National Drought Management Authority

KAJIADO COUNTY
DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING BULLETIN – JUNE 2020

A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

JUNE EW PHASE

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

- ✓ A few places got some light showers in the first and second week of June. This was normal as the wet season ends in May.
- ✓ Vegetation greenness was above normal and, pasture and browse was good and accessible.
- ✓ Distances to water sources for both livestock and domestic use were shorter than long term average for similar period.

Production and Access Indicators

- ✓ Livestock were in good body condition and in their normal grazing fields while their prices were stable and above short term average.
- ✓ Milk production was within the normal range during the month.
- ✓ Crops yields in mixed farming areas were near normal for long rains season.

Access indicators

- ✓ The terms of trade for pastoralists was above the long term average for this time of the year.
- ✓ Similarly, the average household milk consumption was above the long term average.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ A few households who lacked money to buy their preferred food would still eat less preferred food to cope with the situation.
- ✓ The risk of malnutrition for under-fives was less this time compared to the historical average for similar time of the year

Biophysical Indicators		Observed Value/Range	Normal Values/Range
3-monthly VCI		77.99	35 - 50
State of water		Adequate	Adequate
Pasture condition		Good	Good
Production Indicators		**Observed Value/State**	**Normal Value/State**
Cattle body condition		Good	Good
Household daily milk production		4.3 litres	4.5 litres
migration pattern		No migration	No migration
Crop yield		Near normal	Normal
Access Indicators		**Observed Value**	**Normal Value**
Terms of trade		85 kg of maize/goat	66 kg of maize/goat
Household daily milk Consumption		3.3 litres	2.8 litres
Distance to water source	Livestock	3.8 km	6.2 km
	Households	4.0 km	4.2 km
Utilization indicators		**Observed Value**	**Normal Range**
Coping strategy index		5.44	<10
MUAC (% <135 mm)		7.0%	<7.5%

▪ Short rains harvest ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH food stock	▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High calving rate ▪ Milk yields increase	▪ Long rains harvest ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH food stocks	▪ 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

- June is usually a dry month following the cessation of long rains (Figure 1). This year, parts of the County especially central and north received some light showers for three days (7/06/2020, 12/06/2020 and 13/06/20) during the first and second week of the month.

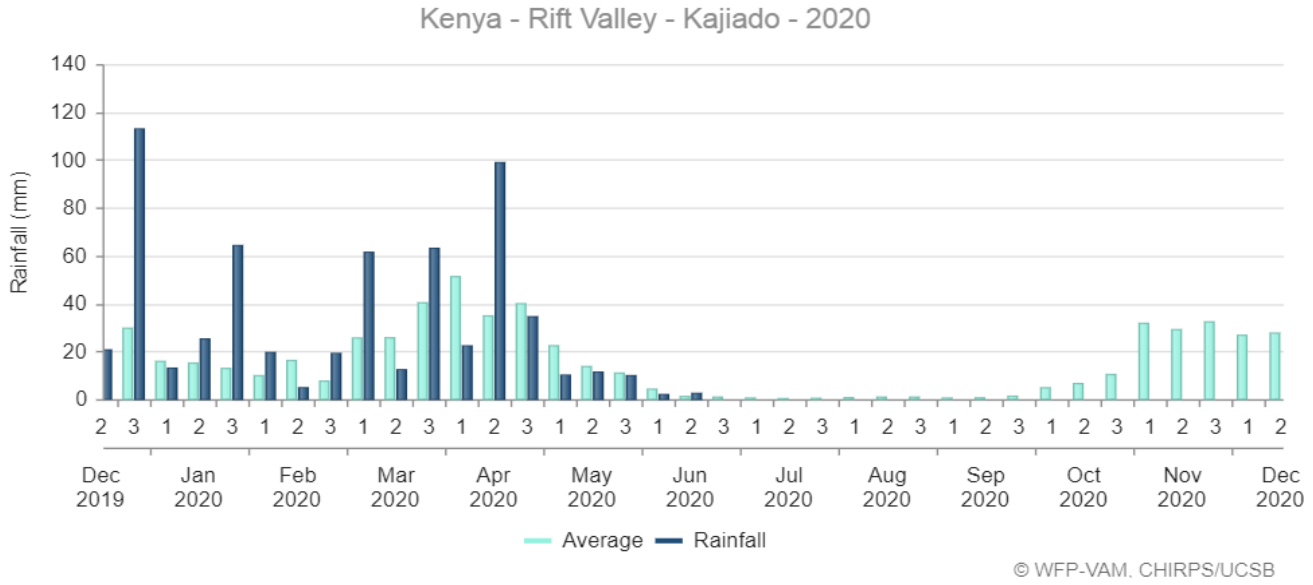

Figure 1: *Rainfall performance, Kajiado County*

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- This year, the County vegetation greenness remained above normal (Figure 2). This is because during the last two consecutive rainy seasons, the county received good rains.
- In June this year, the 3-monthly vegetation condition index was 77.99 compared to a normal range of 35-50.
- The vegetation greenness was likely to be above the normal for the next two months.

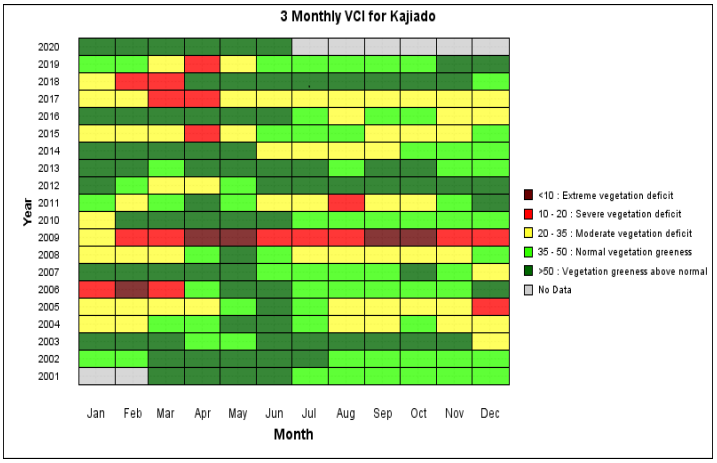

Figure 2: *3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado, 2001 - 2020*

2.2 Pasture and Browse Situation

- This month, pasture was good across all livelihood zones and would last up to the next two months.
- *Ipomea* weed continue to hinder pasture access mostly in pastoral central (Dalalekuyuk,Matapato and purko) and Agro-pastoral central and east (Dalalekutuk, Imaroro and Mashuuru).
- Browse was good across all livelihoods and would probably last for the next three months.

2.3 Water Sources

- Information on water sources is a multi-response referring to the three water sources used by the community during the month.
- Most (21 out of 24) communities got water from pans in addition to other two sources (Figure 3). This is normal for this time of the year.
- Pans were likely to dry up by mid July. This would make boreholes the main source of water.

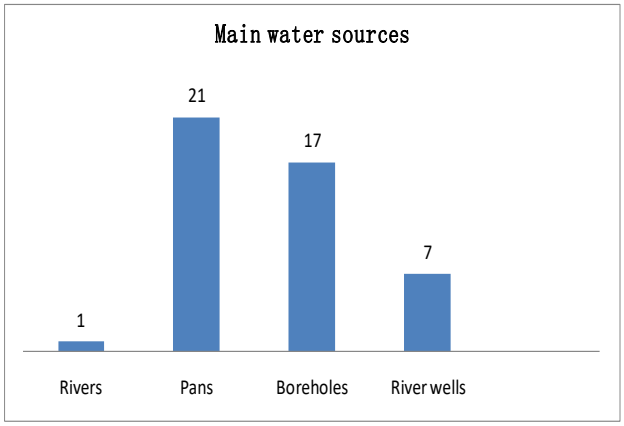

Figure 3: Main water sources*; Kajiado, June, 2020*

2.4 Households Access to Water

- The average distance to water sources from homes increased from 3.0 km in May to 4.0 km in June (Figure 4).The long-term average for similar period of the year is 4.2 km.

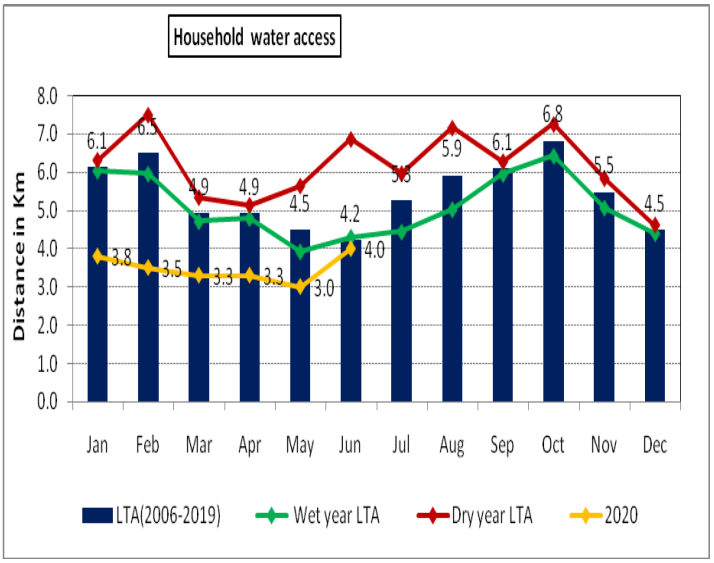

Figure 4: *Household distance to water source; Kajiado, 2006-2020.*

- During June, some of the water sources such as traditional river wells, rock catchments and seasonal streams dried up. Households that drew water from these sources shifted to mainly boreholes. The later water source is usually far than the former.
- No livelihood variations in distances that households travelled to access water during the month.
- As the County progress into the dry period, households were likely to travel long distance to fetch water for domestic use.

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- In June, seasonal water sources such as seasonal streams and traditional river wells had started drying up.

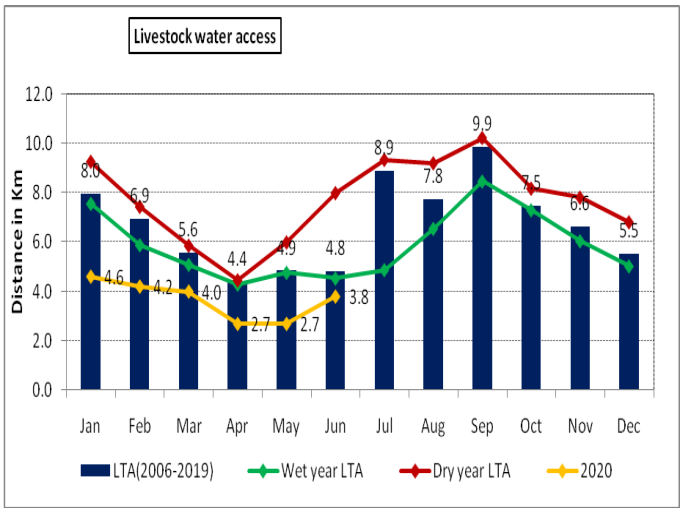

Figure 4: *Household distance to water source; Kajiado, 2006-2020.*

- This pushed the distance that livestock covered from grazing fields from 2.7 km in May to 3.8 km in June. The long-term average distance during the month is 6.2 km (Figure 5).
- Livestock in pastoral zone covered slightly longer distance than the County average distance to access water.
- However, livestock all species were watered nearly every day

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock all species were in good body condition. They were fat with smooth appearance.
- Pasture, browse and water were available and accessible by livestock for the next two months. Livestock body condition was, therefore, likely to be good and stable during the period.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were confirmed case of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) across the County.

3.3 Livestock Migration

- During the month, there were no cases of migration of livestock in search of pasture or water.

3.4 Milk Production

- Cattle are the main source of milk in the County. During the month, household daily milk production was 4.3 l compared to the long-term average of 4.5 l a day (Figure 6).
- Pastoral households were producing slightly more (4.7 l) than the County average due to higher tropic livestock units compared to other livelihoods.
- Milk production was likely to stabilize near normal for the next two month.

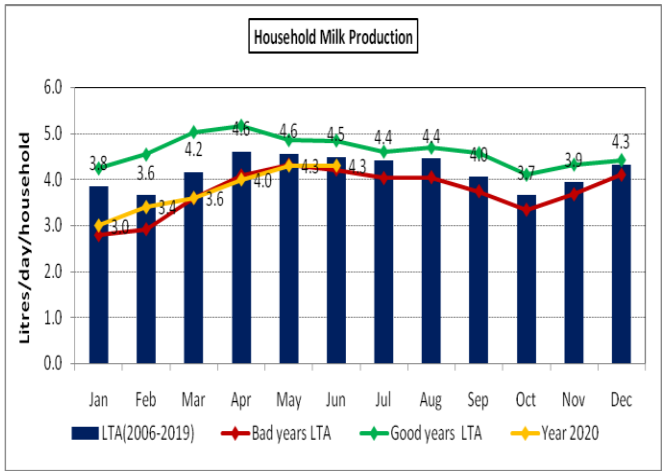

Figure 6: *Household milk production; Kajiado, 2006 -2020*

3.5 Crop Performance

- In mixed farming areas, maize was harvested when still green. The yield was near normal for this season.
- In Agro pastoral zones maize was now drying after maturing. Maize yield in this zone was likely to be below normal. The crop had suffered from moisture stress during maturity period.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- The main livestock markets in the County include Rombo, Kimana, Ilmbisil, Shompoles and Kiserian.
- Like many other sectors, markets operations during the month were below normal because of COVID-19 pandemic.

4.1.1 Cattle prices

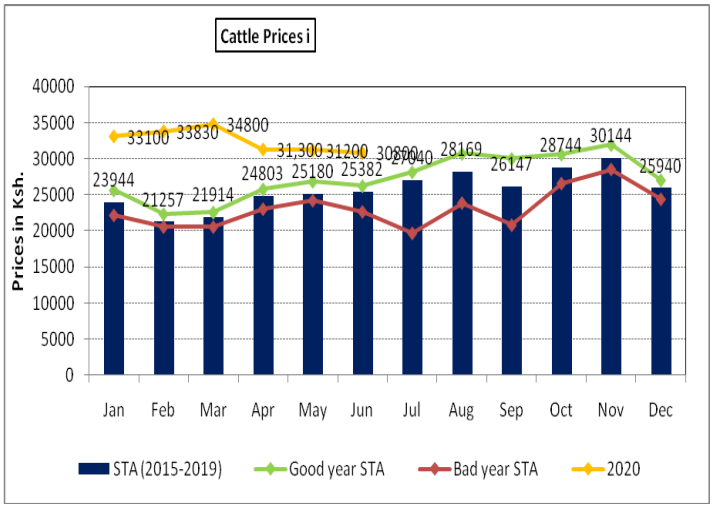

Figure 2: Average prices of cattle; Kajiado, 2015 – 2020

- A medium size bull was selling at Ksh. 31,200 in May and Ksh. 30,800 in June (Figure 6).
- For the last five years, the price of a medium sized bull in June averaged Ksh. 25,400.
- In Pastoral west, a medium size bull would sell as low as Ksh. 20,500.

4.1.2 Prices of Goats

- In June, the average price of a medium size goat was Ksh. 4,580 while in May it was Ksh. 4,230 (Figure 8).
- The increase was probably due to low volumes of livestock in the markets.
- For the past five years, the average price of a medium size goat in June is Ksh. 3,880
- In Pastoral west a size goat would sell as high as Ksh. 5,000.

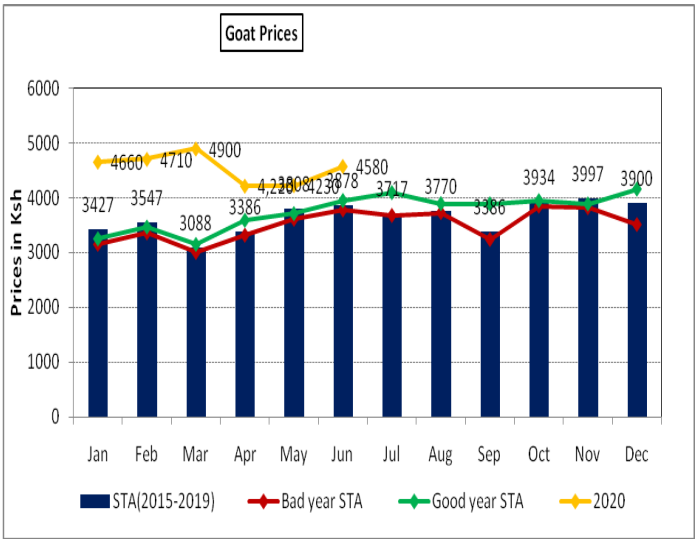

Figure 8: *Average price of goats; Kajiado, 2015 - 2020*

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Prices of Maize

- The average price of maize was stable for the last three consecutive months with a kilogram of maize selling at Ksh. 54 in April 53 in May and 54 in June (Figure 9).
- For the last five years, the average price of maize is Ksh. 53 per kilogram.
- In pastoral west that is usually less accessible, maize was selling as high as Ksh. 60 per kilogram.
- With possible near normal harvest of long rains in the neighbouring counties, prices of maize was likely to remain stable for the next one month.

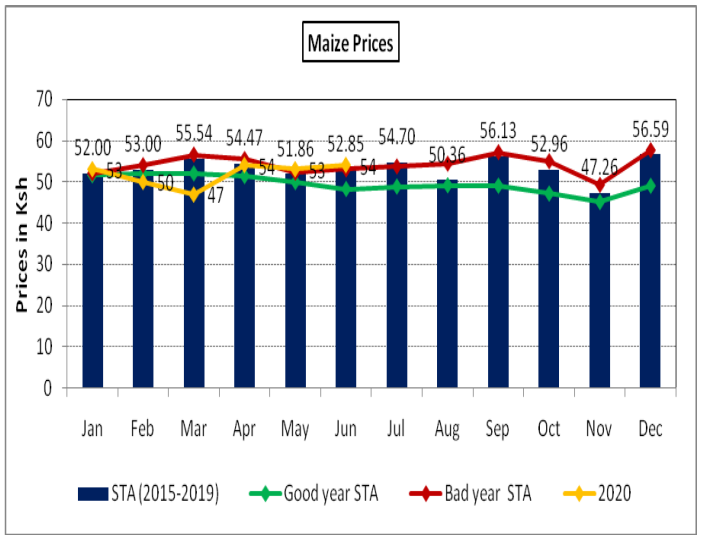

Figure 10: *Average price beans; Kajiado, 2015 - 2020*

4.2.2 Prices of Beans

- Prices of beans increased steadily from Ksh. 91 per kilogram in January to Ksh. 107 in June. The average price for the previous five months in June is Ksh. 91 per kilogram (Figure 10).
- Beans harvest was poor for the last two consecutive seasons.
- In pastoral west a kilogram of maize would sell as high as Ksh. 120.

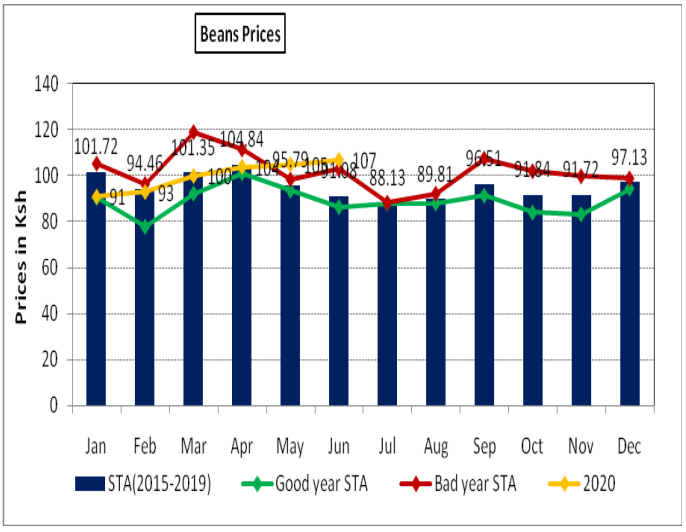

Figure 10: *Average price beans; Kajiado, 2015 - 2020*

4.3 Prices of Milk

- In May and June, a litre of milk was selling at Ksh. 50. The stability of milk prices during these two months was probably due to stable production.

4.3 Livestock Terms of Trade

- The terms of trade for pastoralist improved after sudden decline in April following COVID-19 pandemic in March.
- In June, one would buy 85 kilograms of maize after selling a medium size goat. However, in April, one would buy 78 kilograms of maize for a medium size goat (Figure 11).
- The average terms of trade for the last five years is 66 kilograms of maize for a medium size goat.
- Agro-pastoral central had lower than the County average terms of trade with a medium size goat being able to buy 68 kilograms of maize.

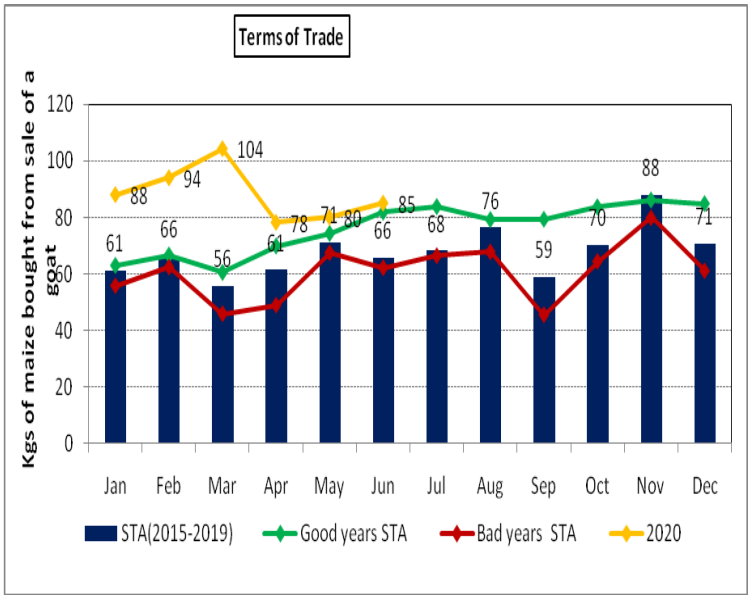

Figure 11*: Terms of trade; Kajiado, 2015 - 2020*

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

- The household milk consumption in June averaged 3.3 litres per day compared to 3.7 litres in May.

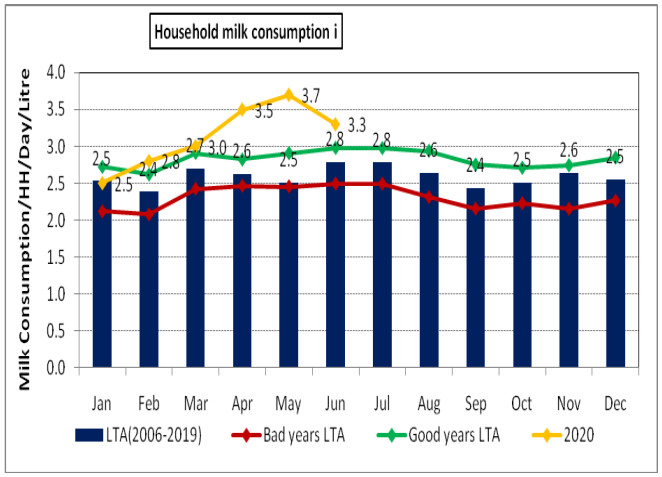

Figure 12: *Household milk consumption; Kajiado, 2006 - 2020*

The current milk consumption is above the long-term average, which is 2.8 litres a day per household (Figure 12).

- Households in Pastoral south consumed about 3.8 litres while those in Agro-pastoral east consumed 2.8 litres per day.
- Milk consumption was likely to stabilize for the next two months.

5.2 Food consumption

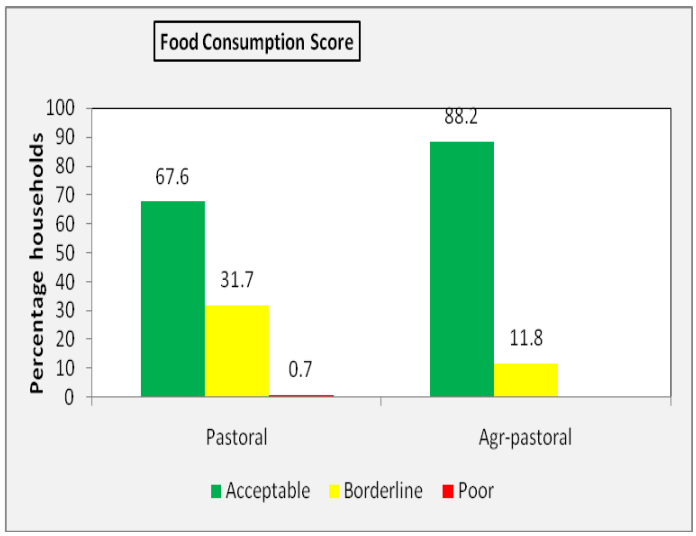

Figure 13: *Household food consumption score; Kajiado, June 2020*

- Figure 13 shows the food consumption scores by livelihoods in June.
- During the month, more than a quarter of the households in pastoral areas were at borderline.
- Close to one percent especially from pastoral west were consuming poor diet.
- Poor structural development such as unelaborated communication network in pastoral west is a major deriver of chronic food insecurity in pastoral west.

5.3 Coping strategy

- In June, the household coping strategy index was 5.44, which is indicative of less strenuous ways of get food or money to buy food. Some households ate less preferred food when they would not afford or get their preferred food.
- Pastoral households strained more to have food compared to Agro-pastoral households with coping strategy index of 6.4 and 3.1 respectively**.**

5.4 Human Diseases

- There were no reports of human disease outbreak in June. However, the County had been reporting several COVID -19 positive cases.

5.3 Nutritional Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

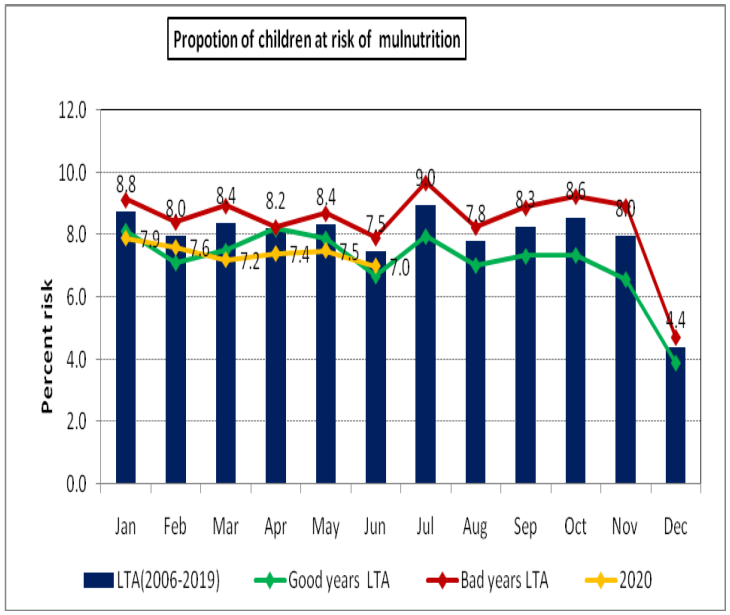

Figure 13*: Proportion of children aged 6-59 month at risk of malnutrition; Kajiado, 2006 - 2020*

- This year, malnourishment among under-fives remains lower than the long term average. In June the proportion of children age 6-59 months who were at risk of malnutrition was 7.0 percent compared to the long term average risk of 7.5 percent (Figure 13).
- Magadi, Mosiro, Lenkism and Mbirikani wards as well as informal settlements are major hotspots areas for mulnutrition.

FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- In the next three months, the production assets especially livestock body condition would probably remain good. Milk production and livestock prices would probably be stable enough to boost access to food.
- Mixed farming households would probably have food stocks to last for the next two to three months.
- Most households would continue employing normal coping strategies for the next three months while the risk of malnutrition for under-fives was likely to remain lower than the long term average during the period.
- Households that depends on waged labour especially those in informal settlement were now stressed and their condition would worsen with continued effect of COVID-19 pandemic.

6.2 Current Interventions

- Countywide vaccination against the Foot and Month Diseases and Peste des Petits Ruminants targeting 100,000 cattle and 400,000 shoats is was on going. *The exercise is financed through Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience project*
- Corona Virus Disease surveillance including*; by County Government, National Government and partners.*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- Implementation of proposed Mbirikani Integrated Livelihood project targeting about 50 women beneficiaries; *by National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with County government of Kajiado*
- Provision of food supplies to urban poor who may have lost their casual jobs especially those in informal settlements; *by County Government, National Government and partners*
- De-silting of strategic water pans ; *County government and partners*