



National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2020

MAY EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The County received moderate rainfall across livelihood zones. The temporal and spatial distribution was good.
- The vegetation cover index recorded was above normal range, with a declining trend across the livelihoods as indicated by the downtrend in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. Forage condition is good.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The livestock body condition remained good with stable trend across the County. Distance to water sources decreased.
- Milk production and consumption at household level is stable and is above the long term average.
- The terms of trade is favourable with a stable trend. Majority of households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index dropped.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	86	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	82	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	1.9	>1.6 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	101	>76
Milk Consumption	1.4	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	1.7 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

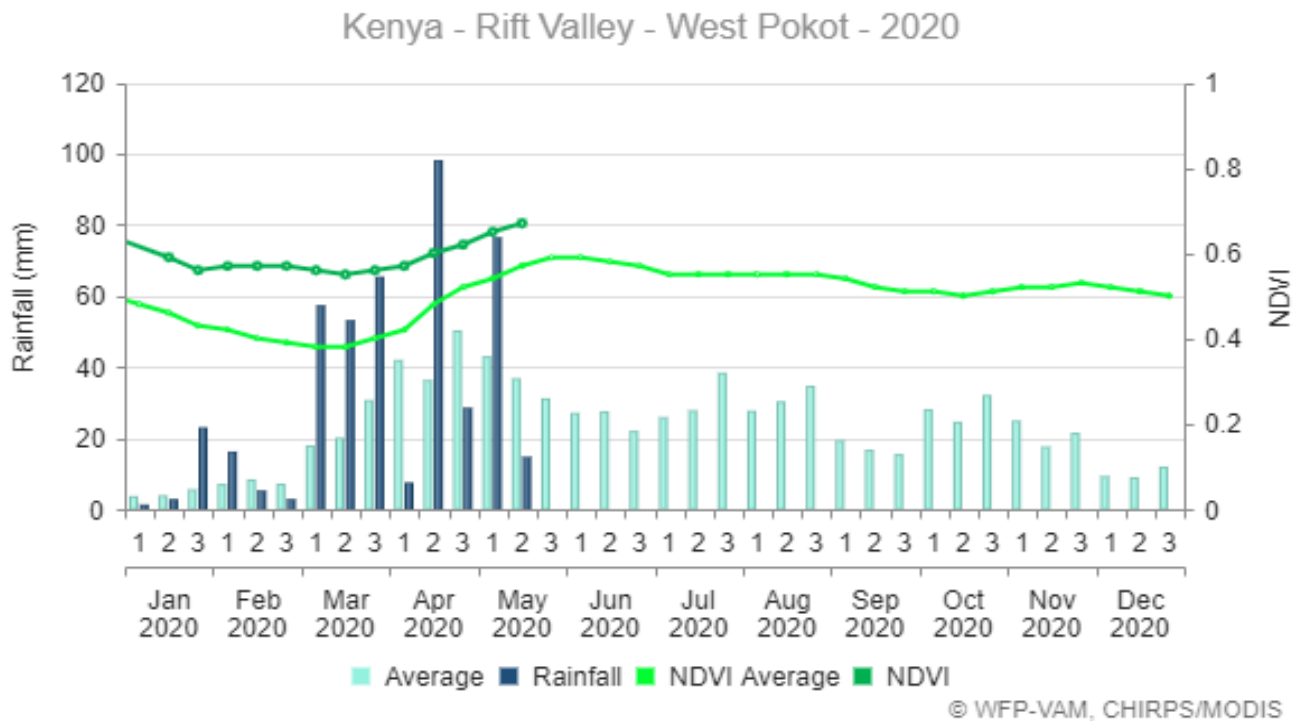
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	-	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.7	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	50	>35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Increased HH Food Stock ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions) 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- During the month, moderate rainfall was received. The intensity was good in both the lowlands and highlands.
- The rainfall situation is above normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The County’s dekadal rainfall increased from 7 mm to 76mm in the first dekad. The first dekad amounts were above normal.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- There was good spatial and temporal rainfall distribution across the livelihoods.

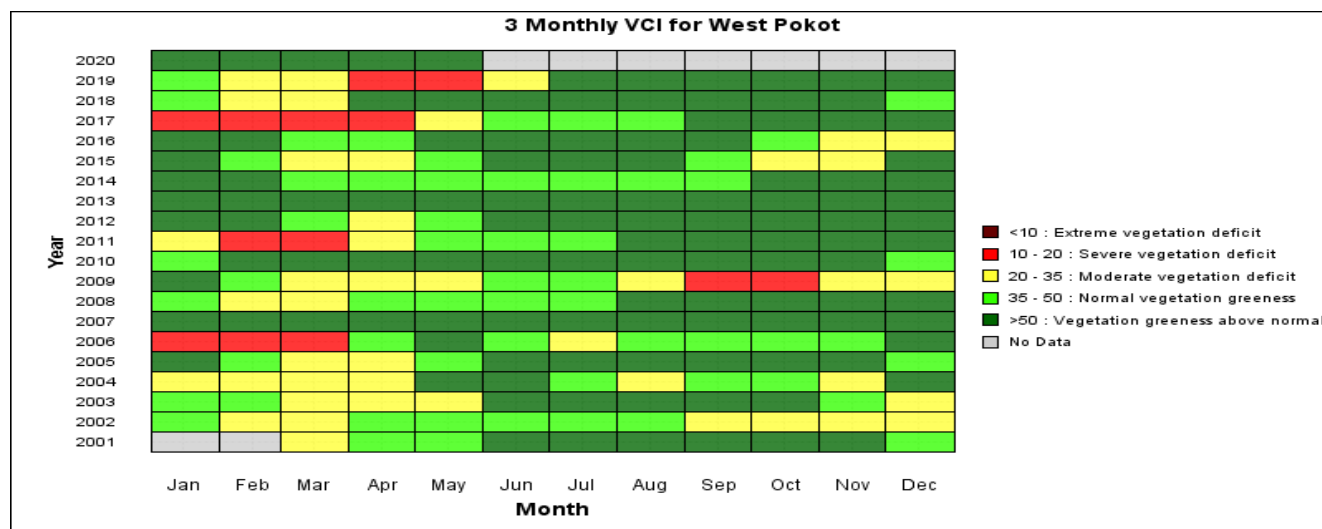
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Displaced victims of the landslides that occurred in Cheseгон along Elgeyo Marakwet border are still being hosted in the neighbouring families.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- The VCI (VCI-3month) which depicts the vegetation status of the County dropped to 86 from 102 recorded in April. The current VCI signifies above normal vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on stable trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. The decline in VCI is from 95 to 82, 103 to 94, 102 to 87 and 97 to 86 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The downward trend in VCI is due to modest rejuvenation of vegetation cover linked to moderate rainfall in May.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community members which recorded that the pasture was good is at 89 percent; up from 75 percent in April.
- The communities stated that pasture situation was good in all livelihood zones. The condition was normal for such time of the year. The trend is still improving in comparison to that of April attributed to adequate rainfall.
- The pasture condition is likely to remain stable further owing to cumulative effects of enhanced performance of long rains season.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood zones.

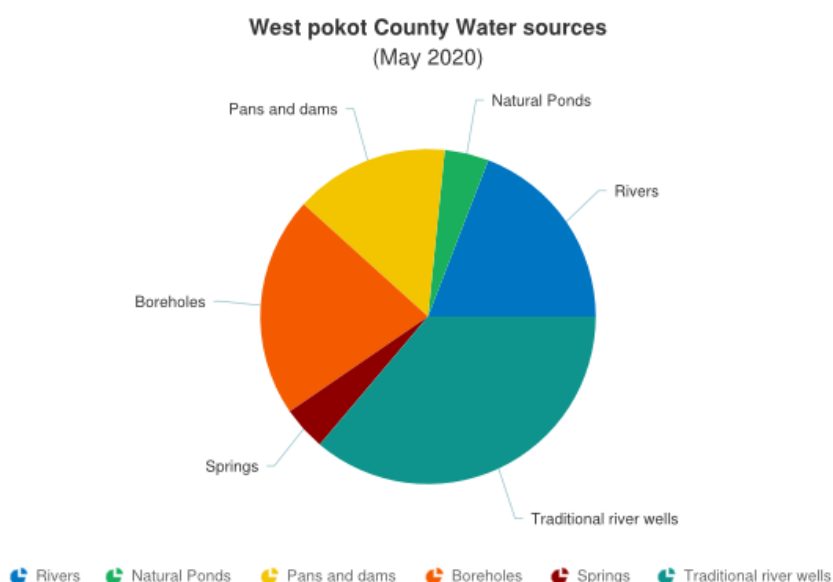
2.1.3 Browse

- During the month, the proportion of sampled community members which reported that browse condition was good at 100 percent; same as that recorded in the previous.
- The browse condition remained good across the livelihood zones and is normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is good as compared to that of April.
- The quantity of browse is good across the livelihood zones and there was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The forage access is still good attributed to intensified peace building efforts along conflict hotspots.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

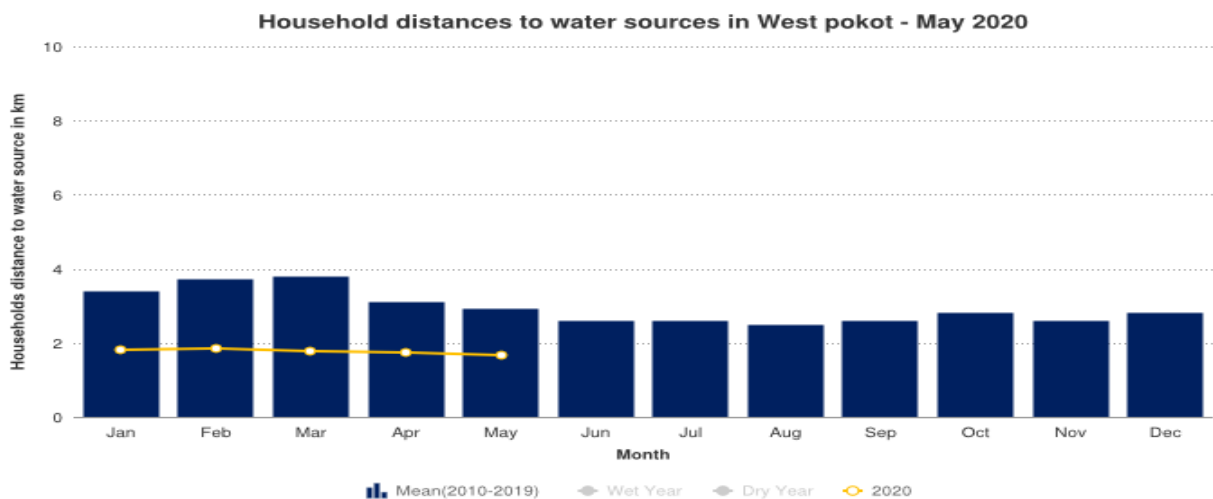
2.2.1 Sources

- In May, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock are; 17 percent for traditional river wells, 10 for boreholes, 9 percent for rivers while those using pans and dams were at 7 percent.
- The recharge was stable in all surface water sources in comparison to that of April. The situation is credited to good seasonal rains.
- The current main water sources in use are the normal ones used by households during such time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The return distance to water source from the household is at 1.7 km, same as that recorded in the previous month. The current distance is 41 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- The pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The stability in distance is attributed to sufficient seasonal water source recharge.

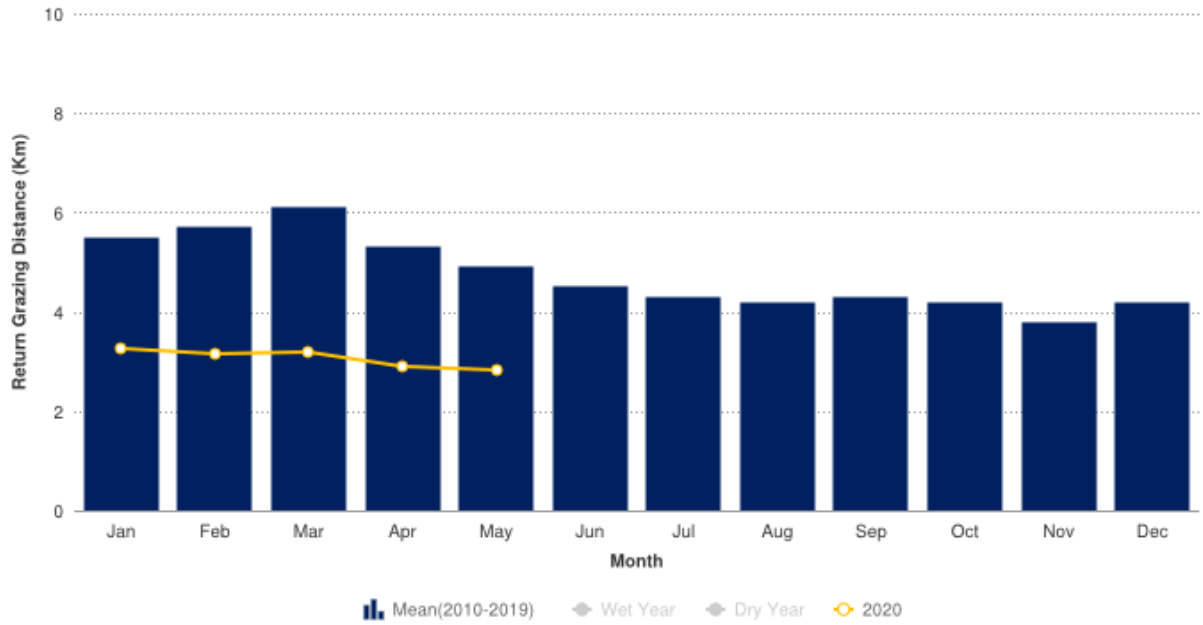


- The pastoral livelihood zones reported longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained at 18-20 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was at 15-18 litres.
- The cost of accessing water at the source is still free in the rural areas and different in urban centres where a 20 litre Jerrican cost was within normal ranges for the period at Kshs 5.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources is at 2.8 km, a slight decrease from 2.9 km recorded in April. The current trekking distance is 43 percent below the normal range.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

Distances from grazing areas to water points in West pokot County - May 2020



- The drop in livestock trekking distance to water points is credited to good seasonal rainfall performance coupled with heightened recharge to the water sources.
- Frequency of watering remained at 7 times in a week for cattle and shoats and 6 times in a week for camel.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- During the month, the body condition for all livestock species remained good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in comparison to that recorded the previous month, the condition is stable.
- The livestock body condition is expected to remain stable across the livelihood zones during the season.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The trend remained stable due to adequate forage rejuvenation.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and CCP was reported in Kapchok, Masol and Riwo wards.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

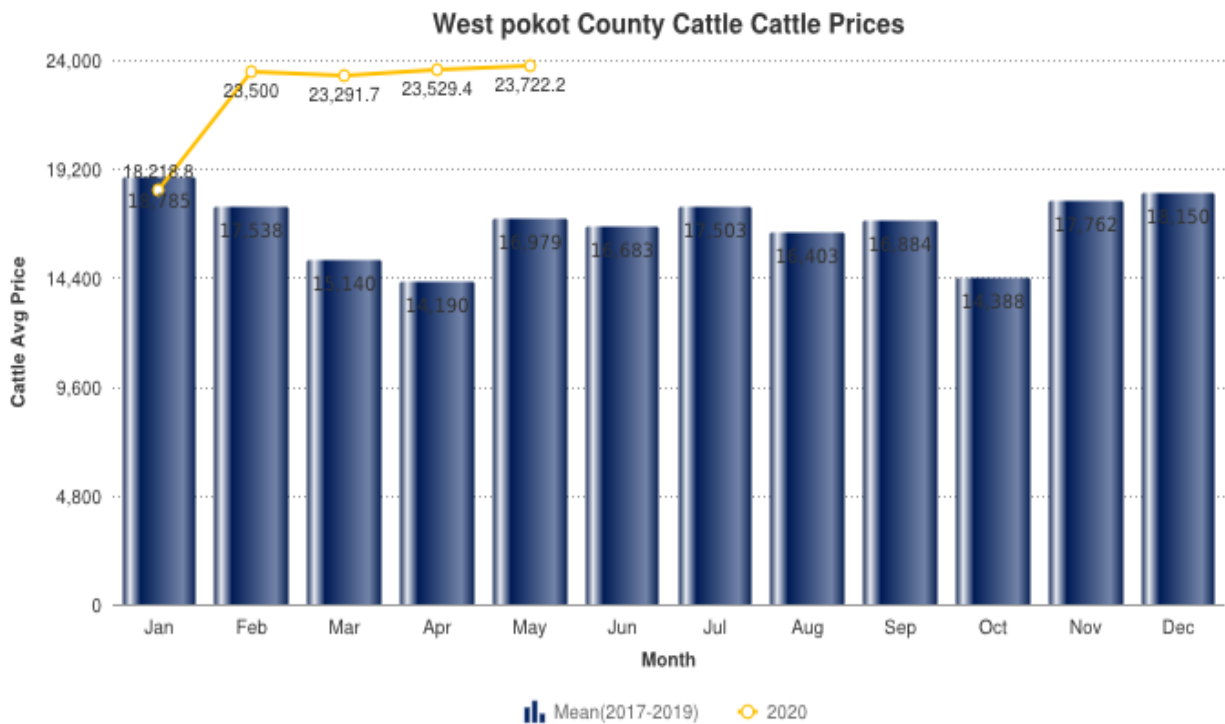
- The County's major crops cultivated include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Crop weeding is ongoing in both mixed and agro pastoral zones.
- During the month, the horticultural production and supply to major markets in Wakkor, Ortum and Lomut is at normal levels in comparison to the seasonal performance.
- The level of farming is enhanced along the horticultural production zones.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in highlands is ongoing. These are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

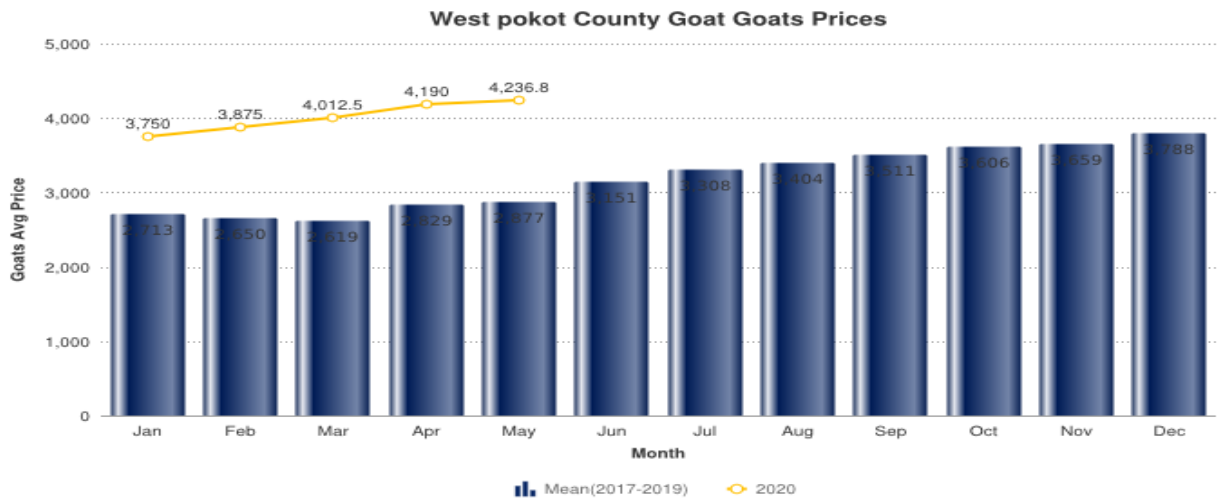
- In May, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 23,722, indicating an increase in price as compared to Kshs 23,529 reported in the April.



- The rise in cattle price is owed to improved body condition along with adequate forage access, as well as significant recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 40 percent above the LTA.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County recorded an average price of Kshs 4,237 for a 2-year old medium size goat in May, which depicted a rise in comparison with Kshs 4,190 recorded in April.

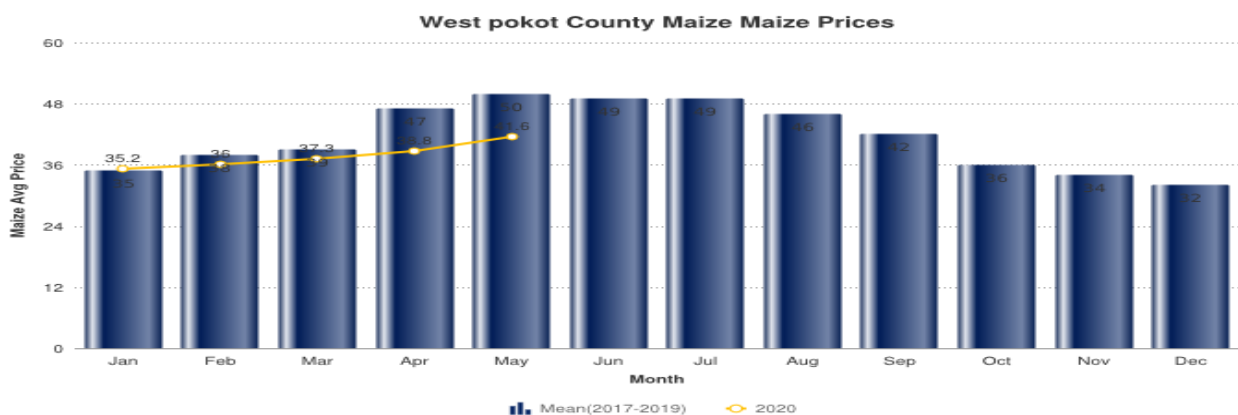


- The price up-trend is owed to good body condition for goats in the livelihoods.
- The current goat price is 47 percent above LTA for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- During the month, the maize was sold at Ksh 42 per kg, an increase from (Ksh 38) that was reported in the previous month.
- The current price is 16 percent below the LTA price.

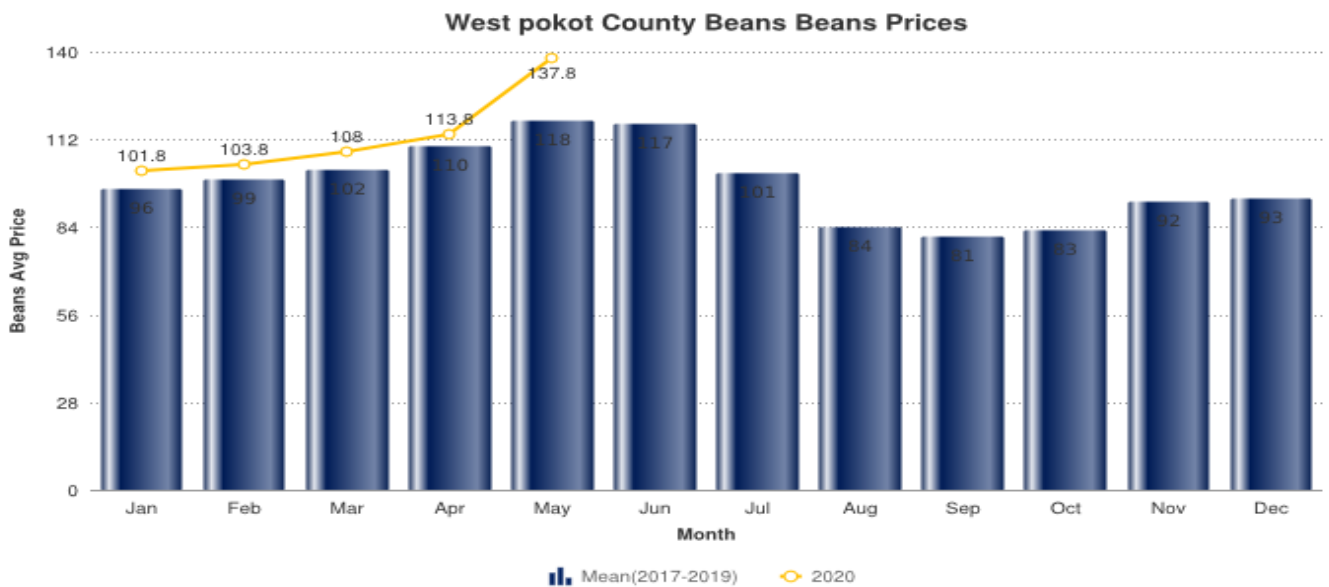


- The price rise is due to the interrupted supplies from Republic of Uganda due Covid 19 movement cessation.

- Most of the households depended more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is anticipated to increase due to the fluctuating external supplies.

4.2.2 Beans

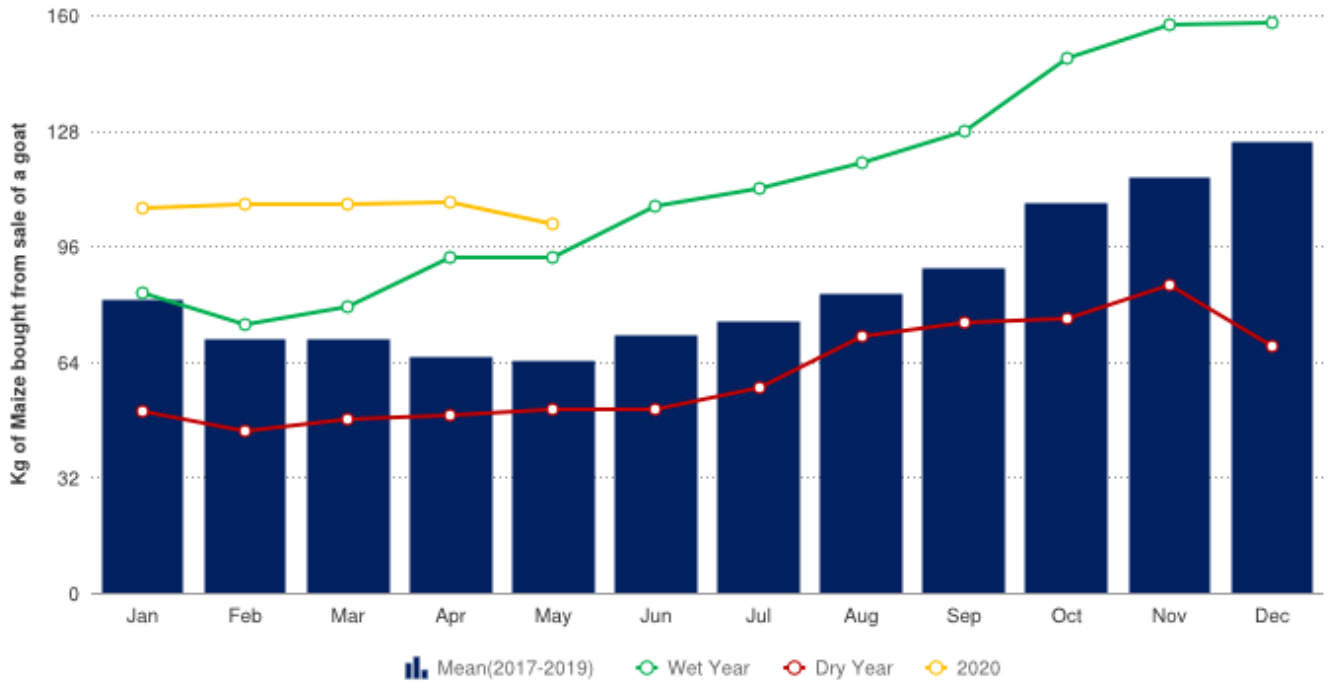
- In May, the beans traded at Kshs 138 per kg, demonstrating a sharp price rise in comparison to Kshs 114 reported in the previous month.
- The price up trend is associated with oscillating external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both depend on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 17 percent above the LTA price (Ksh.118) for similar period of the year.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is at 101 in May, a decrease from that recorded in April, demonstrating that households obtained same amount of maize for sale of a goat currently as compared to April.
- The downtrend trend in ToT is attributed to falling prices of maize in May arising from inaccessibility of supplies from Uganda due to Covid 19 containment measures .
- The TOT variation is projected over the next three months as the price of maize is expected to stabilize with the ongoing long rains season.

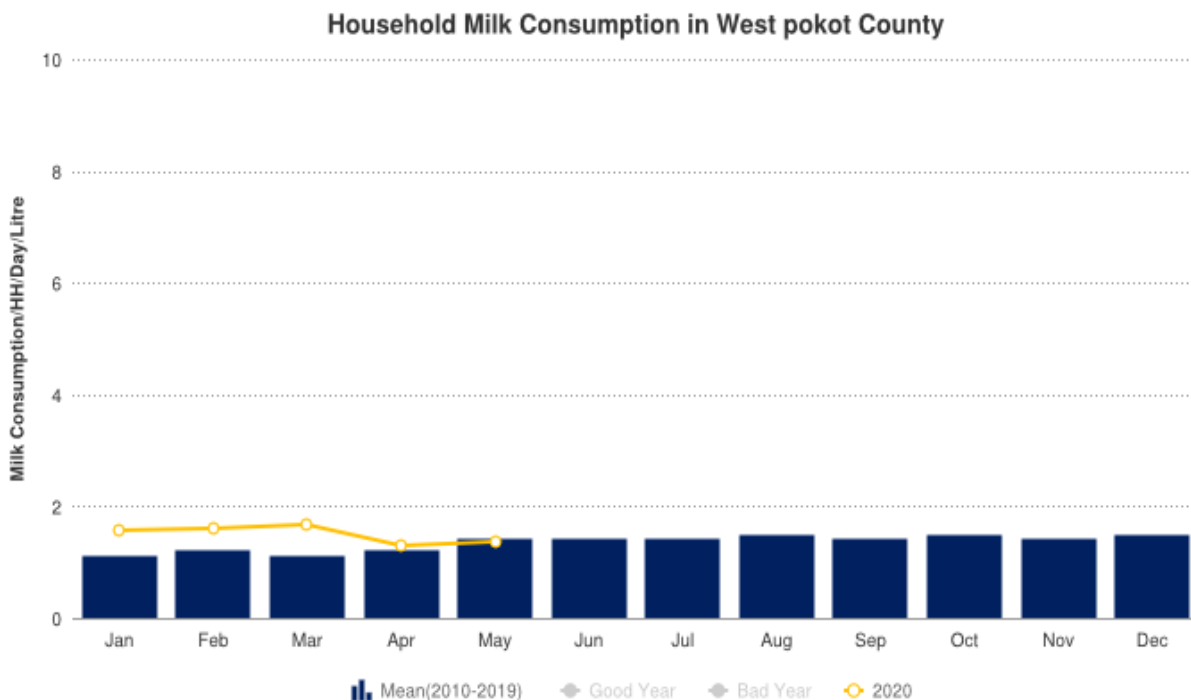
Terms of Trade - West pokot County



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The households across livelihood zones had milk consumption of 1.4 litres of milk on average, an increase as compared to that of April. The consumption is at par with the LTA.



- The increase in milk consumption is attributed to the stable milk production along with good livestock body condition and sufficient forage. Availability of milk is good in May.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The households' proportions of 75%, 24% and 1% were reported of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score went up for the acceptable category, while borderline category decreased as compared to April. The FCS is generally acceptable in May.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones was at 50; same as that recorded in April.
- There was significant variation between the two livelihood zones with for instance 100 percent of households in the agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 59% households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There are more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods.

5.3 HEALTH STATUS

5.3.1 Health

- Malaria is still a commonly reported ailment among the sampled households.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- In May, the County's CSI was at 1.7, a decrease from 1.8 recorded in April. The drop shows that households continue to employ few strategies to cope, which could be owed to favourable food commodity availability and good access at households and markets respectively.
- The pastoral zones recorded a CSI of 1.8 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.6.
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households during the month included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- Chesegon landslides victims' response is ongoing, targeting all displaced especially those living in camps. Blankets and other non-food items were also distributed.
- COVID-19 pandemic control measures are being enforced across the County.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- No livestock theft incidences were reported along West Pokot/Turkana border during the month.

7.2 MIGRATION

- Normal livestock movements were reported in May.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is expected to stabilize due to good effects of the past long rains season.
- The livestock productivity is projected to stabilize, as the forage conditions remains adequate with the ongoing rains occasioning good livestock body condition resulting to good livestock prices.
- Maize prices are anticipated to increase while goat price is likely to stabilize Therefore, the terms of trade would fluctuate within the period.
- Milk availability is likely to remain stable with enough pasture and water thus improving livestock production. Malnutrition cases are expected to decrease over the period, as children would access sufficient milk.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Household settling around flood/landslide risk areas are advised to move to safer places to avoid loss of lives and destruction of property during upcoming long rains season. They need to be mobilized to move to safer areas.

2. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Support sustainable peace building community projects at borders to bring both sides to work together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots of Turkana-West Pokot border.

3. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Intensify livestock vaccination particularly in wards with reported cases of Foot and Mouth Disease.

4. WATER SECTOR

- Support households on water storage technologies to ensure maximum use of the rain waters.