

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

**JUNE EW PHASE**

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- In June, the County received substantial rainfall across livelihood zones. The temporal and spatial distribution was good.
- The vegetation cover index recorded was above normal range, with a downward trend across the livelihoods as depicted by drop 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 is good with stable trend across the County. Distance to water sources slightly 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.
- Most of the 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	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>STABLE</b>

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	83	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot South)	79	>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)	1.6 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

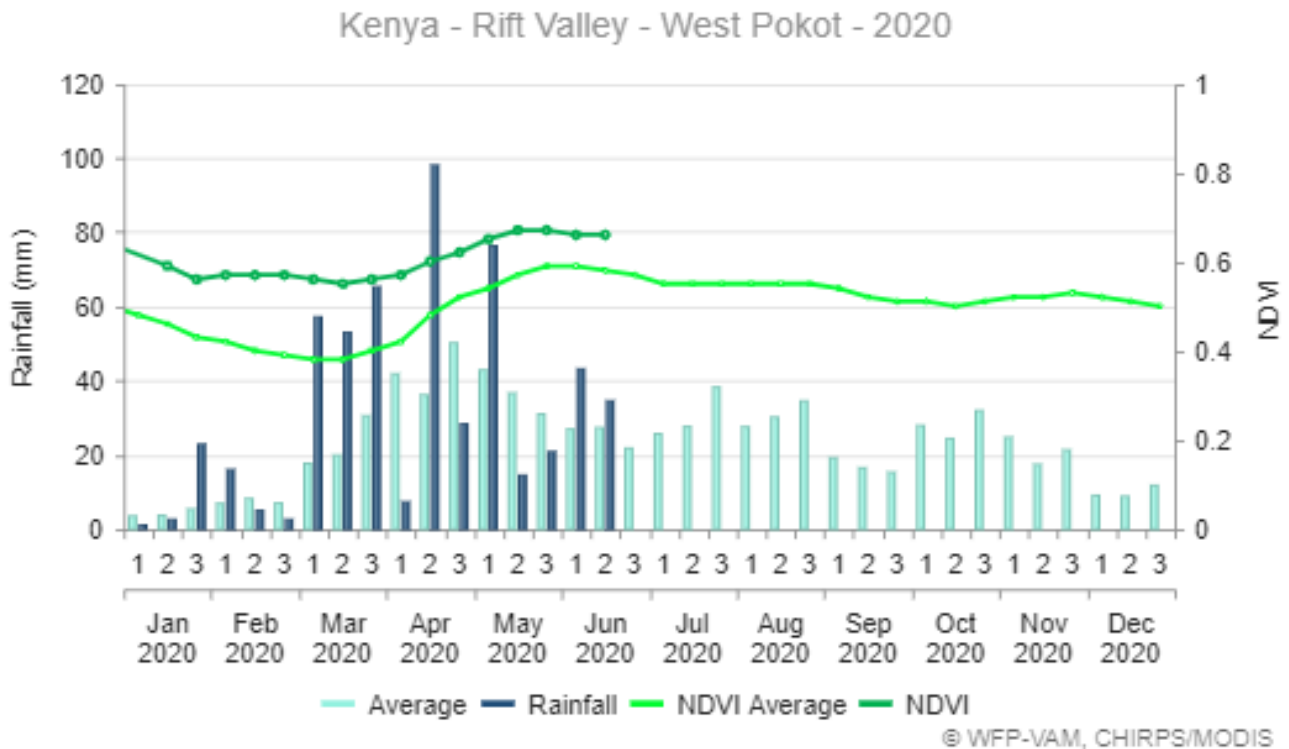
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	-	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.6	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	50	>35

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

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Moderate rainfall was received in June. The intensity remained 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 14 mm to 34mm in the second dekad in June.
- The dekad amounts were above normal.

## 1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

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

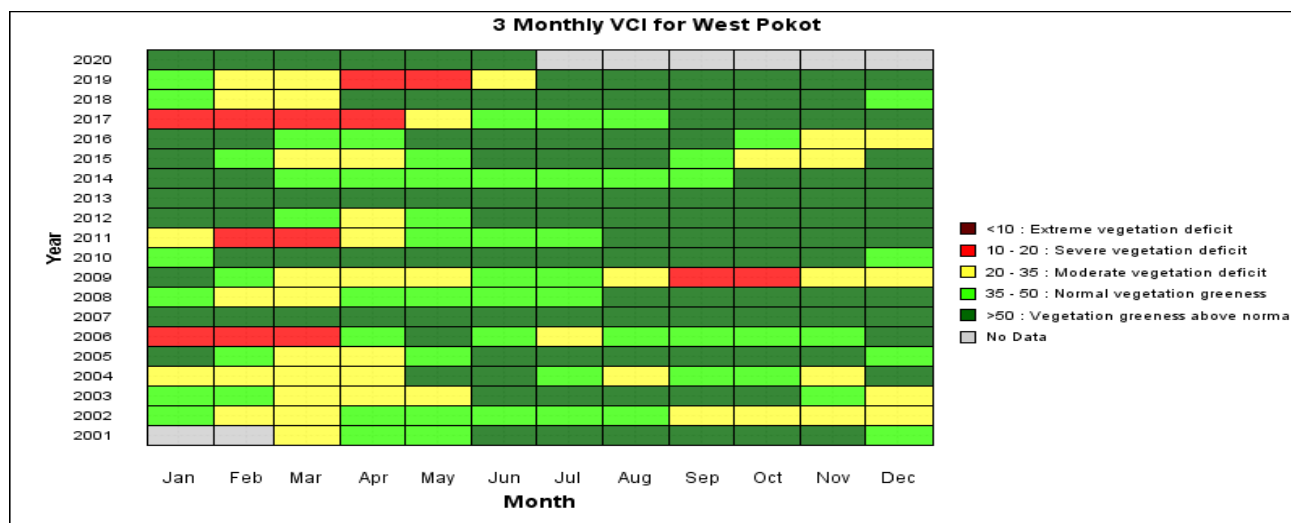
## 1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Resettlement of displaced victims of the landslides that occurred in Cheseгон along Elgeyo Marakwet border is ongoing supported by County multi-agency team.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- During the month, the VCI (VCI-3month) which portrays the vegetation status of the County slightly dropped to 83 from 86 recorded in May. The current VCI indicates above normal vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on steady trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. The slight drop in VCI is from 82 to 81, 94 to 89, 87 to 84 and 86 to 85 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The declining trend in VCI is attributed to moderate regeneration of vegetation cover associated with modest rainfall within the month.

#### 2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community members which recorded that the pasture was good is at 100 percent; up from 90 percent.
- The communities reported that pasture situation was good in all livelihood zones. The condition was normal for such time of the year. The trend is stable in comparison to that of the previous month owing to significant rains.
- The pasture condition is expected to stabilize further due 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.

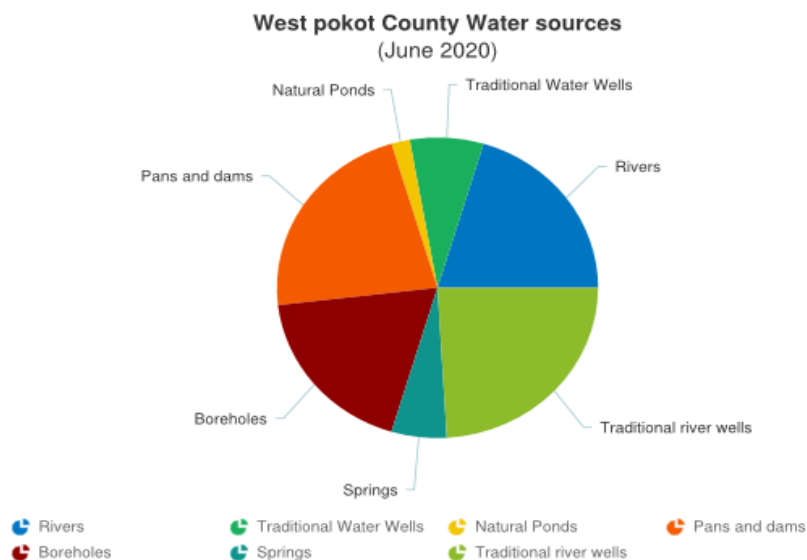
### 2.1.3 Browse

- 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 is 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 the previous month.
- 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

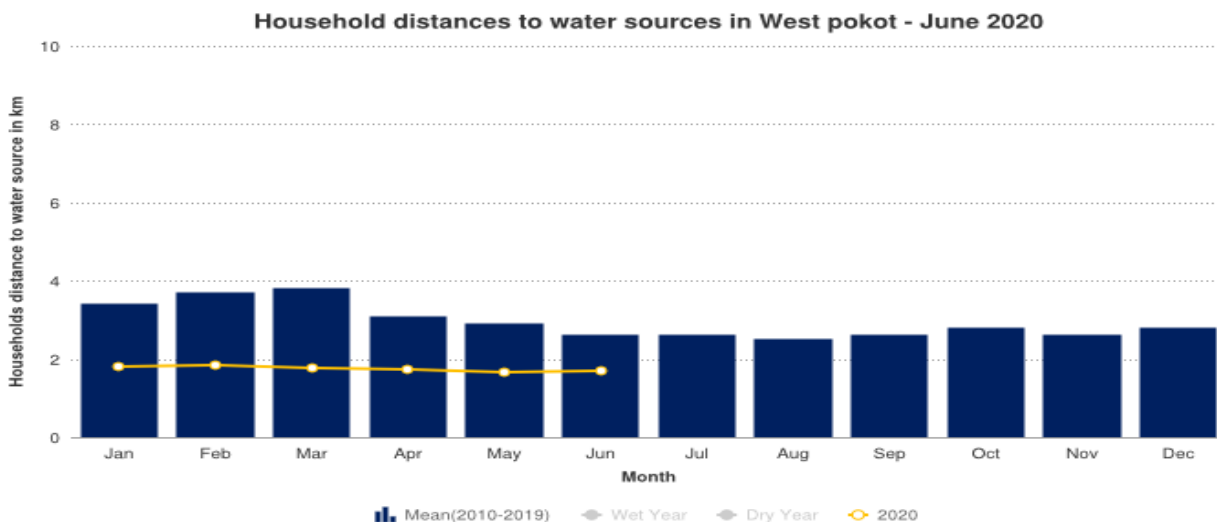
### 2.2.1 Sources

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock in June are; 13 percent for traditional river wells, 12 for pans and dams, 11 percent for rivers while those using boreholes were at 10 percent.
- The recharge was stable in all surface water sources in comparison to that of the previous month. The situation is attributed 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

- In June, the return distance to water source from the household is at 1.6 km, a drop from that recorded in May. The current distance is 35 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- The pastoral livelihood zones reported longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The decrease in distance is due to adequate seasonal water source recharge.

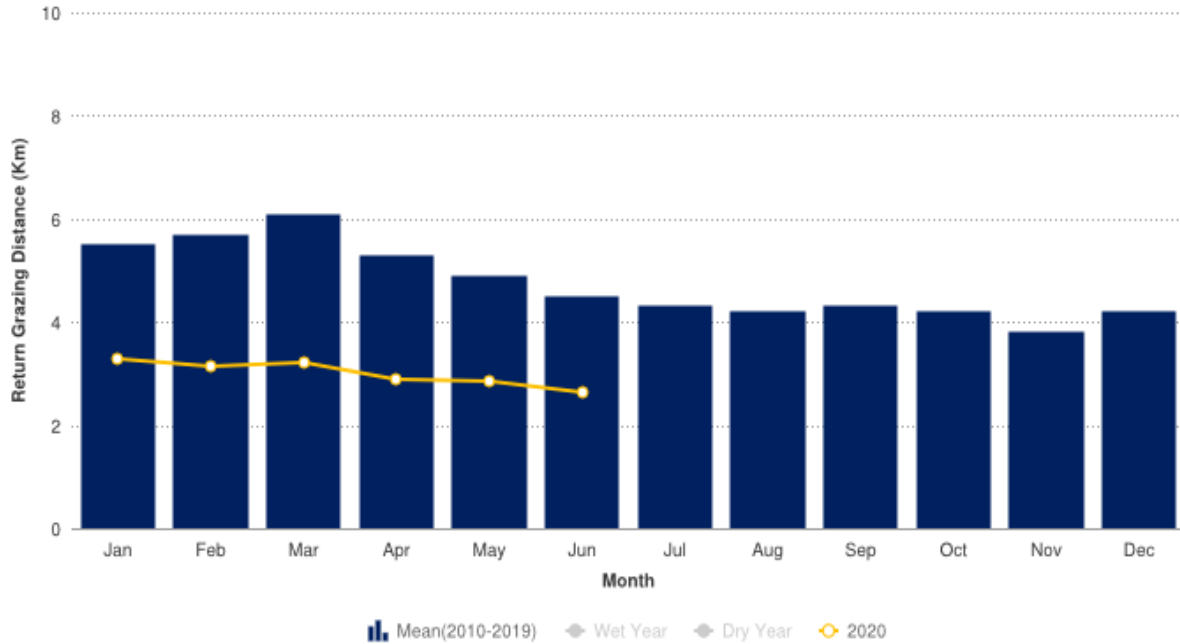


- As usual, the pastoral livelihood zones reported longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained at 18-20 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was at 15-18 litres.
- The cost of accessing 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 2.7 km, a slight drop from 2.8 km recorded in May. The current trekking distance is 40 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 - June 2020



- The decline in livestock trekking distance to water points is owed to good seasonal rainfall performance coupled with improved 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

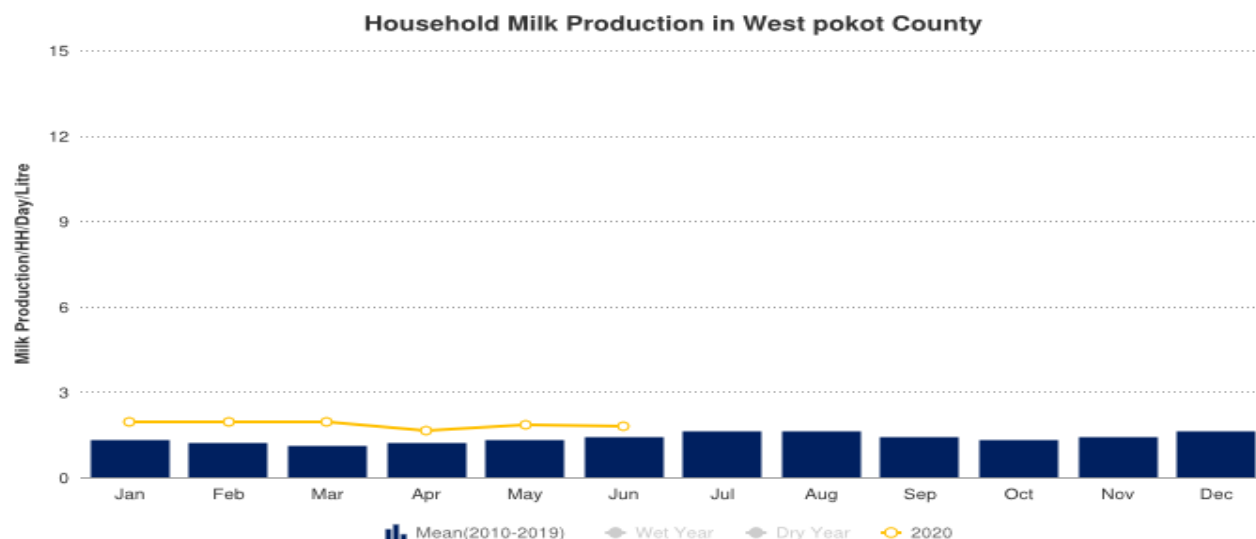
- During the month, the body condition for all livestock species remained good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in comparison to that recorded the previous month, the condition is stable.
- The livestock body condition is expected to remain stable across the livelihood zones during 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

- CBPP and CCPP was reported in Weiwei and Masol wards.

#### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- The County reported an average production of 1.9 litres of milk per household per day, same as that reported in May.
- Cattle was the main livestock producing milk at the households.
- The current household milk production is above the LTA by 29 percent.
- The household stable trend in milk production is owed to good forage access in the traditional grazing areas.



## **3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION**

### **3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops**

- The major crops cultivated in the County include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Maize crop is tussling stage in most areas in June.
- 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 stable along the horticultural production zones.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in highlands is moderate. These are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

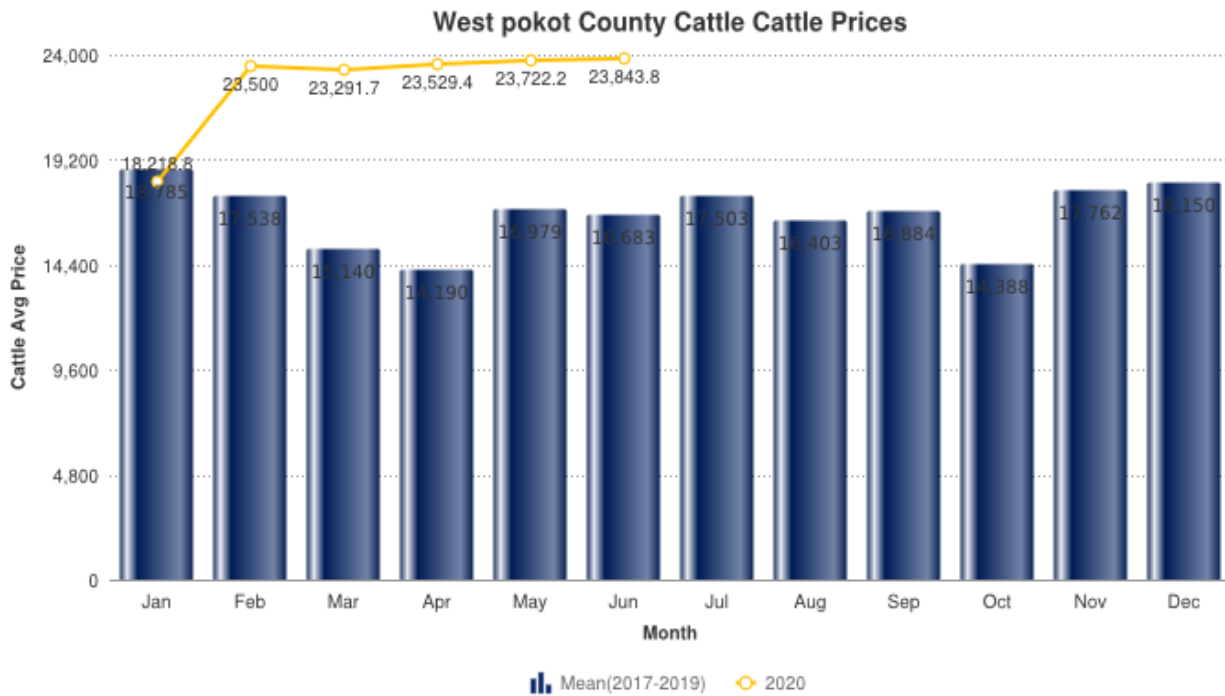


## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

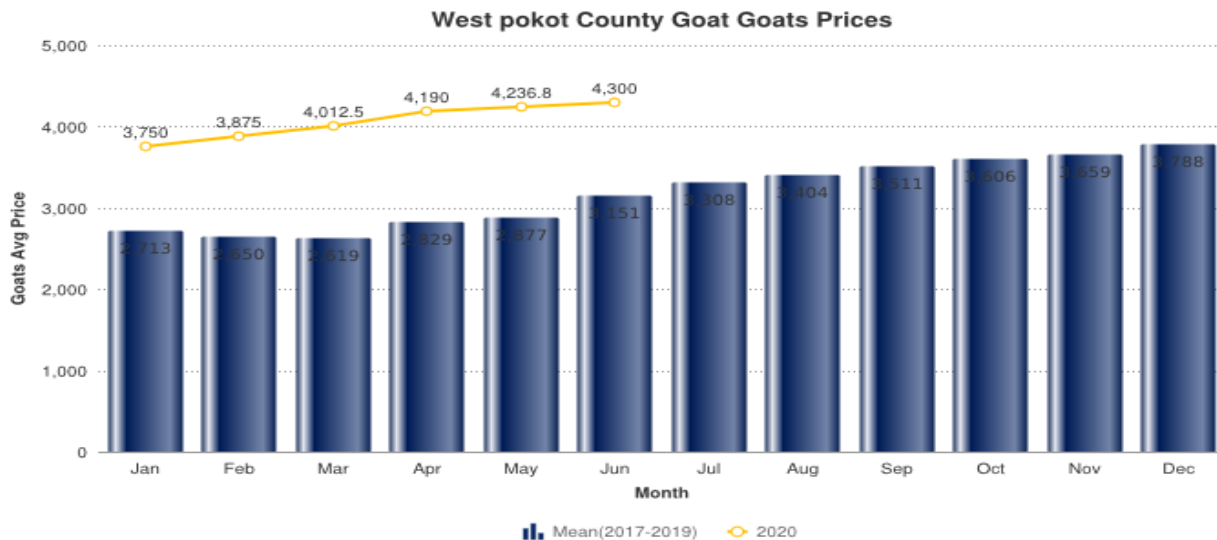
- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 23,843 in June, representing a rise in price as compared to Kshs 23,722 reported in the May.



- The increase in cattle price is credited to good body condition along with sufficient forage access, as well as substantial recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 39 percent above the LTA.

### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- During the month, the County recorded an average price of Kshs 4,300 for a 2-year old medium size goat, which portrayed an increase in comparison with Kshs 4,237 recorded in May.

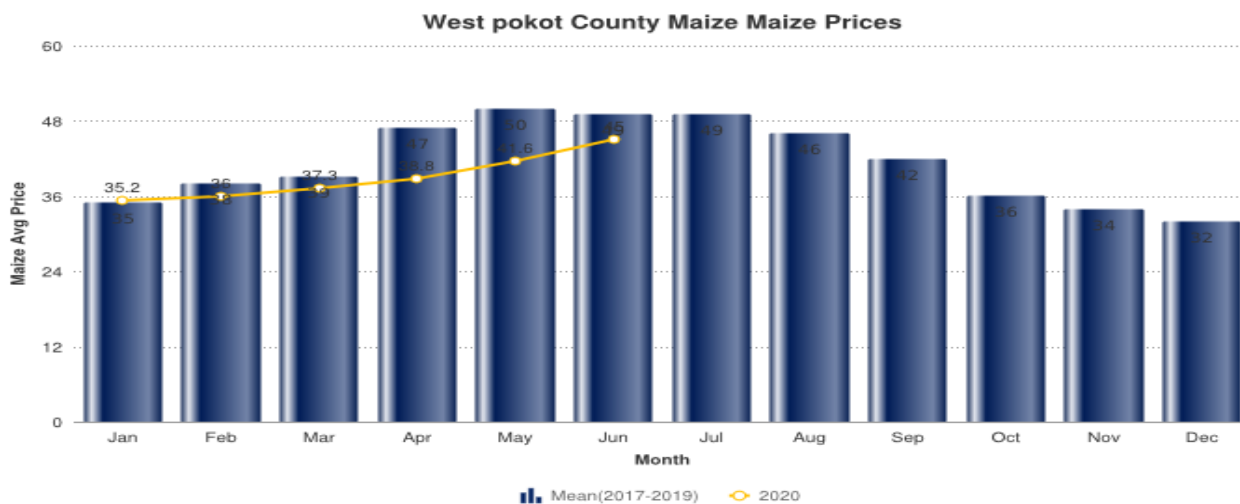


- The price increase is attributed to stable body condition for goats in the livelihoods.
- The current goat price is 40 percent above LTA for the month.

### 4.2 CROP PRICES

#### 4.2.1 Maize

- The maize was sold at Ksh 45 per kg in June, an increase from (Ksh 42) that was recorded in the May.
- The current price is 10 percent below the LTA price.

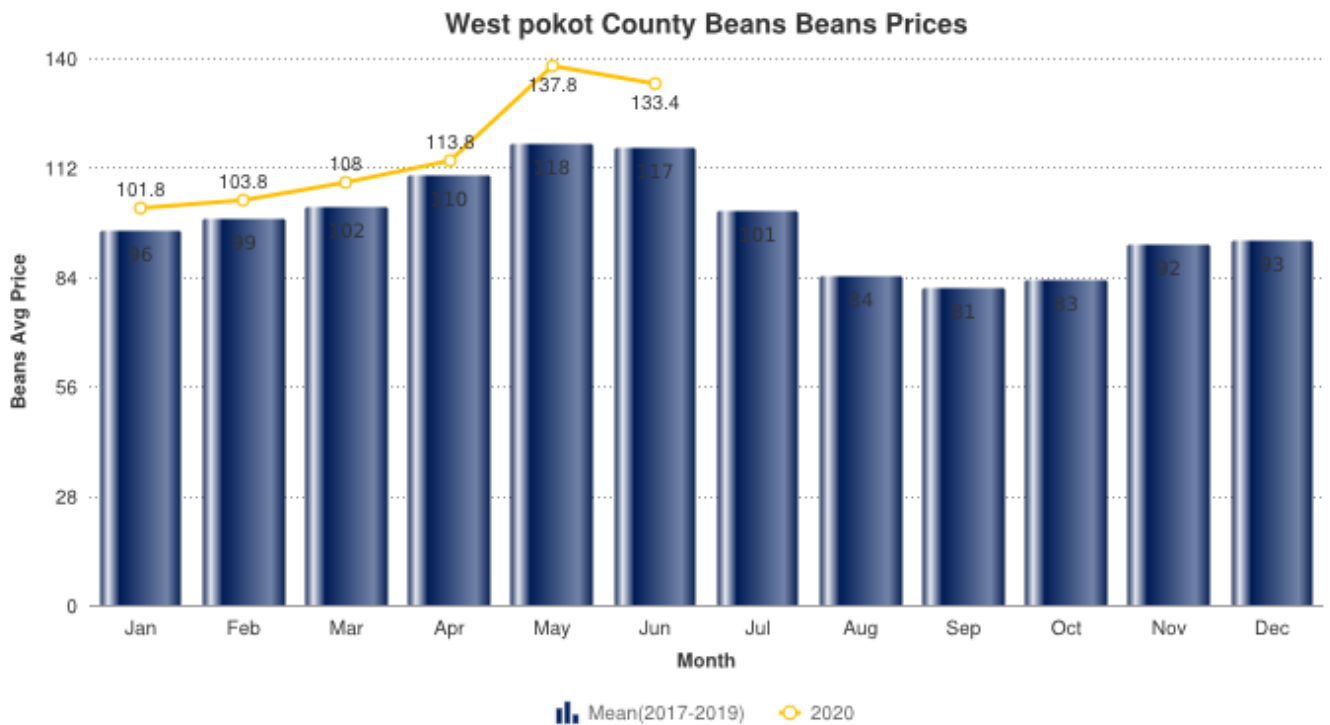


- The sharp increase in price is due to the interrupted supplies from Republic of Uganda due Covid 19 movement cessation.

- Majority 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.

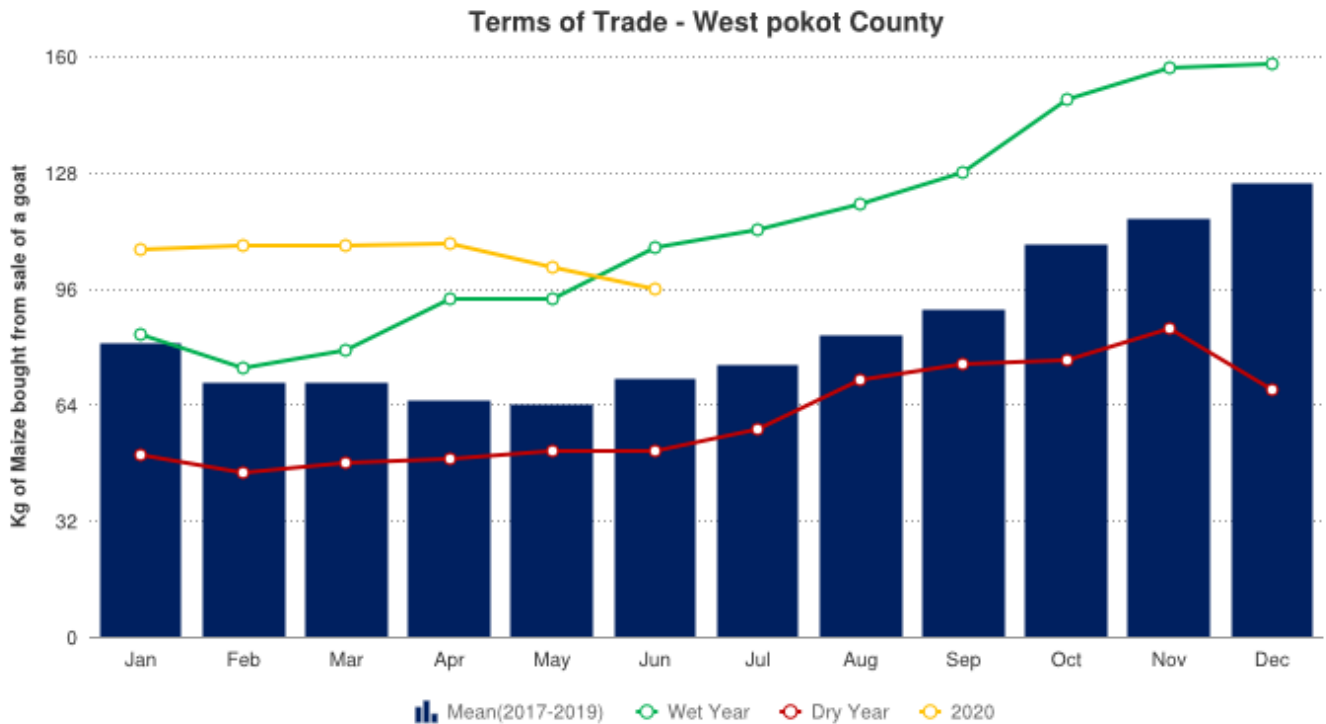
#### 4.2.2 Beans

- In June, 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)

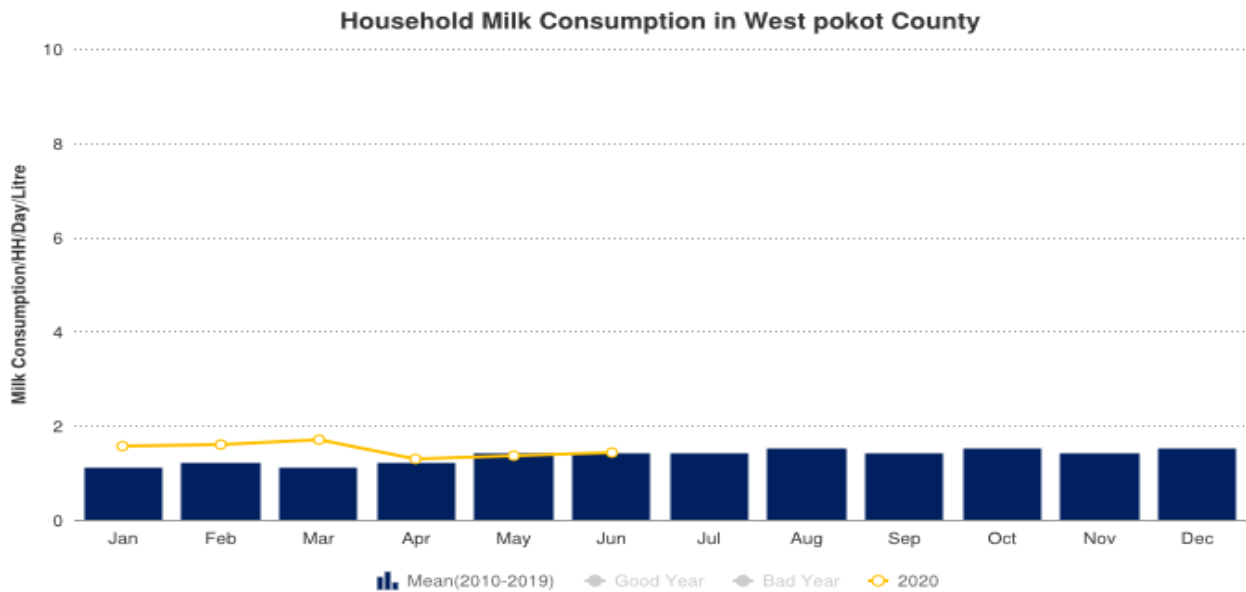
- In June, the Terms of Trade (TOT) is at 96, a decline from that reported in May, signifying that households obtained slightly less amount of maize for sale of a goat currently as compared to May.
- The downward trend in ToT is credited to sharp rise in maize prices linked to inaccessibility of supplies 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.



## 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 May. 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

- In June, the households' proportions of 78%, 20% and 2% were reported of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased for the acceptable category, while borderline category dropped as compared to that of May. The FCS is generally acceptable within the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones remained at 50; similar to that recorded in May
- 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 63% 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**

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

## **5.4 COPING STRATEGY**

### **5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)**

The County's CSI was at 1.6 in June, a decrease from 1.7 recorded in May. The decrease depicts 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 1.7 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**

- Landslides victims resettlement is ongoing, the response is comprised of county multi agency team
- MoH COVID-19 pandemic control measures are being enforced across the County.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT**

- In June, no livestock theft incidences were reported along West Pokot/Turkana border.

### **7.2 MIGRATION**

- Normal livestock movements were reported in June.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- The livestock productivity is expected to remain stable, as the forage conditions remains sufficient with the ongoing rains resulting to good livestock body condition hence good livestock prices.
- Maize prices are projected to go up while goat price is likely to stabilize, as such terms of trade would oscillate within the period.
- Milk availability is expected to stabilize with adequate pasture and water hence enhancing livestock production. Malnutrition cases are anticipated to decline over the period, as children would access more milk.
- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is projected to remain stable due to good water point recharge during the recent long rains season.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. PEACE AND SECURITY**

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

### **2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

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

### **3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

- People whose houses are built on 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.

### **4. WATER SECTOR**

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