

National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



MAY EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**

Shughuli za kawaida

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)	79	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	89	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Normal	Normal
Milk Production	1.7 Litres	>1.3 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	90.1	>76
Milk Consumption	1.6 Litres	>1.3 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.7 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)	5.1	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.3	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	42	>35

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The County received sufficient rainfall across livelihood zones in the first and second dekads. The temporal and spatial distribution is good. The ongoing rains season has generally performed normally, some areas above normal.
- In May vegetation condition depicted an improving trend across most parts as shown by the increase in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness. Forage condition is good during the month.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

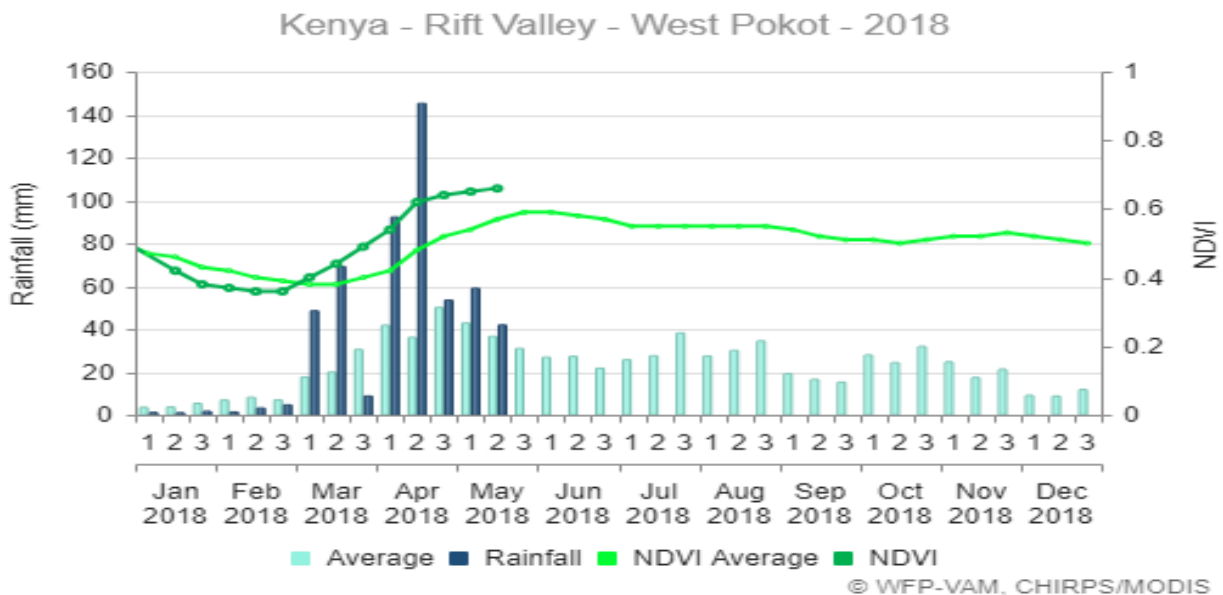
- The livestock recorded good body condition across the County with a stable trend. Distance to water sources decreased in May.
- At household level, milk production and consumption increased. Terms of trade remained favourable.
- Households fell within the acceptable food consumption score, with the coping strategy index remaining stable within the month.
- The proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition decreased drastically within the normal range.

<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

- The County received substantial rainfall in May. However, the intensity decreased compared to the previous month as recorded in both first and second dekads of the month. The ongoing long rains season is predicted to continue until mid of the next month (June).
- This rainfall situation is above normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- During the current month, the decadal rainfall decreased from 92 mm to 58.9 mm in the first dekad and from 145 mm (previous month) to 41.8 mm in second dekad. In both the first and second dekads the amounts were above the Long Term Average (LTA).
- During the month, the current NDVI values were above the historical NDVI values due to sufficient rains received. The trend remained stable with the sustained precipitation.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The County received heavy rainfall in both the lowlands and highlands with good temporal and spatial distribution. In comparison, the rainfall amounts and intensity was high in the highlands than in lowlands.
- The County remained wet within the month.

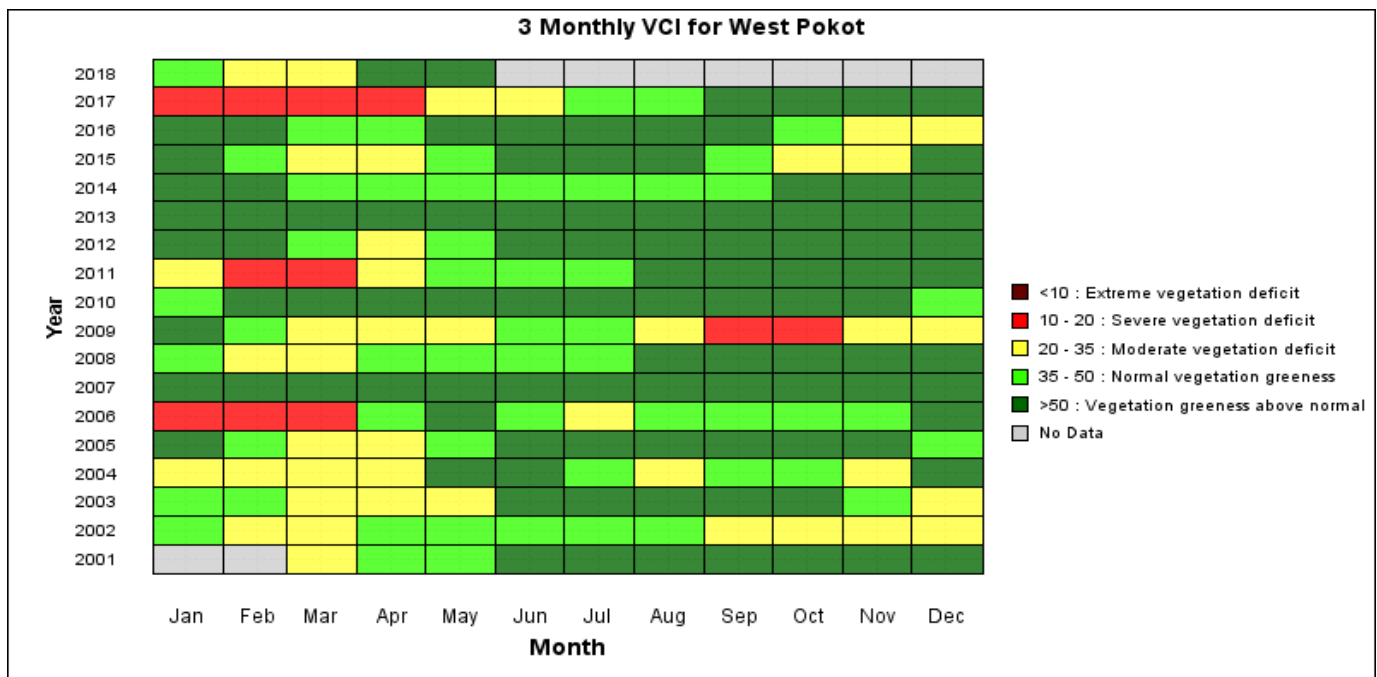
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Floods incidences were reported along River Kanyangareng in Pokot North Sub-County affecting over 500 households. The floods damaged over 300 acres of maize crop, sweeping away top soil for both arable and pasture land. 1 camel and dozens of goats were lost during the hazard.

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 shows the vegetation status of the County is 79, a sharp increase from 55 recorded during the previous month. The current VCI depicts above normal vegetation greenness condition.
- The VCI trend is upwards across the County during the month under review. All sub-counties were categorized in above normal vegetation greenness band. The VCI for all Sub-counties; Pokot North, Pokot West, Pokot South and Pokot Central went up from 59 to 89, 51 to 75, 41 to 60 and 57 to 78 respectively. The upward trend in the VCI is attributed to sustained rejuvenation of vegetation due to sufficient rains received during the month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportions of community population sampled reported that the pasture was good and fair is 87 and 13 respectively.
- The pasture condition is good across livelihood zones. The communities reported that the condition was normal for such a time of the year. When compared to the previous month, the trend is stable owing to adequate rainfall during the month under review.
- The ongoing long rains is expected to sustain the pasture situation across livelihoods.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity in both livelihood zones.

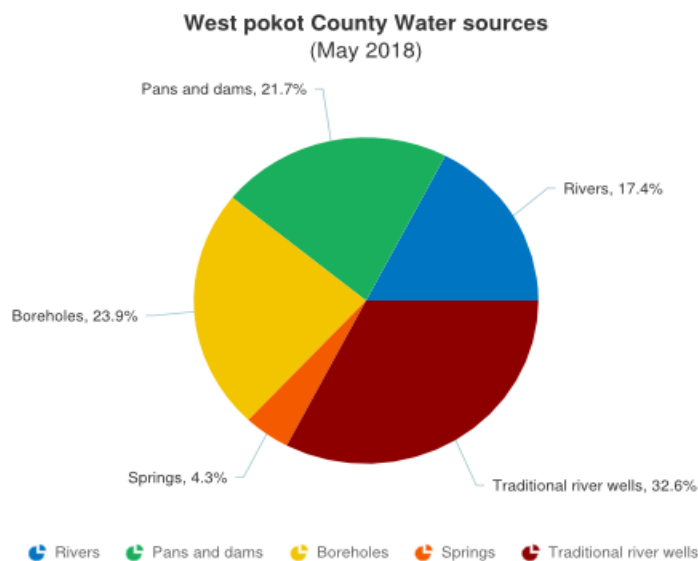
2.1.3 Browse

- The sampled community proportions who stated that the browse was good and fair is 92 and 8 respectively.
- The browse condition across two livelihood zones is good. This is normal in comparison to the browse situation during such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is stable in relation to that of the previous month, a situation attributed to good rainfall received during the month.
- The fear of conflict at historical hotspots along the Pokot-Marakwet/Turkana borders still hampers access to browse.
- The quantity and quality of browse is good in both zones and there is no significant variation between the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

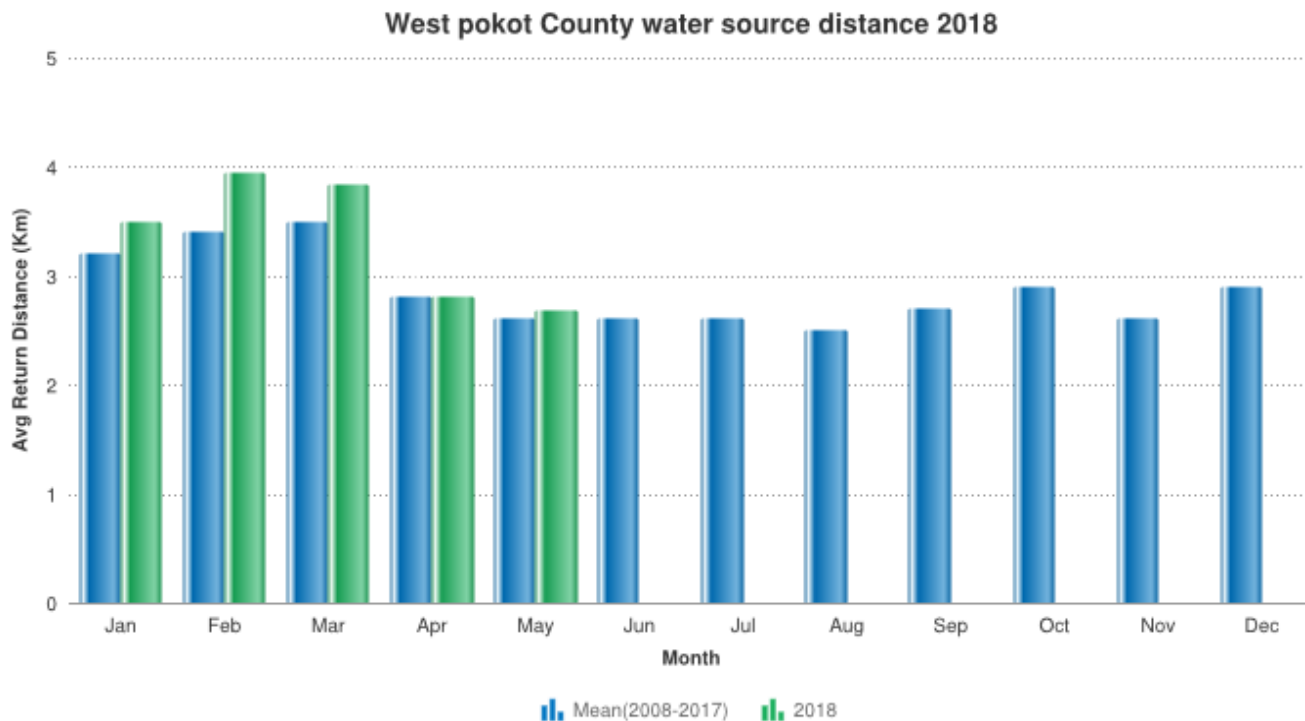
2.2.1 Sources

- In May, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources currently for both households and livestock is 33, 24 and 22 for traditional rivers, boreholes and pans/dams respectively. Other water sources in use include rivers, which remained at 17 percent.
- The water recharge levels remained stable in comparison to the previous month due to good rainfall.
- The water levels are still high for rivers and boreholes due to the continuous recharge.
- The current main sources in use are the normal sources where households draw water during this time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

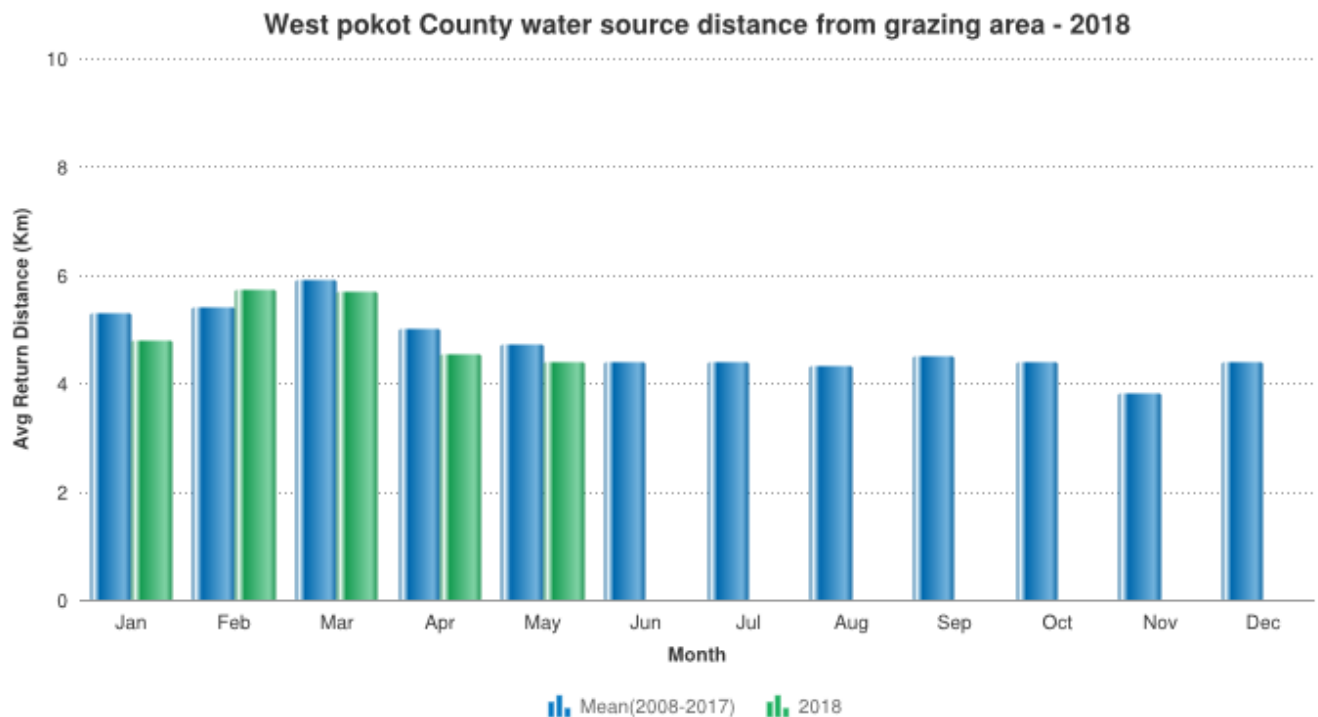
- The return distance to water source from the household decreased to 2.7 km in the current month from 2.8 km recorded in the previous month. The current distance is 4 percent above the long term average distance.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zone reported longer trekking distance to water source in comparison to the pastoral livelihood zone. The decreased distance was attributed to the sufficient surface water sources recharge during the month.



- Both Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded decreased waiting time at water source.
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained at 9-13 litres in the Pastoral zone while that in the Agro-pastoral zone too remained 10-15 litres, as the previous month.
- The cost of accessing water at the source remained free in the rural areas unlike in urban centres where a 20 litre jerrican cost remained within normal ranges for the period.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources during the month is at 4.4 km showing a slight decrease from 4.5 km recorded in the previous month. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.7 km, the trekking distance lies below the normal range by 6 percent.
- The trekking time from grazing areas to water sources takes slightly longer in Pastoral livelihood zone than that in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone.



- The decrease in livestock trekking distance is largely due to substantial rainfall received within the month of May recharging most of the available water sources.
- Frequency of watering cattle and shoats is still at 5-7 times in a week while for camel is 4-5times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Both Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded good body condition for all livestock species.
- The livestock body condition is projected to continue being stable over successive months across the livelihood zones due to good performance of the rains.
- The body condition of all species is normal in comparison to similar period during a normal year, a situation attributed to good forage condition generated during the month. The trend is stable as a result of good rains within the month.
- There exists no significant variation in livestock body condition across the two livelihood zones.

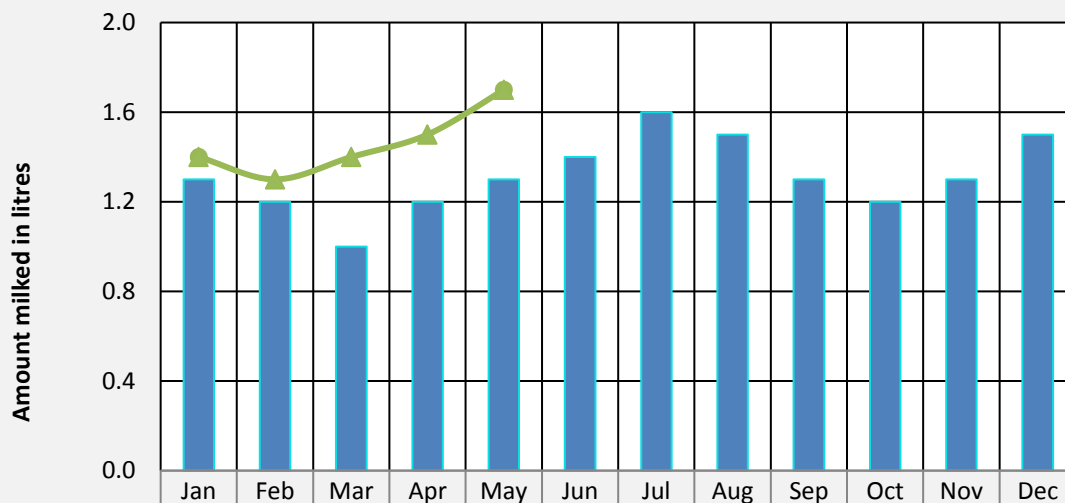
3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Kapchok and Riwo wards both reported CCPP and PPR diseases.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The county recorded an average of 1.7 litres of milk per household per day.
- The milk production during the month increased from 1.5 that was recorded in the month of April. Cattle produced most milk within the County.
- The current household milk production is 31 percent above the LTA for the month.
- There was an increase in the household milk production during the month due to the sufficient forage in the normal grazing areas.

Milk Production-West Pokot County 2018



■ LTA (2008-2017)	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.5
●▲● Average 2018	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7							

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

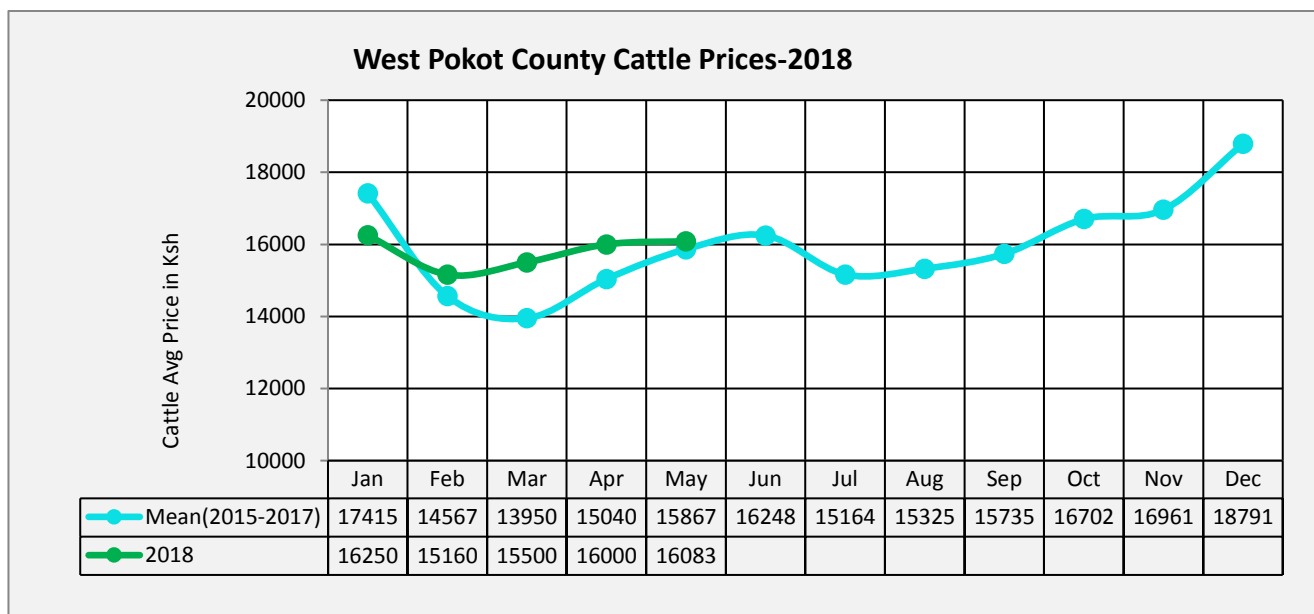
- The main crops grown in the County include maize, beans and bulb onions. Most farms are under final weeding stage.
- The horticultural supplies levels of fruits such as pawpaw and onions to major markets including Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is stable due to the ongoing long rains season.
- Vegetables and bulb onion harvesting is on-going in highland areas such as Kokwotendwo which supply to Ortum market for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.
- Horticultural production is booming with good rains received along the production zones of Lelan, Sebit, Wakorr, Wei Wei, and Lomut.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

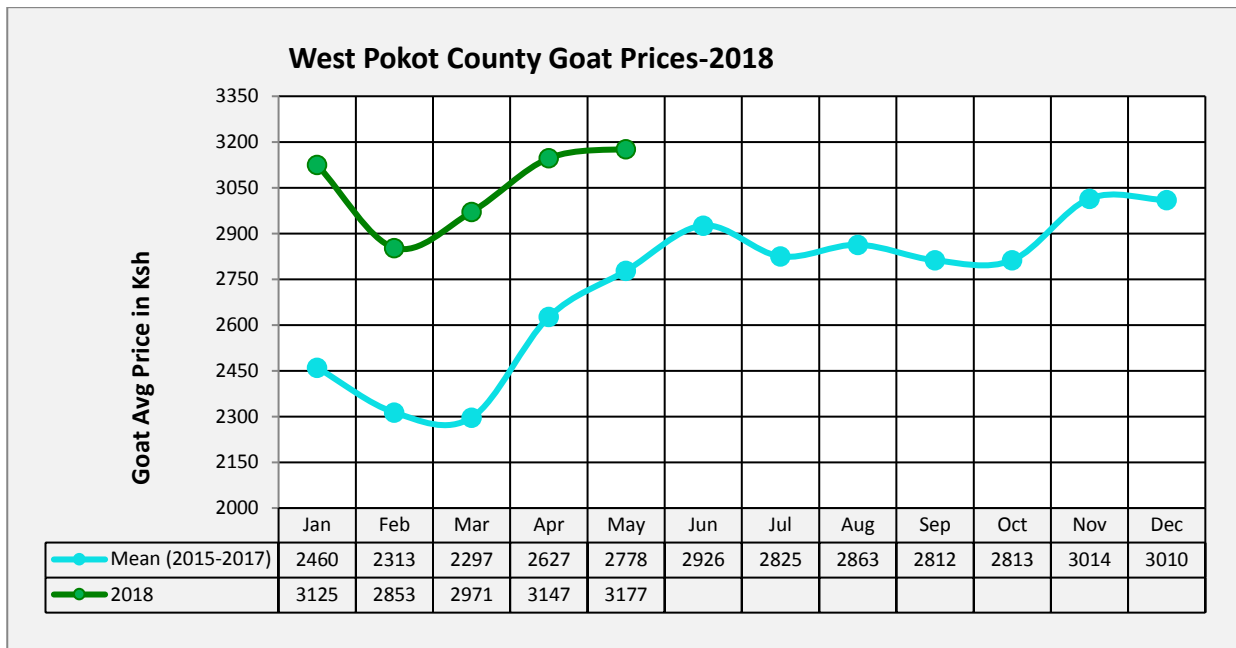
- During the month, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 16,083 in, which represents some price stability as compared to Kshs 16,000 recorded in the previous month.



- The stability in prices is mainly due to heavy rains received resulting to sufficient forage condition and water sources, consequently enhancing in the cattle body condition, enabling farmers to fetch high prices in the market.
- The current cattle price is above the LTA price (Ksh 15,867) for the month by 14 percent.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County recorded an average price for a 2-year old medium size goat at Kshs 3, 177 across livelihood zones in the month under review. The price was stable in comparison to that of the previous month (Ksh. 3,147).

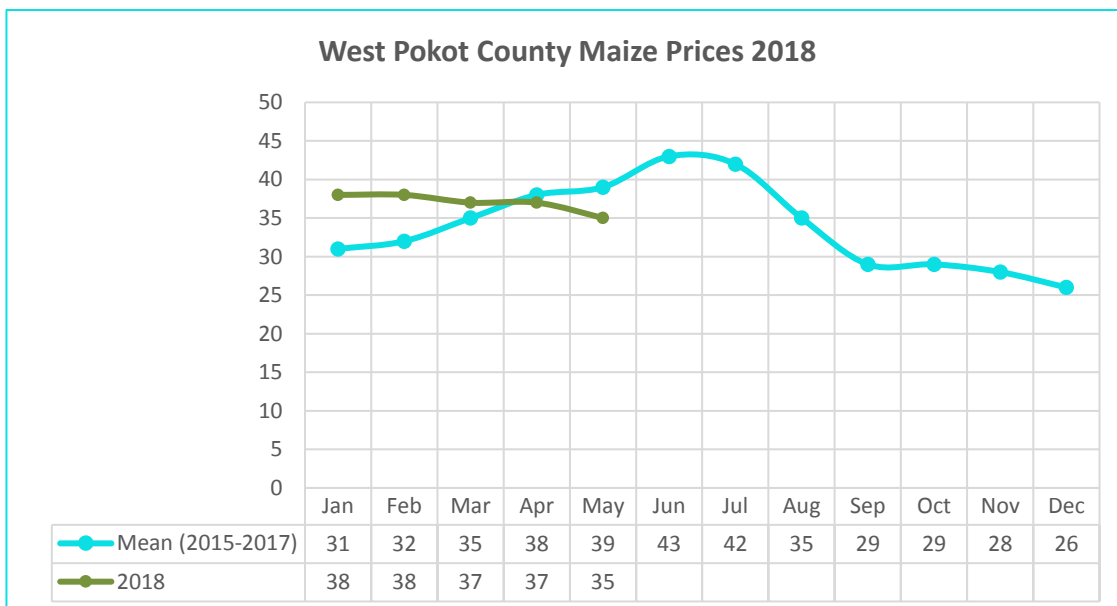


- The price stability is mainly attributed to adequate forage condition and sufficient recharge of water points resulting to good body condition.
- The current price of goat is however 14 percent above the LTA price for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

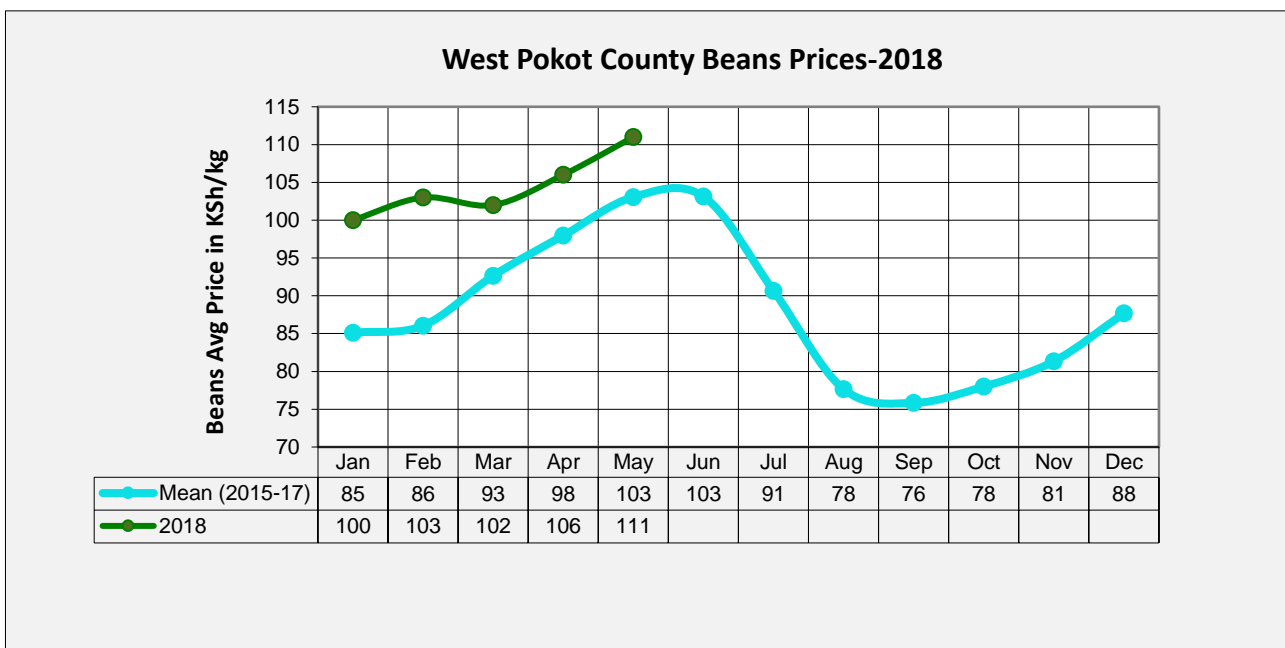
- The maize was sold at Kshs 35 per Kg during the month, having decreased from Ksh. 37 recorded in the previous month.
- The current price is 10 percent below the LTA price (Ksh 39) for the month under review.



- Generally, the decrease is largely due to constant external supply of cheap maize available at local markets.
- Majority of households depend more on local markets to replenish their stocks, maize price is likely to remain stable as the external maize sources remains cheap (Uganda and Trans Nzoia County) which are suppliers to the County.

4.2.2 Beans

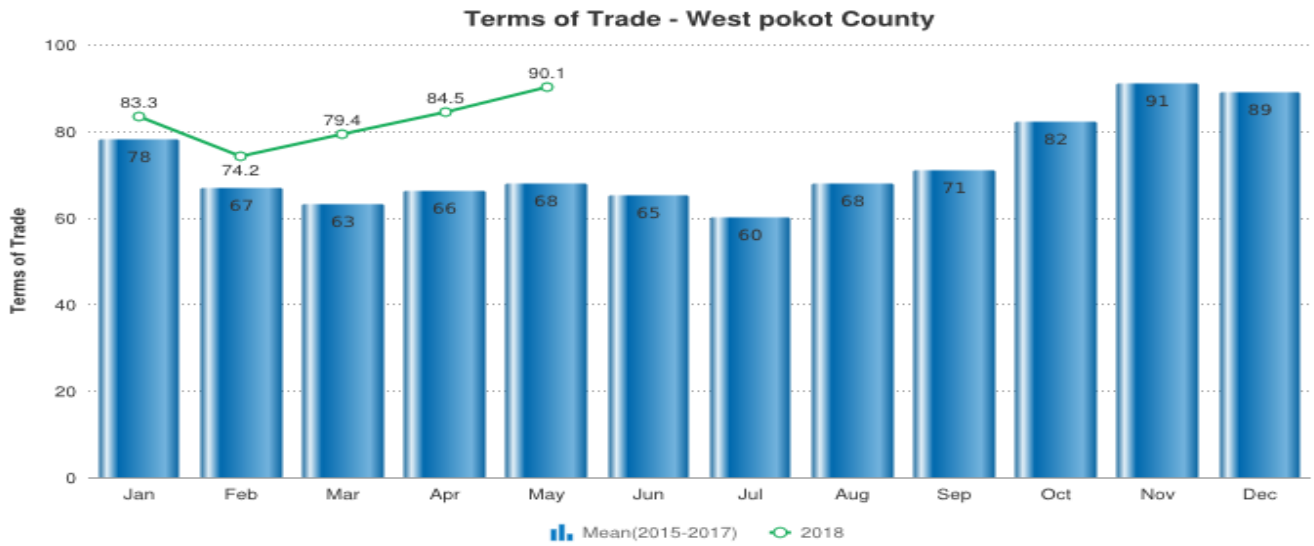
- During the month, beans traded at 111 per Kg; an increase from that recorded in April (106).
- The price increase is due to unstable external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supplies.
- The current market price of beans remains significantly above the LTA price (Ksh.103) for a normal season during this time of the year by 8 percent.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is 90 in May 2018, after increasing from 86 recorded in the previous month. This indicates that pastoralists would obtain more maize for the sale of a goat than they did during the previous month. The current ToT is 32 percent above the LTA ToT for the month.

- The increase in ToT is mainly attributed to stabilizing goat prices and the drop in maize prices.

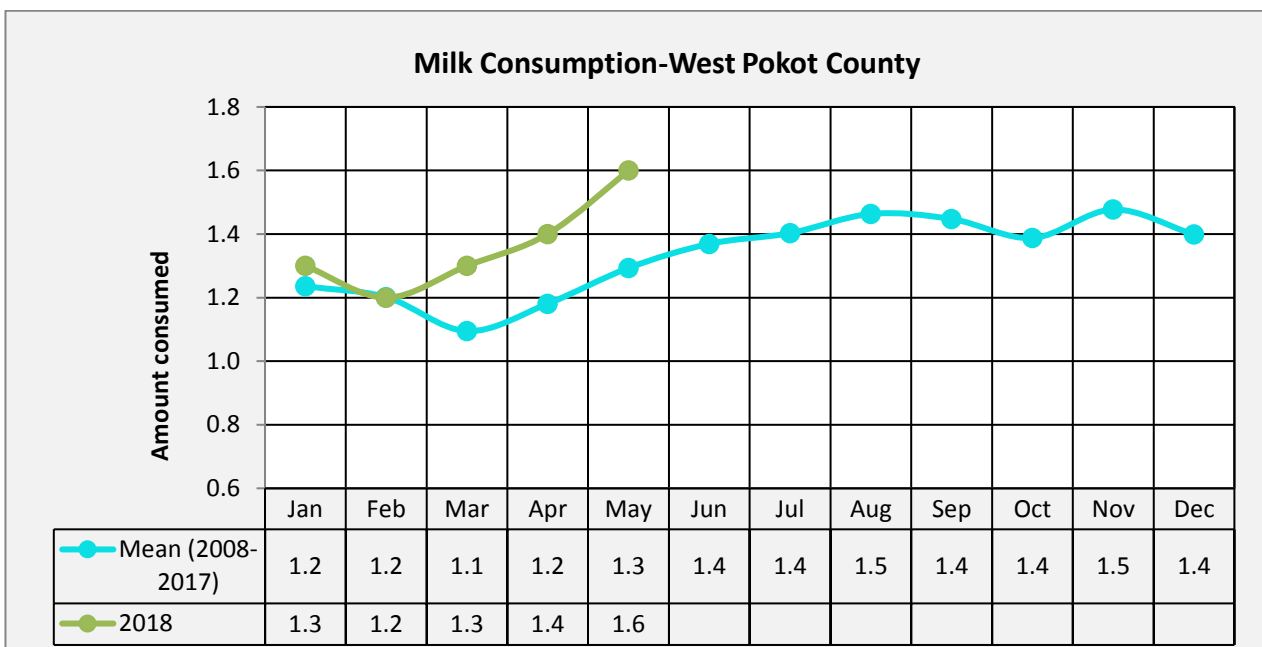


- Variation in TOT is anticipated over the next three months as the price of goat is expected to improve with the ongoing long rains coupled with decrease in maize prices during the same period.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- During the month, the households across livelihood zones consumed 1.6 litres of milk on average, mainly from cattle, indicating an increase from the previous month (1.4 litres)



- The increase in milk consumption level is attributed to the improved production resulting from regeneration of pastoral resources especially forage as well as reduced livestock trekking distances to water points.
- The quantity of milk consumed is however 23 % above the LTA for the same period of the year.

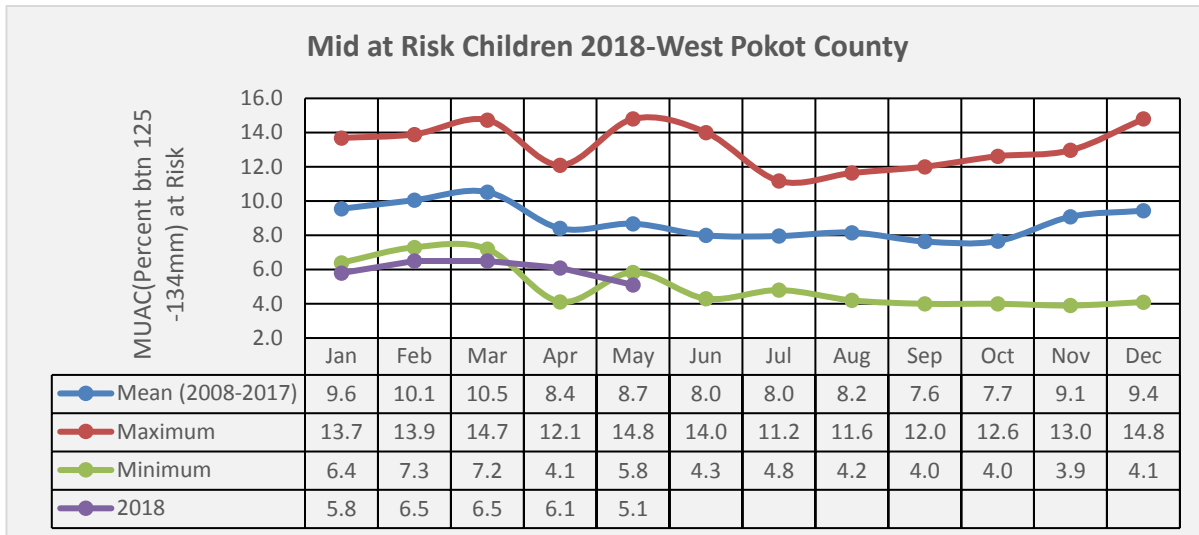
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The County recorded proportions of 57%, 41% and 2% of households having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively during the month under review. In comparison with the previous month, where the proportions were 59%, 36% and 5% for Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively, the FCS is generally acceptable within the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones during the month under review was at 42 up from 40 that was recorded during the previous month.
- There was a significant variation across the two livelihood zones with for instance 46% of households in the Pastoral zone being categorized as having Acceptable FCS in comparison with 75% households under the same category in the Agro-pastoral zone.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- In May, the proportion of 47 and 53 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled, where children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition was at 5.1 percent, being a decrease from 6.1 recorded in April 2018.
- The current proportion of children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition lies below the LTA value of 8.7 for the period in a normal year.



- The decrease in malnutrition among the under-fives is due to enhanced consumption and accessibility to milk including other essential health and nutrition commodities in the County. These were the main contributing factors for the decrease in number of children 'at risk' of malnutrition.

5.3.2 Health

- Typhoid and Malaria cases remained commonly reported ailments during the month among the sampled children.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- The CSI remained at 7.3, same as that recorded in the previous month. The stability in CSI shows that households continue to employ less strategies to cope, which could be due to steady food commodity availability and favourable prices in the markets.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zone recorded a CSI of 9.2 compared to 6 in the Pastoral livelihood zone, which is mainly attributed to enhanced livestock productivity along the Pastoral zone.
- The common consumption based coping strategies employed by majority of the households during the month included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- Restocking (goat and sheep): all sub-counties by Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project (RPLRP).
- Vaccination and treatment conducted by County Government in Pokot North Sub-County.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- No insecurity incidences were reported across the County

7.2 MIGRATION

- No abnormal migrations reported during the month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- As rains persist, the distance to water sources for both human and livestock is projected to continue decreasing due to enhanced recharge to water sources from the ongoing rains.
- Milk availability is expected to increase with the ongoing regeneration of pastoral resources supporting livestock production. Malnutrition cases are likely to decrease over the period.
- The livestock productivity is anticipated to improve with the ongoing long rains. The forage conditions will continue to improve resulting to enhanced livestock body condition hence better livestock prices and improved access to food due to better income.
- Cereal prices are expected to decrease while that of goat projected to increase, as such the terms of trade likely to continue improving over this period.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Train farmers on escaping seeds to the farmers in agro pastoral zones as incentive for crop production.

2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Carry out rangeland reseeding to pastoral zones to necessitate pastureland rehabilitation.
- Prepare farmers for pasture establishment skills to enable maximum utilization of the ongoing rains.

3. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Support peace building efforts along the Turkana and Marakwet borders so as to facilitate smooth market accessibility for majority of Pastoral communities in conflict prone zones.

4. HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR

- Conduct health preventive and promotion campaigns while providing health education on sanitation and proper utilization of water treatment chemicals so as to minimize the risk of water borne diseases outbreak.
- Provide more mosquito nets to areas with high risk of Malaria.

5. WATER SECTOR

- Train and support farmers with modern smart water storage technologies to enable maximum utilization of rain water.