

National Drought Management Authority
KWALE COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN AUGUST 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



AUGUST 2019 EW FLAG

Drought Status: NORMAL



Shughull za kawaida

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming	Normal	Improving
Livestock Farming	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
VCI	54.23	>50
State of Water Sources	5	5
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition (maize and legumes)	-	-
Livestock Body Condition	2 – moderate (livestock farming and mixed farming livelihood zones)	2 – moderate (livestock farming and mixed farming livelihood zones)
Milk Production (Litres)	5.1	2.8
Livestock Migration Pattern	No migration	No migration
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Zero deaths	Zero deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of trade	34.2	48.5
Milk Consumption (litres)	1.2	1.1
Return distance to water sources for households (km)	4.0	2.8
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	12.8	6.2

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The first dekad received above-normal rains.
- The VCI for August was marginally above-average for this time of the year.
- The state of water sources was normal for this time of the year.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators

- Livestock body condition was normal and at the moderate early warning classification similar to last month.
- Milk production was above-normal in August.
- There was no migration reported this month.
- There were no drought-related deaths recorded this month.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade (casual labour:maize) were below-normal with an implication of reduced purchasing power at household level compared with normal times.
- Milk consumption was within seasonal ranges this month.
- Distances to water points for domestic use were above-normal for August.

Utilization Indicators

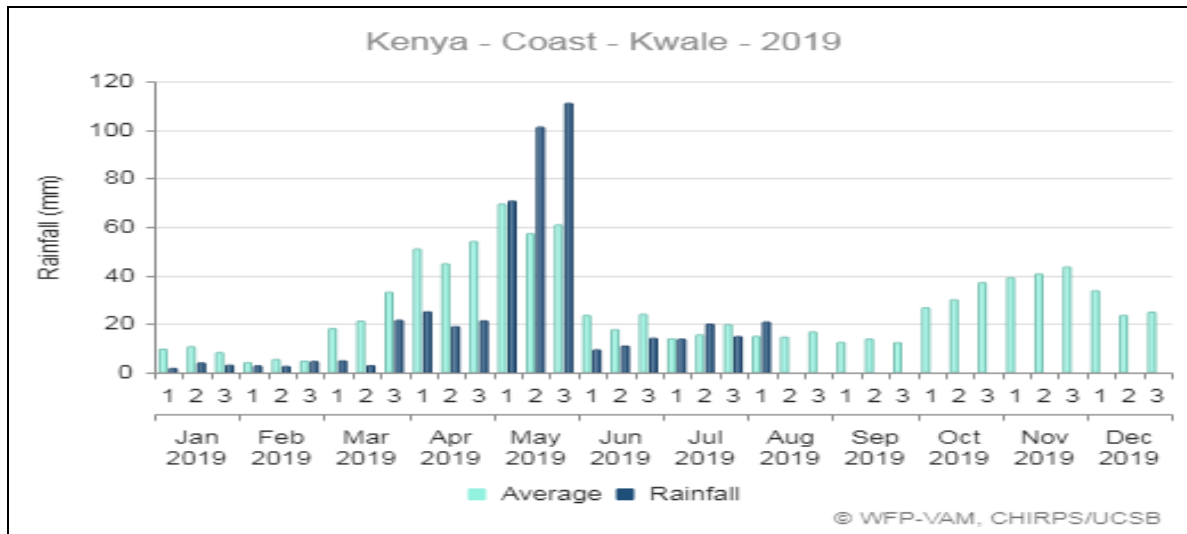
- The prevalence of children at risk of malnutrition was double that expected at this time of the year implying a worsened nutritional status compared with normal times.

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased household food stocks ▪ 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 household food stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Slightly above-average rains were received in the first dekad of the month as shown in the diagram below. Data on the rest of the dekads was unavailable.
- The distribution in time was poor and uneven in space in both livelihood zones.

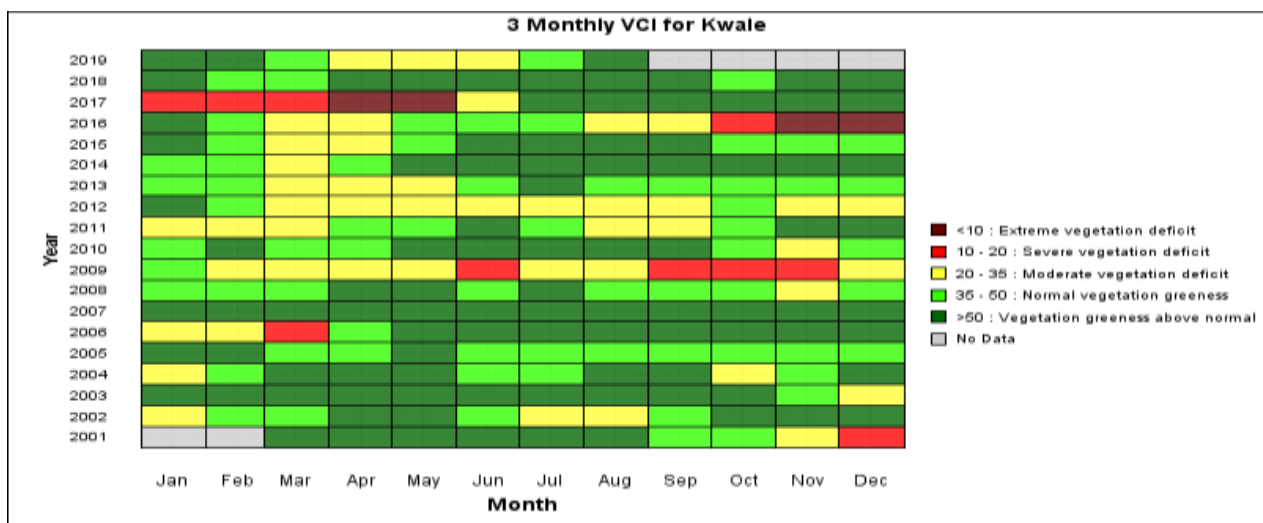


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

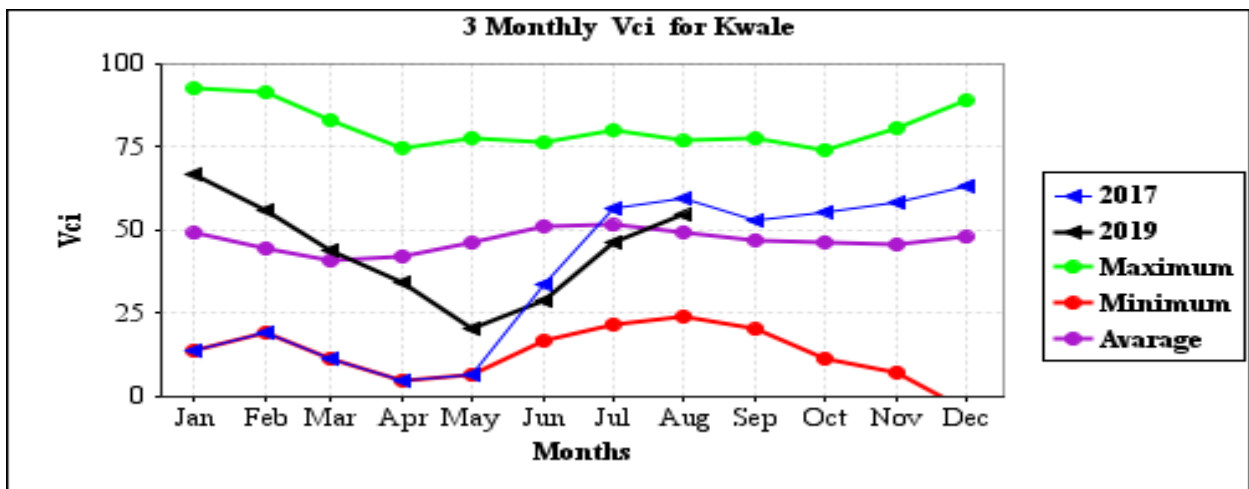
2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- A significant improvement in the county's vegetation greenness was noted as the 3-monthly VCI increased from 44.36 in July to 54.23 in August. The county was therefore classified in the 'normal vegetation greenness' band similar to last month as shown in the matrix below.



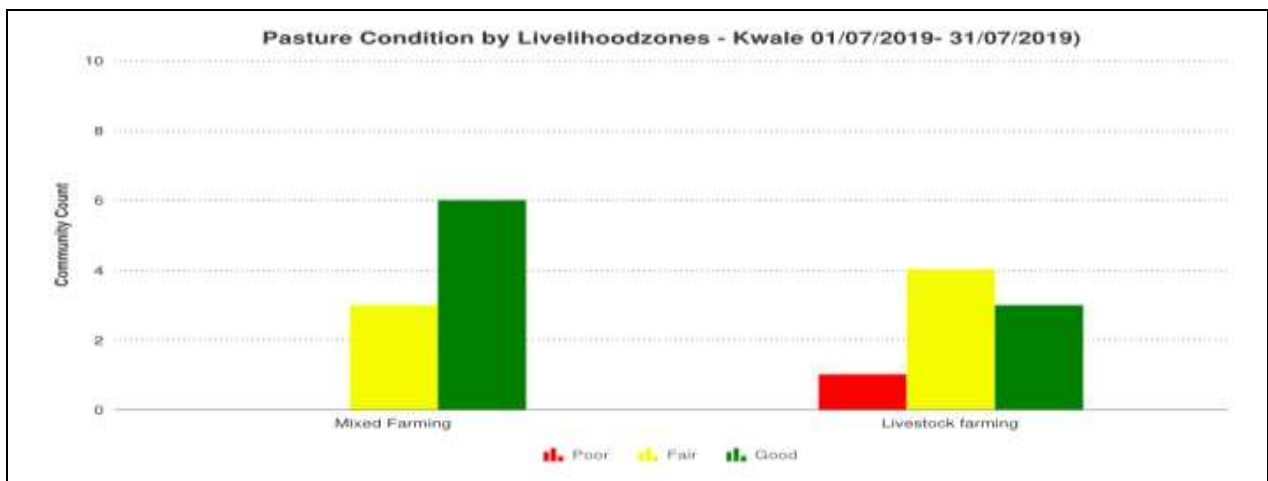
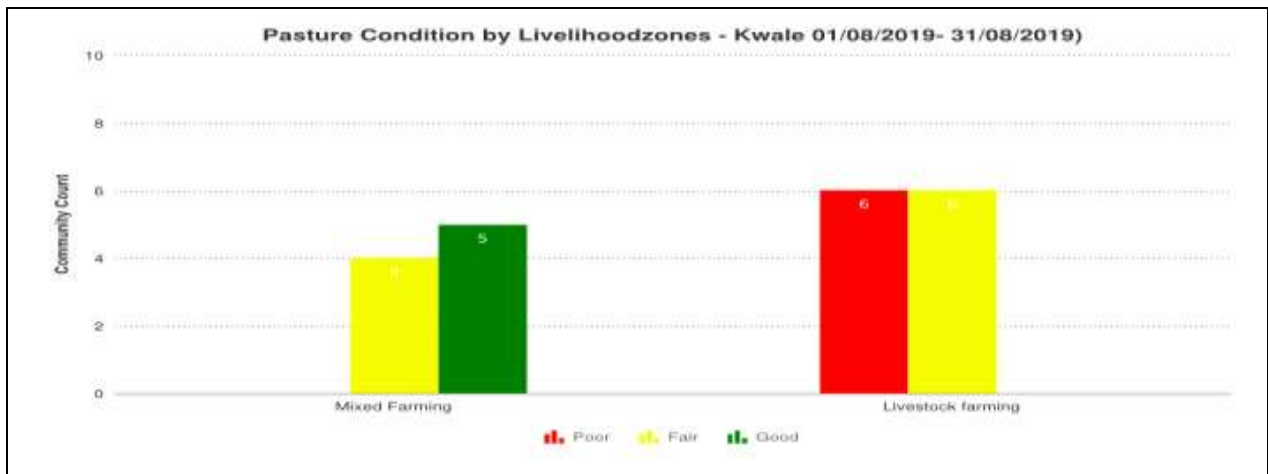
- The improvement was also recorded at livelihood zone level as the VCI increased from 44.43 and 45.43 in Kinango and Lunga Lunga Sub-counties respectively in July, both comprising largely the livestock farming livelihood zone, to 52.14 and 56.23 respectively in August.
- The index also increased from 43.93 and 39.46 in Matuga and Msambweni Sub-counties largely constituting the mixed farming livelihood zone to 59.56 and 55.89 respectively in August.
- All counties were therefore all categorized in the 'normal vegetation greenness' similar to last month.

- Compared with normal times, the vegetation condition was slightly better than normal as shown in the graph below.



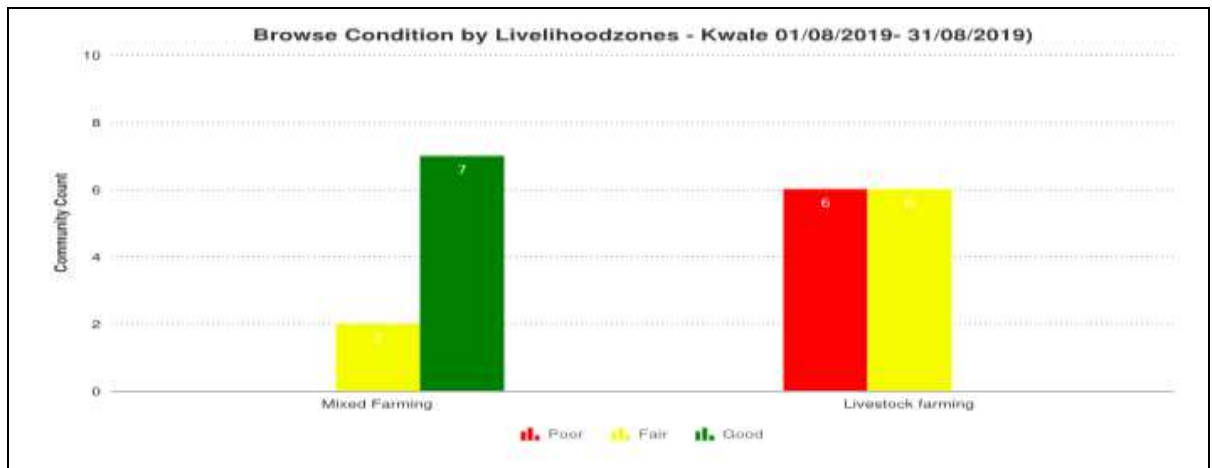
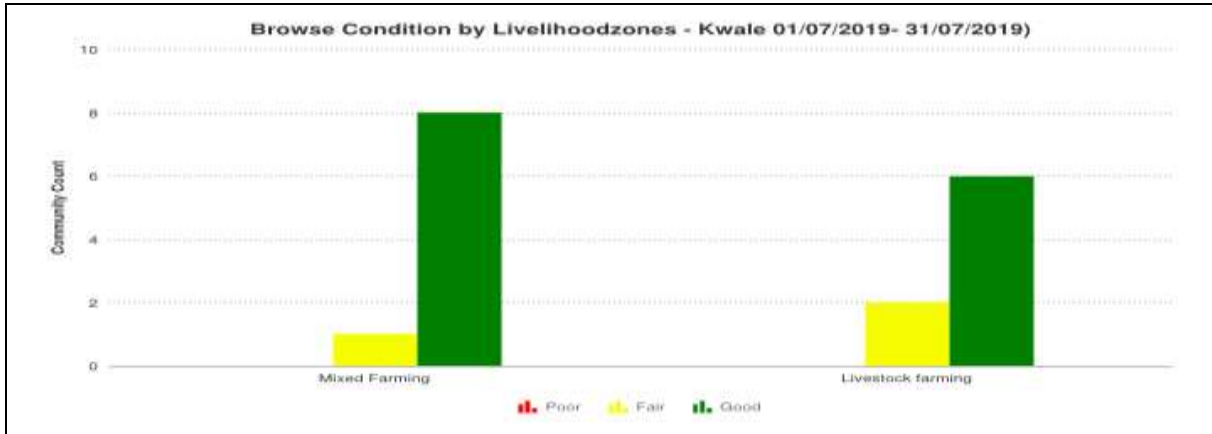
2.1.2 Pasture

- There was some deterioration in the pasture condition this month compared with last month as the proportion of households who reported poor condition increased from 5.9 percent last month to 28.6 percent in August.
- The deterioration had also been posted at the livelihood zone level as shown in the graphs below.



2.1.3 Browse

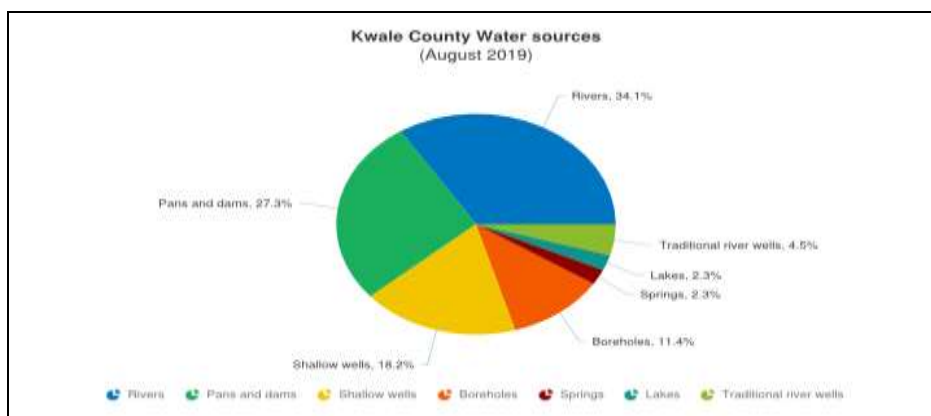
- A deteriorating trend had been recorded this month in browse condition as only approximately 33.3 percent of households reported good condition this month compared with 100 percent last month.
- The deterioration was also recorded at livelihood zone level with the livestock farming livelihood zone being the most hit as shown in the graphs below.



2.2 WATER RESOURCES

2.2.1 Sources

- Rivers, shallow wells and pans/dams were the most relied upon water sources for domestic use in August.
- Other sources currently in use were as shown in the pie-chart below.

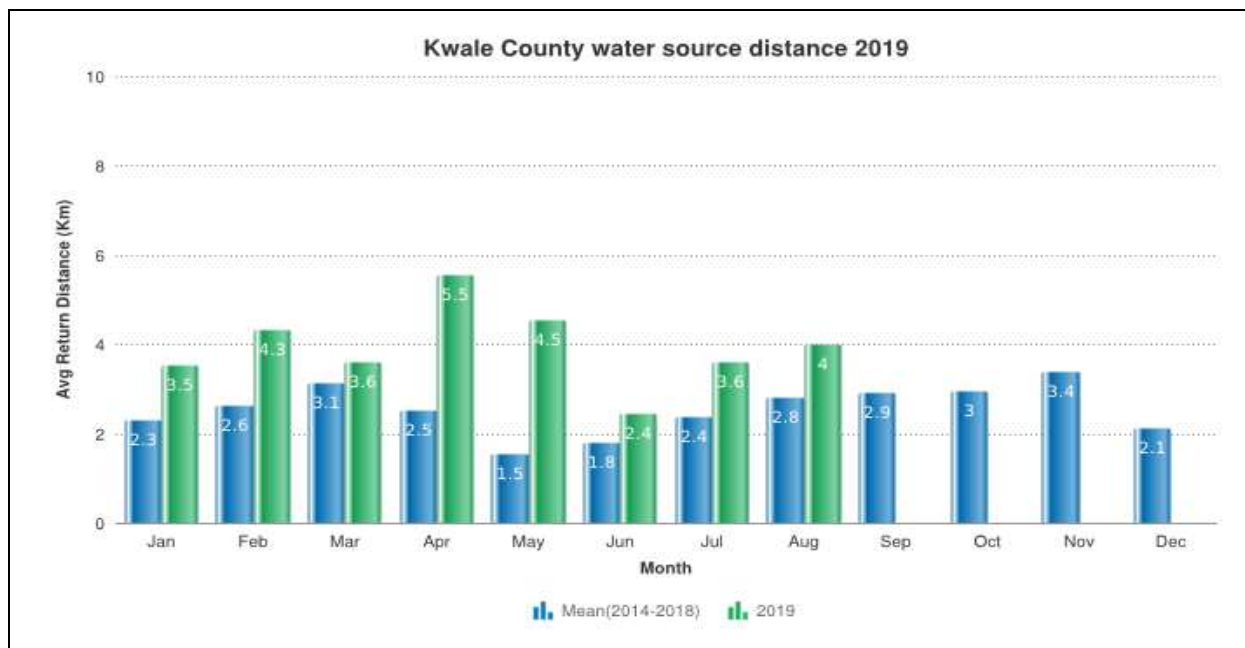


- The status of water sources in the county was 5 consistent with the description in the table below and similar to last month.

INDEX	STATE OF WATER SOURCE	DESCRIPTION
1	EMERGENCY SITUATION	All main water sources have dried up; only few boreholes still yielding significant amounts
2	STRONGLY INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding very little amounts of water. Breakages of boreholes contribute to worsen the situation. Acute water shortage in many areas within the livelihood
3	INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding modest amounts of water. Concentration of livestock around few water points contribute to spread communicable diseases and to degradation of rangeland
4	DECLINING	The water availability is below normal for the period
5	NORMAL	The water availability is normal for the period
6	GOOD	The water availability is above normal for the period

2.2.2 Household access and utilization

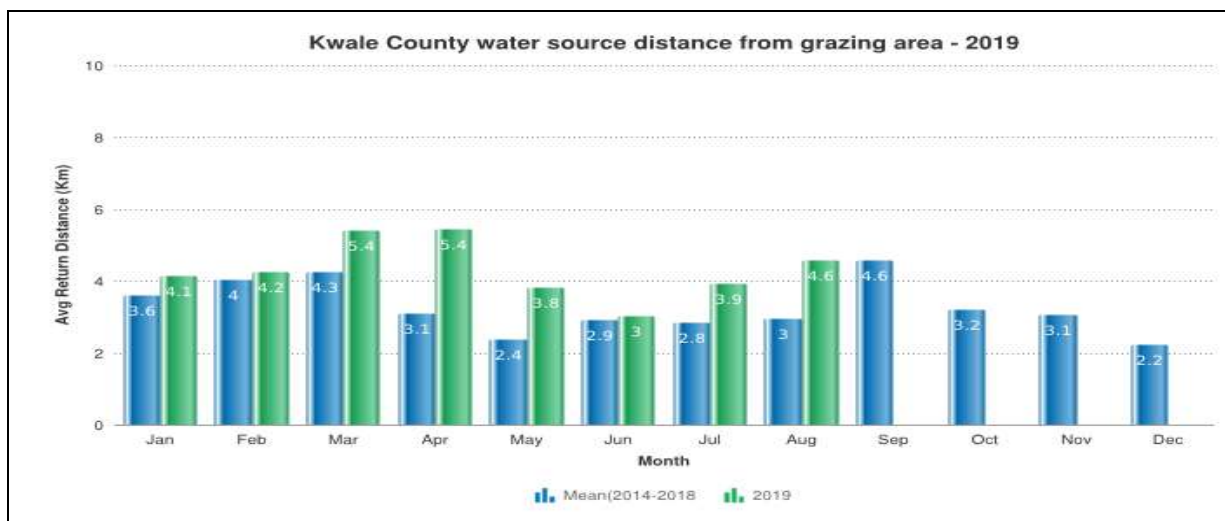
- Households trekked almost the same distance to water sources this month for a distance of approximately 4.0 km compared with 3.6 km in July.
- However, the distance was slightly higher than seasonal norms which was approximated at 2.8 km in the 2014-2018 LTA as shown in the graph below.



- The longest distance was recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone at 2.7 km while the least was in the mixed farming one at 1.8 km.

2.2.3 Livestock access to water

- There was a marginal increase in the distance walked by livestock from grazing areas to watering points from 3.9 km in July to 4.6 km in August as shown in the graph below.
- However, it was higher than that expected at this time of the year which was estimated at 3.0 km.



3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

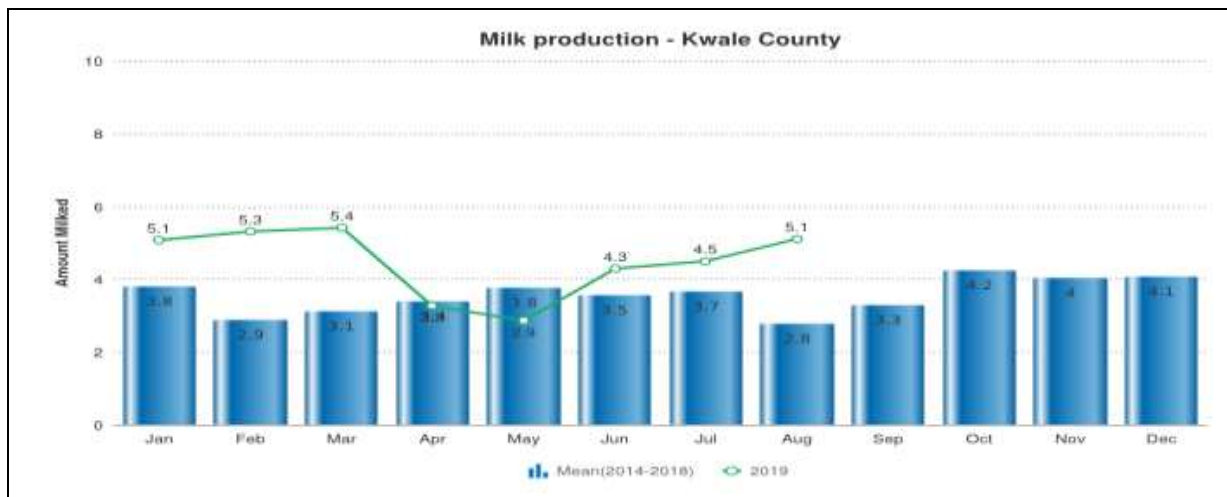
3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The livestock body condition was good in August and with at a classification of moderate as described in the table below.

Level	Classification	Characteristics (this describes majority of the herd and not individual isolated stock)
1	Normal	Very Fat Tail buried and in fat
		Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible
		Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head
		Good smooth appearance
2	Moderate	Moderate. neither fat nor thin
3	Stressed	Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible
4	Critical	Thin fore ribs visible
5	Emaciated	Very thin no fat, bones visible
		Emaciated, little muscle left

3.1.2 Milk Production

- Milk was produced mainly from cattle which was normal and similar to last month.
- Milk production at household level averaged 5.1 litres in August having marginally increased from 4.5 litres in July.
- It was also above the 2014-2018 LTA of 2.8 litres as shown in the graph below.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crops

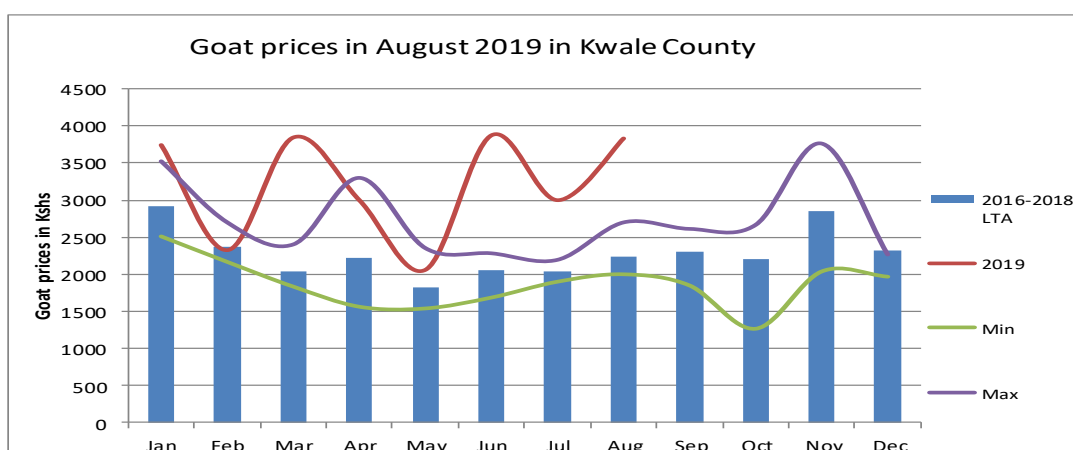
- Maize, green grams and cowpeas were the major crops grown in the just concluded season. Insignificant harvests were realized as the temporal distribution of the rains disrupted the production cycle of all three crops.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Goat prices

- The average trading price of a medium-sized three-year old buck was Kshs 3,833 in August compared with Kshs 3,000 recorded last month and is illustrated in the graph below.
- The current price was above the 2016-2018 LTA of Kshs 2236.8 maintaining an above-average trend similar to previous months.

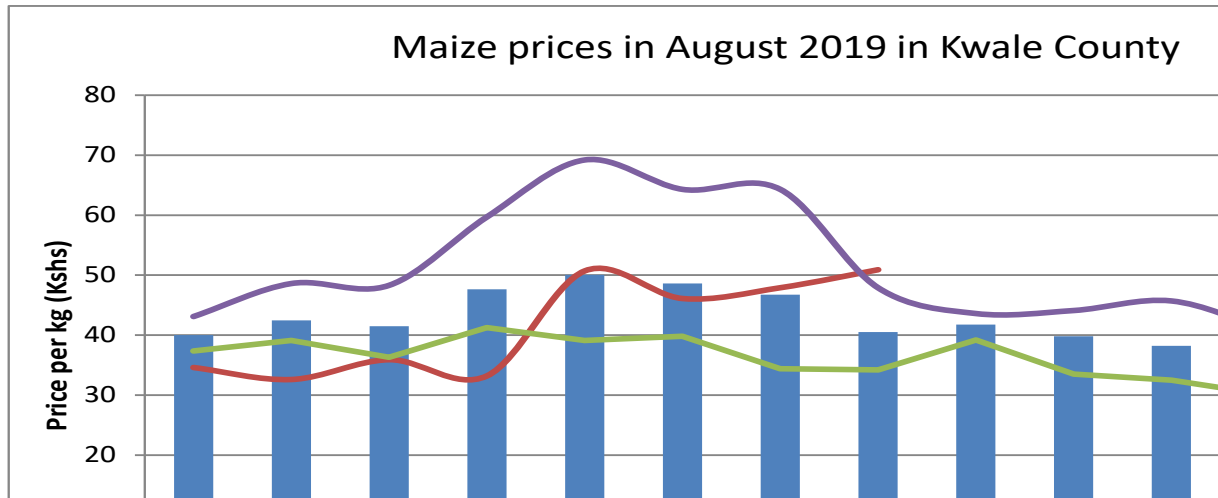


4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

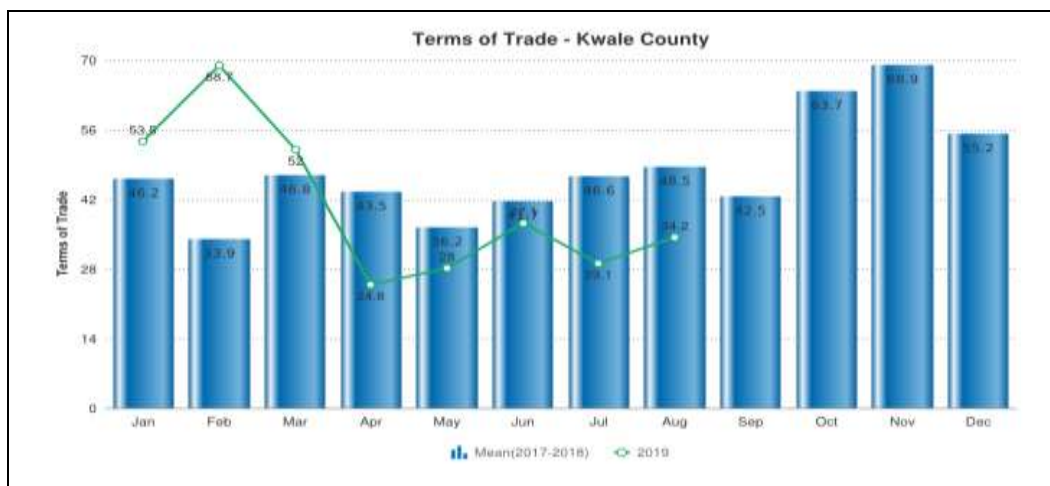
- The average retail price of a kilogram of maize was Kshs 50.9 in August having increased marginally from Kshs 47.9 in July.

- However, the price was also 25.7 percent higher than the 2016-2018 LTA of Kshs 40.5 as shown in the graph below.
- The above-average price could have been occasioned by the increased demand for maize as supply from recent harvests from farmers was literally non-existent due to the failed season.



4.3 TERMS OF TRADE (ToT) - CASUAL LABOUR VERSUS MAIZE PRICES

- The ToT increased slightly by 17.5 percent from 29.1 in July to 34.2 in August.
- However, it was 29.5 percent lower than average compared with 48.5 in the 2017-2018 LTA.
- Therefore, from proceeds of casual labour, households were able to purchase a slightly higher amount of maize in August compared with July although this quantity was lower than that normally purchased at this time of the year.
- It consequently implied that although household purchasing power improved compared with last month, it had deteriorated compared with normal times, attributable to the decline in availability of opportunities for casual labour.
- Trends in terms of trade were as shown in the graph below.

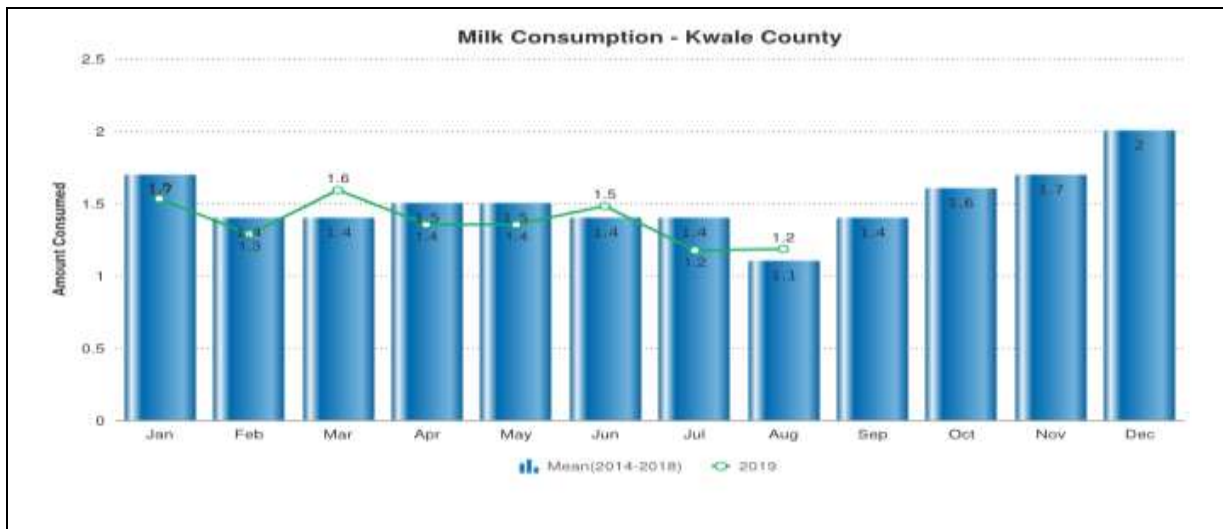


5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

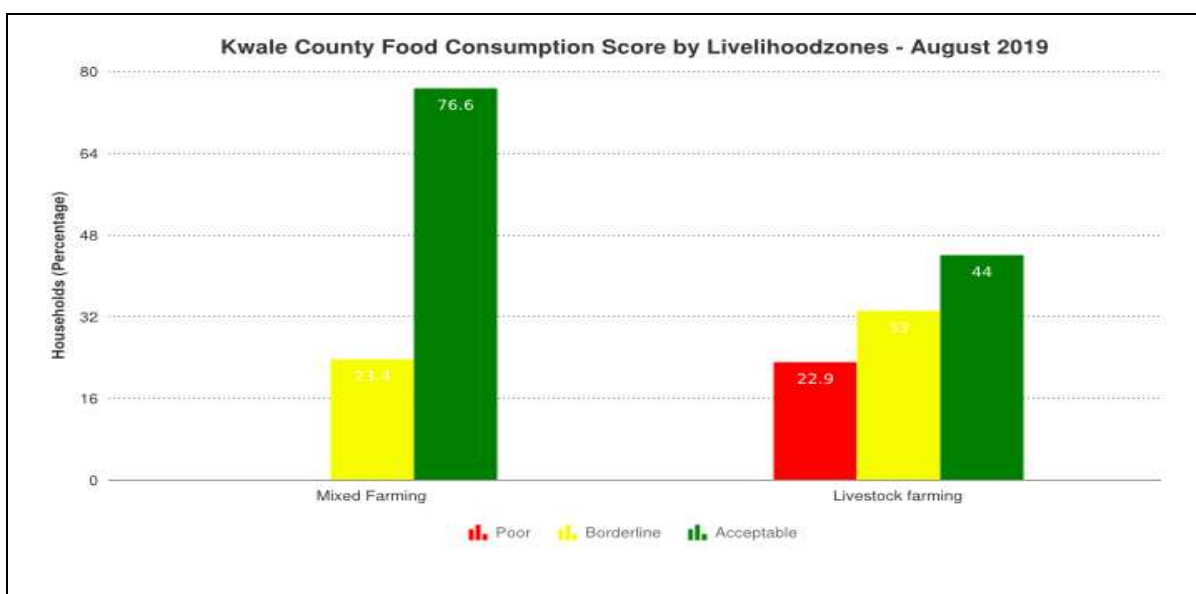
- Milk consumption at household level maintained a stable trend at an average of 1.2 litres similar to last month.

- It was also within seasonal averages compared with the 2014-2018 LTA as shown in the graph below.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

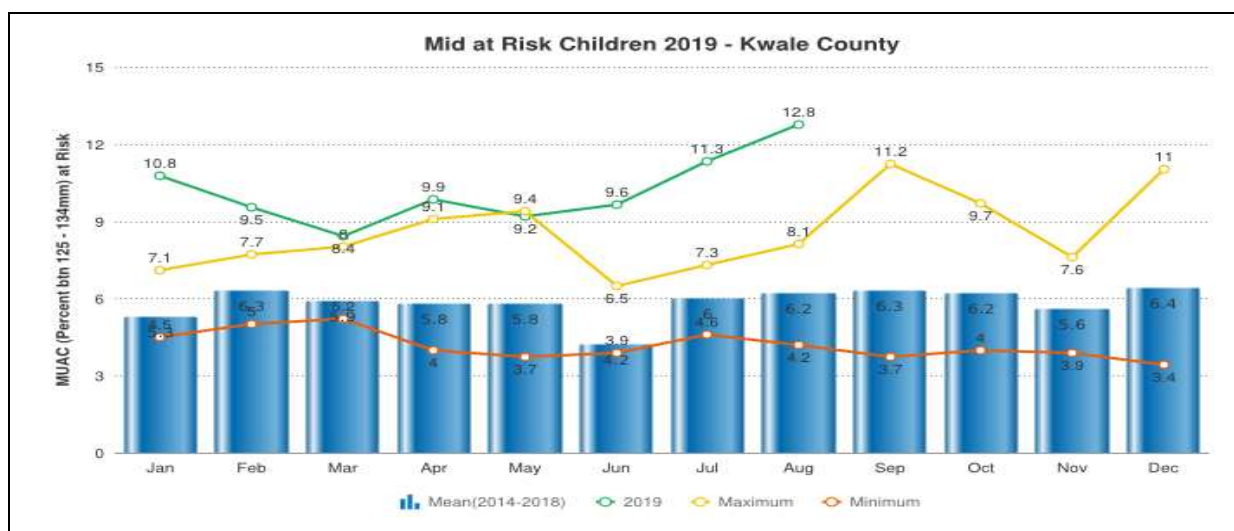
- The county’s mean food consumption score in August was 38.9 having decreased by 11.4 percent from 43.9 in July implying a decline in food frequency, dietary diversity and nutrient intake.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the highest score at 47.4 having remained relatively stable compared with 50.3 recorded last month.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest at 30.1 in August having reduced by 19.5 percent compared with 37.4 recorded in July. Dietary diversity, food frequency and nutrient intake had therefore increased in this zone compared with last month.
- The proportion of households with a poor food consumption score was estimated at 22.9 percent in August in the livestock farming livelihood zone compared with 24.7 percent in July maintaining a stable trend.
- In the mixed farming livelihood zone, this proportion was non-existent in August compared with one percent in July thereby also displaying a stable trend.
- The graph below illustrates the food consumption patterns in the county in the month of August.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition as measured by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) was approximated at 12.8 percent having increased by 13.3 percent from 11.3 percent in July.
- The reported prevalence of malnutrition this month was double that recorded in the 2014-2018 LTA as shown in the graph below.
- The increase in the prevalence in comparison with last month and also normal times pointed to deterioration in the nutritional status of children in the county.



5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The mean reduced coping strategy index (CSI) in the county in August was 16.1 having remained relatively stable compared with 15.4 posted last month.
- The highest index was posted in the livestock farming livelihood zone at 16.3 having increased from 12.7 recorded in July.
- The lowest index was posted in the mixed farming livelihood zone at 15.8 having reduced from 17.3 recorded last month.

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

○ Agriculture department

- National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) funded by the World Bank that seeks to enhance productivity and profitability undertook the following in August:

- The Social Audit and Integrity Committee members, who are a sub-committee of the Community-Driven Development Committee from several wards were trained on environmental and social safeguards in preparation for implementation of identified micro-projects earlier in the year.

○ Nutrition department

Apart from carrying out the routine the department's routine activities such as vitamin A supplementation, distribution of supplementary/therapeutic food, growth monitoring and health education programs, it also engaged in the following interventions in the month of August:

- Launching of the world breast-feeding week activities on 22nd August 2019 in Samburu/Chengoni ward sponsored by UNICEF, PS Kenya and the county government of Kwale.
- MAP International in conjunction with the County Government of Kwale
 - held one community dialogue per sub-county on vitamin A supplementation
 - held one meeting per sub-county for opinion leaders on vitamin A supplementation
 - developed a documentary on vitamin A supplementation in Funzi Island

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no cases of conflict, human displacement or insecurity reported in August.

7.2 Migration

- No migration was reported in August.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

With crop production being insignificant from the just concluded cropping season, households have literally no food stocks and heavily relying on markets at a time they would normally be consuming food from own production. Had the season performed well, the stocks would have lasted through to at least October. Reliance on markets has occurred earlier and more heavily than normal, and will likely continue through to the next harvesting season in early January next year. This has coincided with staple prices being above-average against reduced terms of trade, indicative of diminished purchasing power at household level which will result in constrained food access. With the deteriorating trend in pastoral resources of forage and water, in addition to lack of crop residues for fodder, it is likely that livestock production will decline through to at least October. With food physically unavailable at household level and food access significantly constrained, poor households are likely to experience considerable food consumption gaps and will be forced to increase the severity and frequency of coping. The nutritional status of children is also likely to further deteriorate as a result.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Close and continuous monitoring of the food security situation in the county as food access is currently constrained and will continue to do so up to at least October.
- Increased surveillance on the nutritional status of children due to the above-normal and increasing trend in the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition.