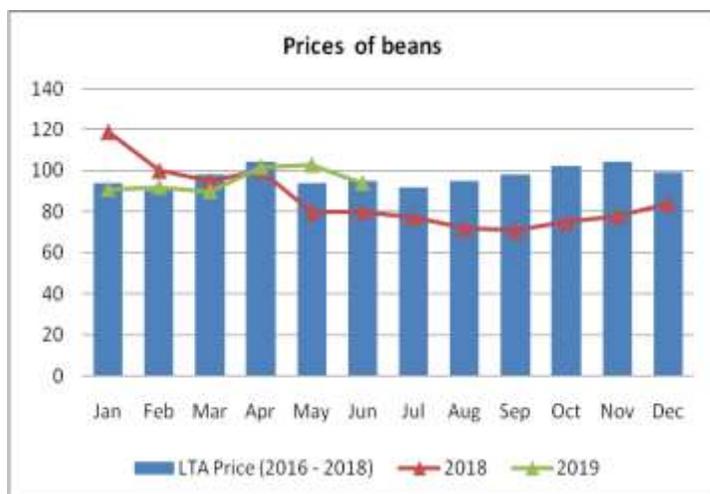


Figure 9: Average prices of beans; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

Ksh. 70 and Ksh. 100 in pastoral west (Mosiro, Ewuaso, Magadi).

- These differences in prices of food commodities would be explained by the accessibility of the places. Pastoral west has poor roads infrastructure.
- For the previous three years the market price of beans averaged Ksh.90 per kilogram.

4.3 Prices of Milk

- On average, a litre of milk was Ksh. 55 in May and June with no livelihood variations. The average price of milk for June for the last three years is Ksh. 60.
- Reduction in price of milk was attributed to slight increase in production as a result of improved pasture and water availability.

4.4 Terms of Trade

- The terms of trade for the pastoralists were stable for the past three months. In April, one would



Figure 10: Terms of trade for Kajiado; 2016 - 2019

exchange a goat for 78 kilograms of maize and in June one would exchange a goat will 80 kilograms of maize (Figure 10).

- In pastoral west, the terms of trade were 45 kilograms of maize per goat.
- For the past three years the terms of trade in June averaged 61 kilograms of maize per goat.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS AND DISEASE

5.1 Milk Consumption

- The daily household milk consumption in June was 3 litres. In May it was 2.6 litres a day. The increase is attributed to increased production in the month of June.
- The long term average milk consumption per household during this time of the year is about 4 litres a day.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- About three-quarters (76.6%) of the households were consuming acceptable diet in the month of June. Kajiado west had the highest proportion of households (6.3%) consuming poor diet during the month (Figure 11).
- Household access to dietary diversity especially in pastoral west was limited by high prices of food commodities as well as poor roads infrastructure.

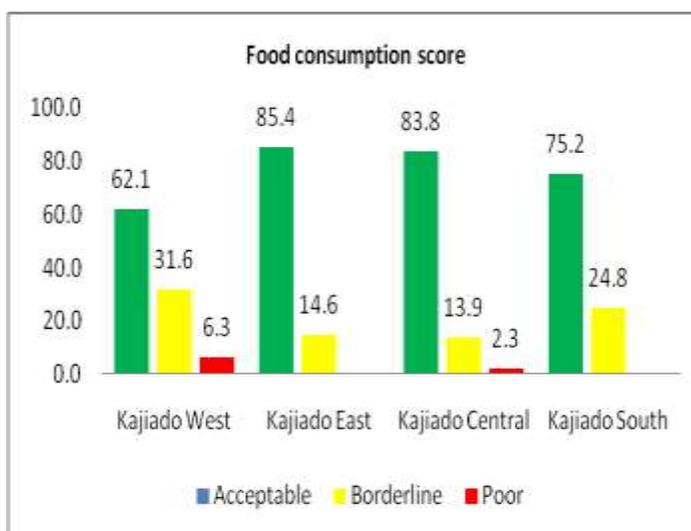


Figure 11: Food consumption score; Kajiado County, May 2019

5.3 Coping Strategies

- On average households in the County were employing normal food consumption coping strategies including use of less expensive food and reducing the size of meals consumed per day.
- The average coping strategy index for the county was 5.31

5.4 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

- The proportion of under-fives who were at risk of malnutrition stalled for the last three months. In April, May and June the proportions of children aged 6 - 59 months who were at risk of malnutrition were 7.3%, 7.2% and 7.3% respectively (Figure 12).
- The long term average proportion of children at risk of malnutrition for the month of June is 10.1%.
- Pastoral west recorded the highest proportion at 8.9% children at risk of malnutrition.
- Stability of risk of malnutrition would be explained by household access to dietary diversity as suggested by food consumption score shown in Figure 11.

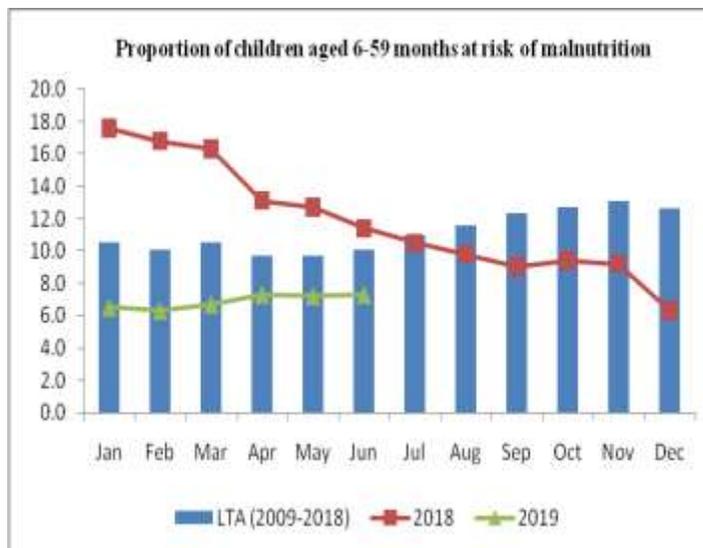


Figure 12: Risk of malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months; Kajiado, 2014 - 2019

5.5 Human Diseases

- There were no reported cases of disease outbreak in the County in June.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

A number of factors were likely to influence the County food security situation in the next three months.

- Livestock productivity was likely to decline;
 - ✓ Their body condition was likely to deteriorate, as available pasture could be depleted by August and distances to watering points increase.
 - ✓ Their prices and milk production would reduce if livestock body condition deteriorates.
- Cattle were likely to start migrating to the neighboring counties by August.
- Crop yield was projected to be less than 40% of the long-term average for the season. This would probably result into increased prices of foodstuffs.
- Household access to dietary diversity was likely to be limited by the projected high prices of foodstuffs. This would probably result into more households consuming poor diet.
- Consumption of poor diet may increase cases of malnutrition mostly among under-fives and among expectant and lactating mothers.

6.2 Ongoing Interventions

- Vaccination of livestock against Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and Pestes des petits Ruminant across the County; *By County Government and with support from Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project and Kenya Climate Smart Agricultural project.*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- Vaccination campaign against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia. *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners.*
- Training of communities on various value addition and alternative livelihoods. *Action by National Drought Management Authority and other partners.*
- Construction of Oloichumari water pan. *Action by National Drought Management Authority, County Government and other partners.*