

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**AUGUST EW PHASE**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- Substantial rainfall was received with reduced intensity across livelihood zones in the first and second dekads of the month. The temporal and spatial distribution was fair. The ongoing rainfall performance is generally normal.
- The vegetation condition depicts a steady trend across most parts as shown by the stability in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness. Forage condition remained good.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

- The livestock body condition across the County is good with a stable trend. Distance to water sources decreased.
- Milk production and consumption at household level improved. The Terms of Trade were favourable.
- Most households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score, with the coping strategy index dropping within the month.
- The proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition is still stable and within the normal range.

**Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification**

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>STABLE</b>

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	74	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	75	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Normal	Normal
Milk Production	1.9 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	119	>76
Milk Consumption	1.7 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.5 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

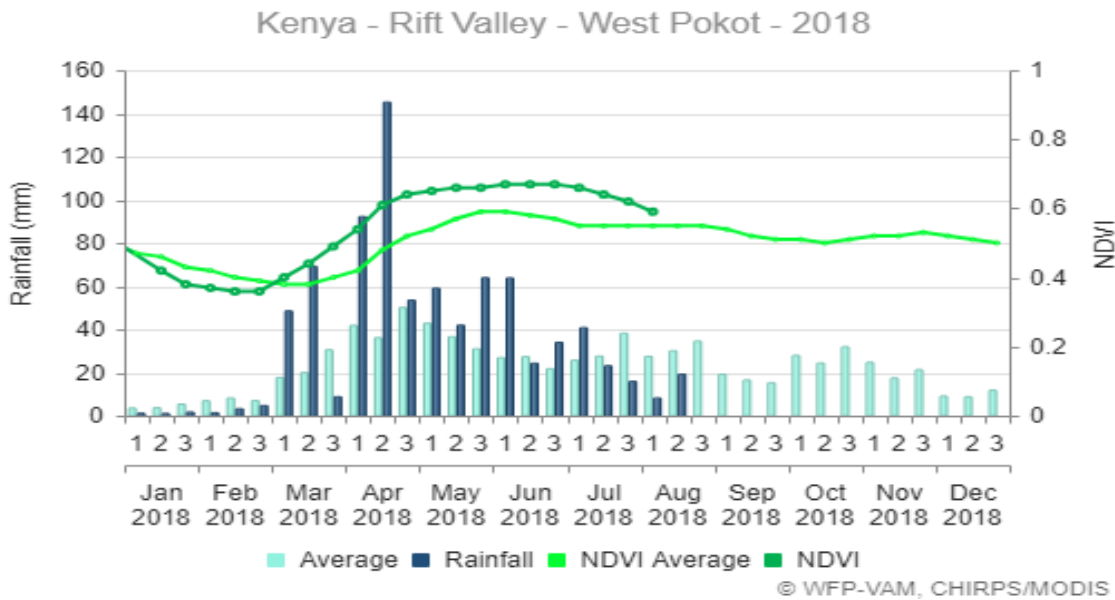
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	4.7	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	3.5	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	45	>35

<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

- Substantial rainfall was received in the month of August. The intensity slightly decreased as compared to the previous month as seen in both first and second dekads. There are some off-season rains being received, likely to decrease in September.
- The rainfall situation is normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- During the month, the dekadal rainfall decreased from 40.7 mm to 8.1 mm and 23 mm to 19.2 mm in the first and second dekads respectively. The amounts for both first and second dekads were below normal.
- The NDVI values were still above the historical NDVI values attributed to good rains. The trend is gradually declining with the decreasing rainfall intensity.

## 1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The temporal and spatial rainfall distribution was fair in both lowlands and highland areas owing to substantial rains received. The rainfall amounts and intensity was higher in the highlands than in lowlands.
- Generally, in August the County remained fairly wet.

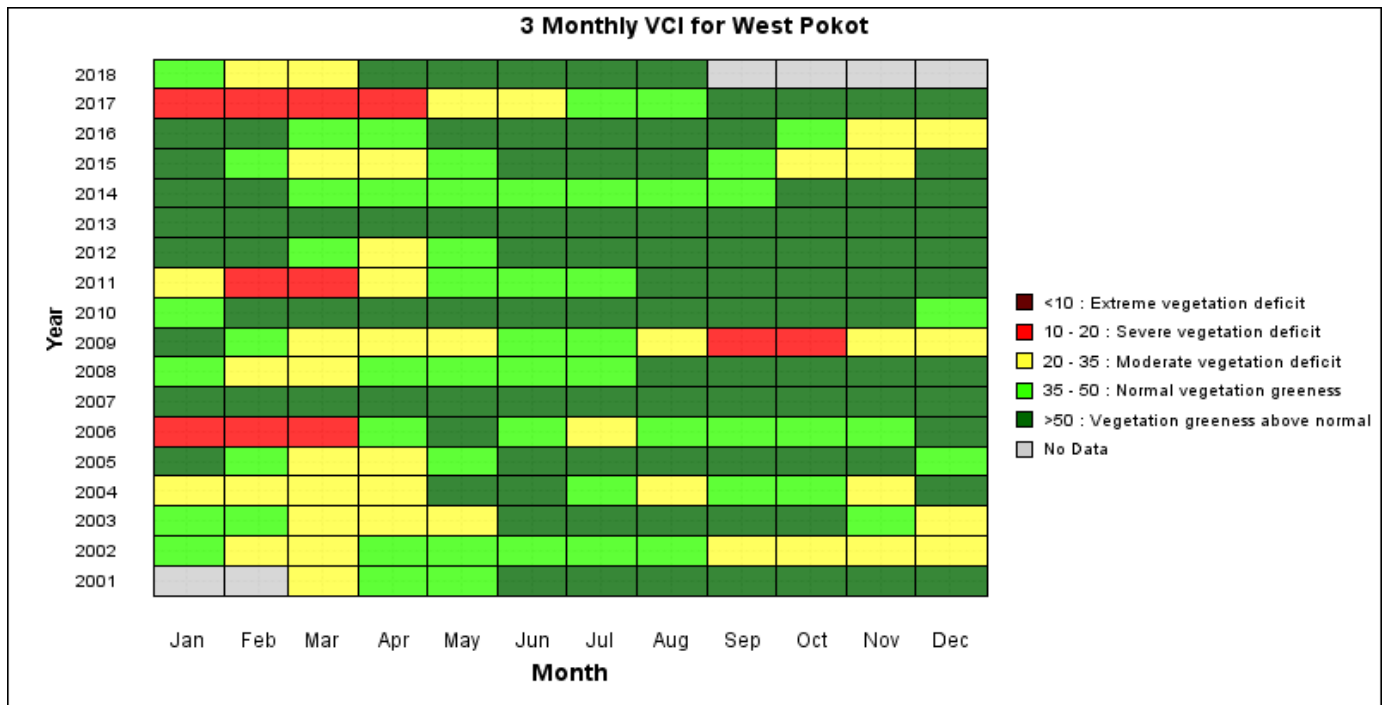
## 1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- No notable event such as floods, land/mud slides, lightning strikes and hailstorms occurred during the month.

## 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 is 74 in August, a decrease from 80 recorded in July. The current VCI shows above normal vegetation greenness condition.
- The VCI trend declined slightly across the County. All sub-counties still recorded above normal vegetation greenness band. The decrease from 83 to 75, 77 to 74, 74 to 71 and 83 to 74 in Pokot North, Pokot West, Pokot South and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The decrease in the VCI is owed to slow rejuvenation of vegetation cover due to reduced rainfall intensity in the month under review.

#### 2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community which reported that the pasture was good is 90 percent, a decrease from 100 percent stated in the previous month.
- Across livelihoods, the pasture condition is good. The communities reported that the condition was normal for the month. The trend is declining when compared to the previous month due to decreasing rainfall during the month under review.
- The pasture situation is anticipated to be sustained by the ongoing rains.

- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity in both livelihood zones.

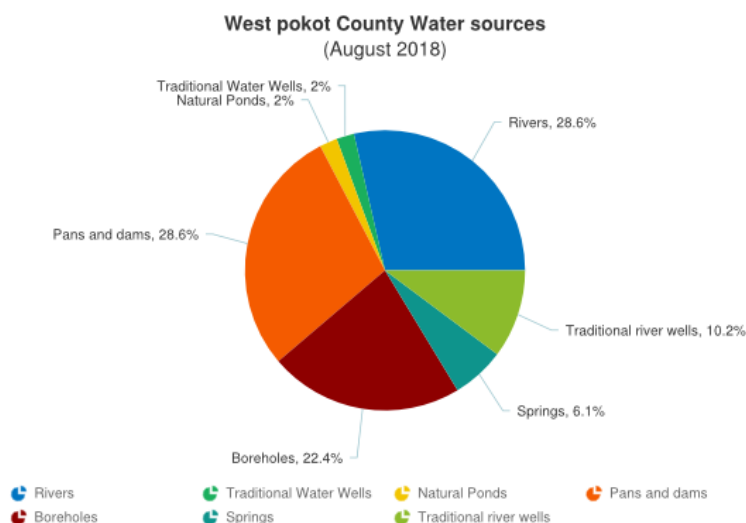
### **2.1.3 Browse**

- In August, the proportion of the sampled community which reported that the browse condition was good was 90 percent.
- The browse condition across livelihood zones is good. In comparison to the browse situation during such period of the year, the situation is normal. The quality of the browse condition is still good in relation to that of the previous month, a situation attributed to sufficient rainfall received during the month.
- The fear of conflict at historical hotspots still hampers the access to browse along the Pokot-Marakwet/Turkana borders.
- The quantity and quality of browse is good across livelihood zones and there was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

## **2.2 WATER RESOURCE**

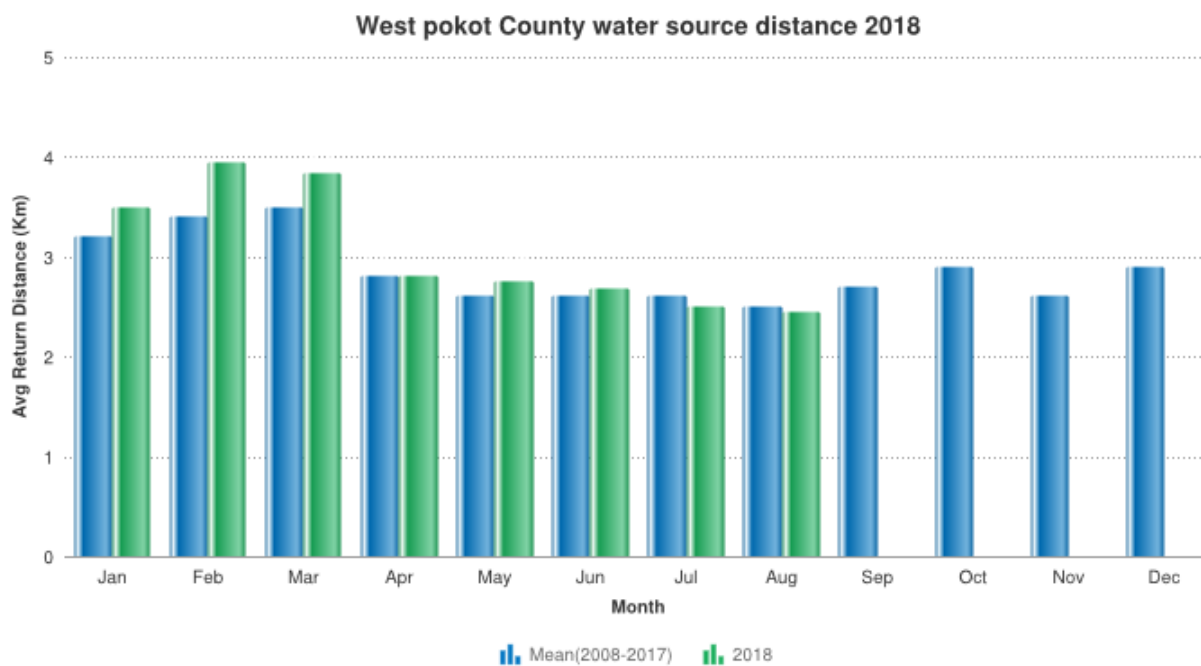
### **2.2.1 Sources**

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock is 28.6 for both rivers and pan dams, 22 and 10 for boreholes and traditional rivers respectively. Other water sources in use include wells and springs at 2 percent and 6 percent respectively.
- The water recharge levels are stable in comparison to the previous month due to substantial rains.
- Both rivers and boreholes water levels are good due to the steady recharge.
- The current main sources in use are the normal sources where households draw water during such time of the year.



### 2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- During the month, return distance to water source from the household remained at 2.5 km; same as the one recorded in the previous month. The current distance is 3 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA) distance.
- The agro-pastoral livelihood zone recorded slightly longer trekking distance to water source in comparison to the pastoral livelihood zone. The stability in distance is credited to the good surface water sources recharge in August.

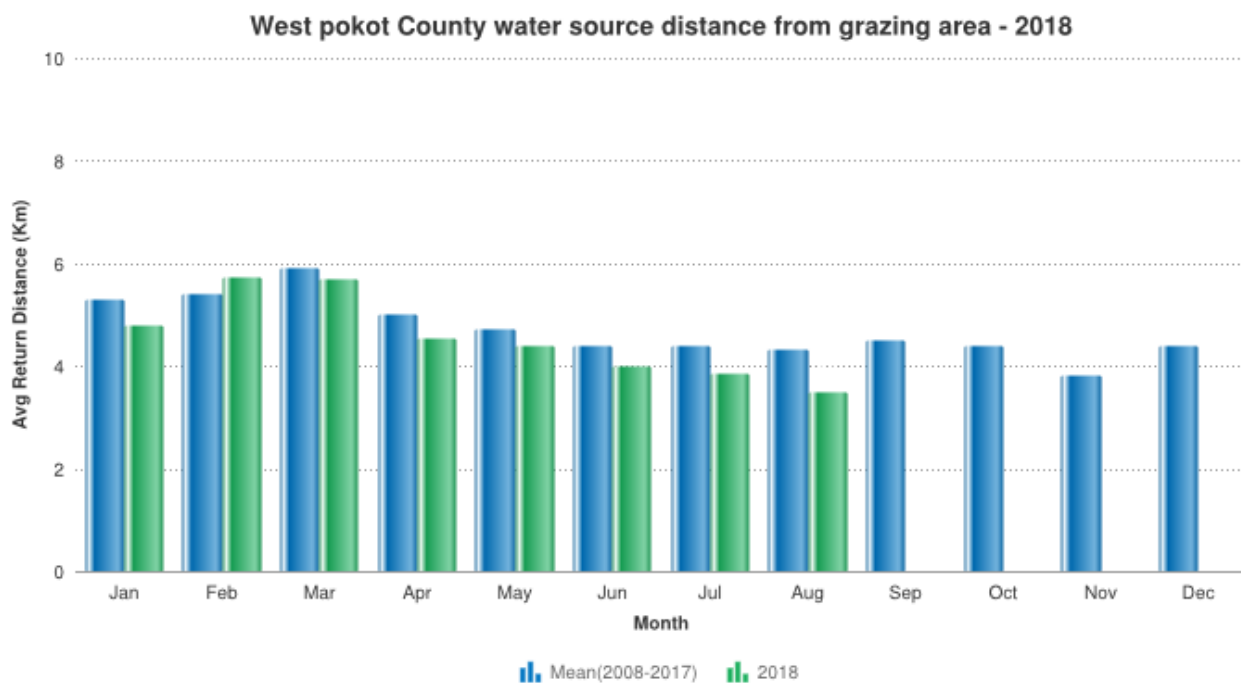


- The pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded stable waiting time at water source.

- The average household water consumption per person per day is stable at 9-13 litres in the pastoral zone while that in the agro-pastoral zone is still at 10-15 litres.
- The cost of accessing water at the source is 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 is at 3.5 km in August, portraying a slight decrease from 3.8 km reported in the previous month. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.4 km, the trekking distance lies below the normal range by 21 percent.
- The trekking time from grazing areas to water sources takes longer in pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.



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

## **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

### **3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

#### **3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition**

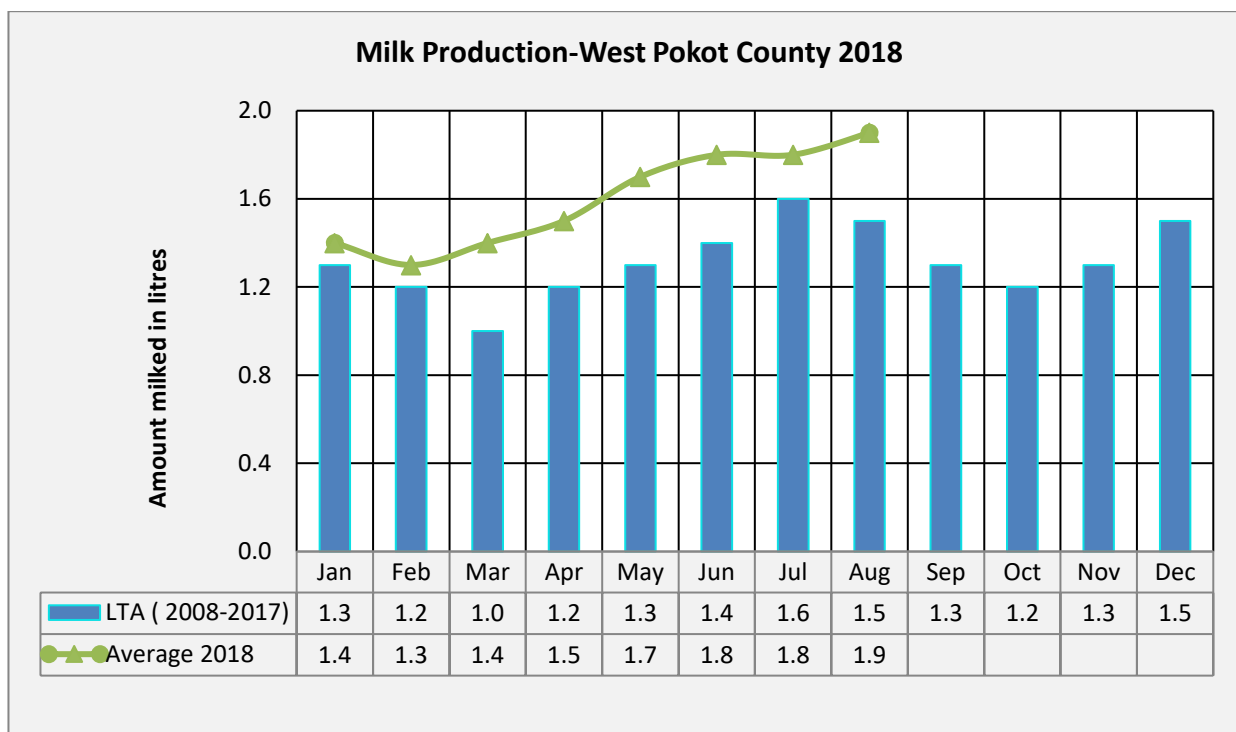
- Both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded good body condition for all livestock species.
- The livestock body condition is projected to remain stable across the livelihood zones owing to good performance of the rains.
- Body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to similar period during a normal year, due to good forage condition generated during the month. The trend is stable as a result of substantial rains received within the month.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition across the two livelihood zones.

#### **3.1.2 Livestock Diseases**

- PPR was reported in Riwo and Chepareria wards, Blackquarter in Batei ward and and CCPP in Pokot North Sub county.

#### **3.1.3 Milk Production**

- The County recorded an average of 1.9 litres of milk per household per day in August.
- The milk production increased as compared to that recorded in the month of July. Cattle still produced most milk within the County.
- The current household milk production is 27 percent above the LTA for the month.
- The increase in the household milk production during the month is due to the adequate forage in the normal grazing areas.



## 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. Maize crop is at ripening stage, with beans at harvesting and drying stage.
- The production and supply of horticultural crops such as mangoes and onions to major markets including Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is high due to persistent good rains.
- Harvesting of bulb onions is on-going in highland areas such as Wakor and Kokwatendwo which supply to Ortum market for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.
- Horticultural farming is still thriving with sufficient rains received along the production zones of Kabichbich, Sebit, Wakor, Wei Wei, and Lomut.

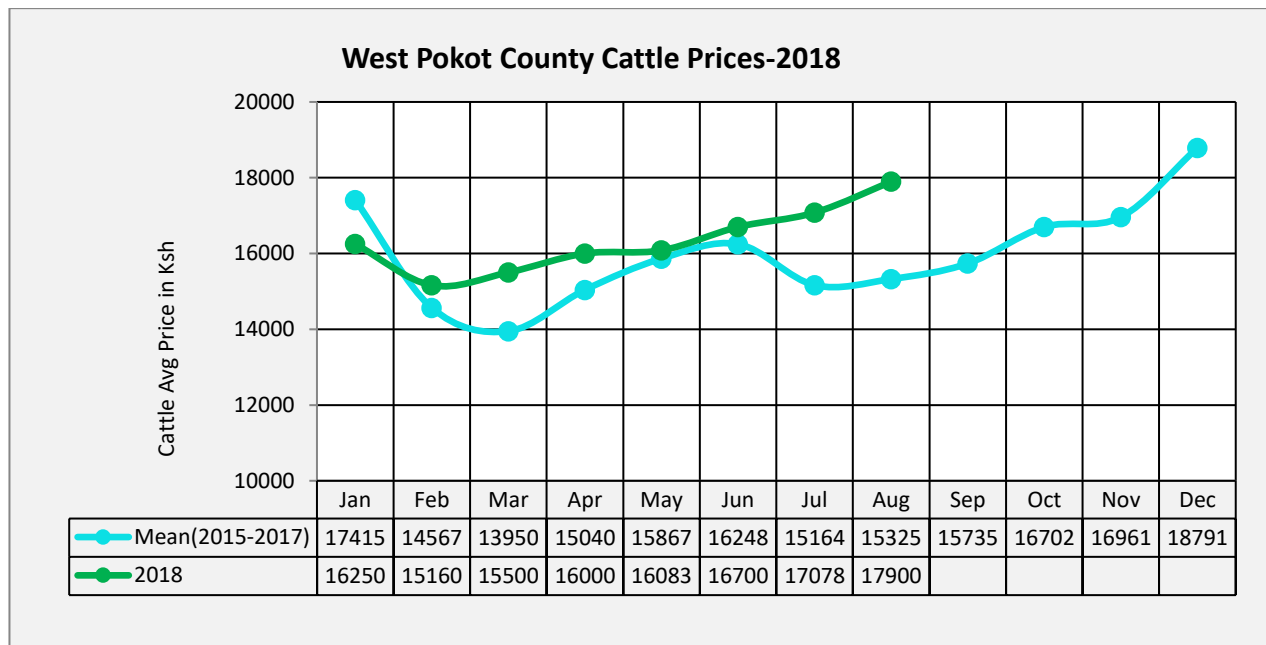


## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

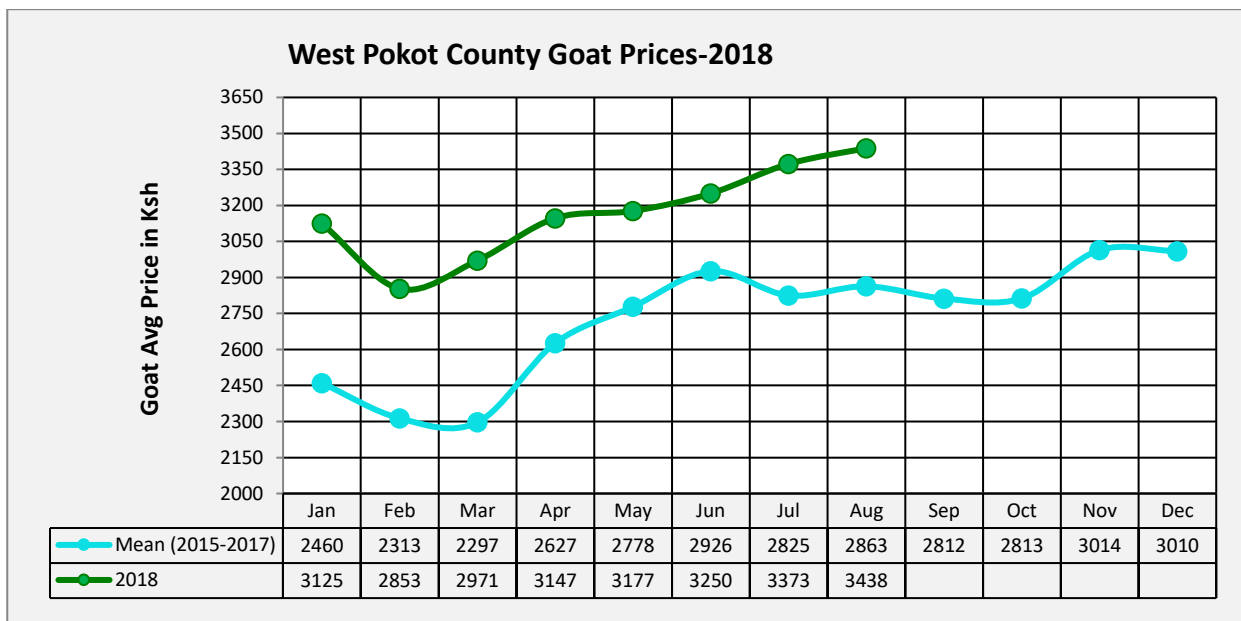
- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 17,900 in August, which denoted price increase as compared to Kshs 17,078 recorded in the previous month.



- The increase in prices is due to good forage condition resulting from adequate rains received, which enhanced the cattle body condition which ensured farmers obtain high prices in the market. Additionally, farmers had low tendency to sell their stock, creating low supply of animals at markets, leaving the few supplied going at higher prices due to high demand.
- The current cattle price is above the LTA price (Ksh 15,325) for the month by 17 percent.

#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- During the month, the County recorded an average price for a 2-year old medium size goat at Kshs 3,438 across livelihood zones in the month under review. The price increased in comparison to that of the previous month (Kshs. 3,373).

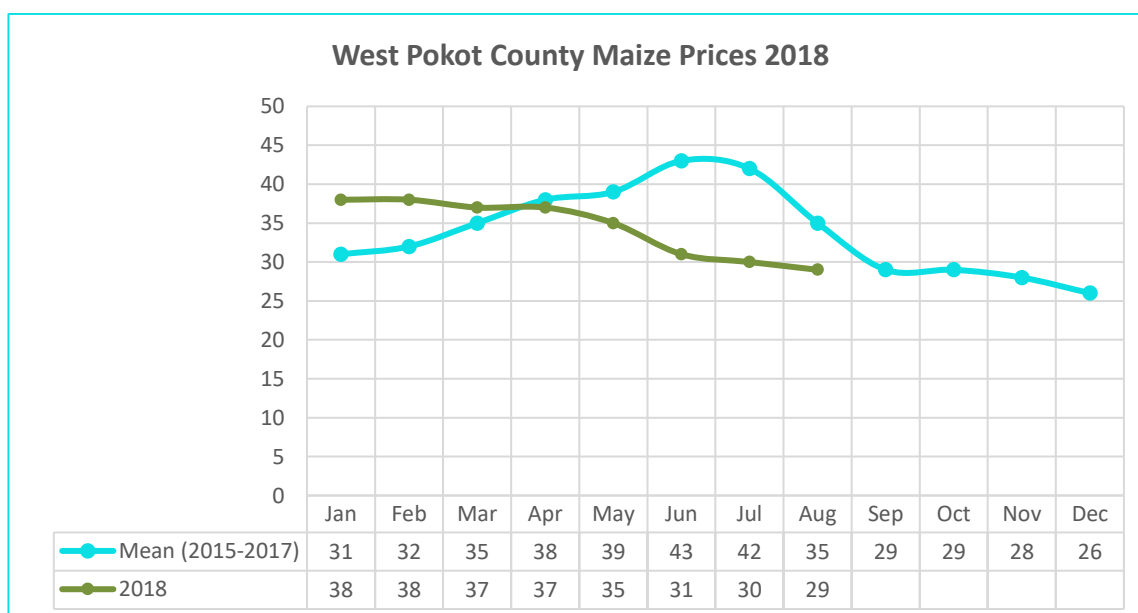


- The price surge is mainly due to sufficient forage condition and good recharge of water points causing good body condition.
- The current price of goat is however 20 percent above the LTA price for the month.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

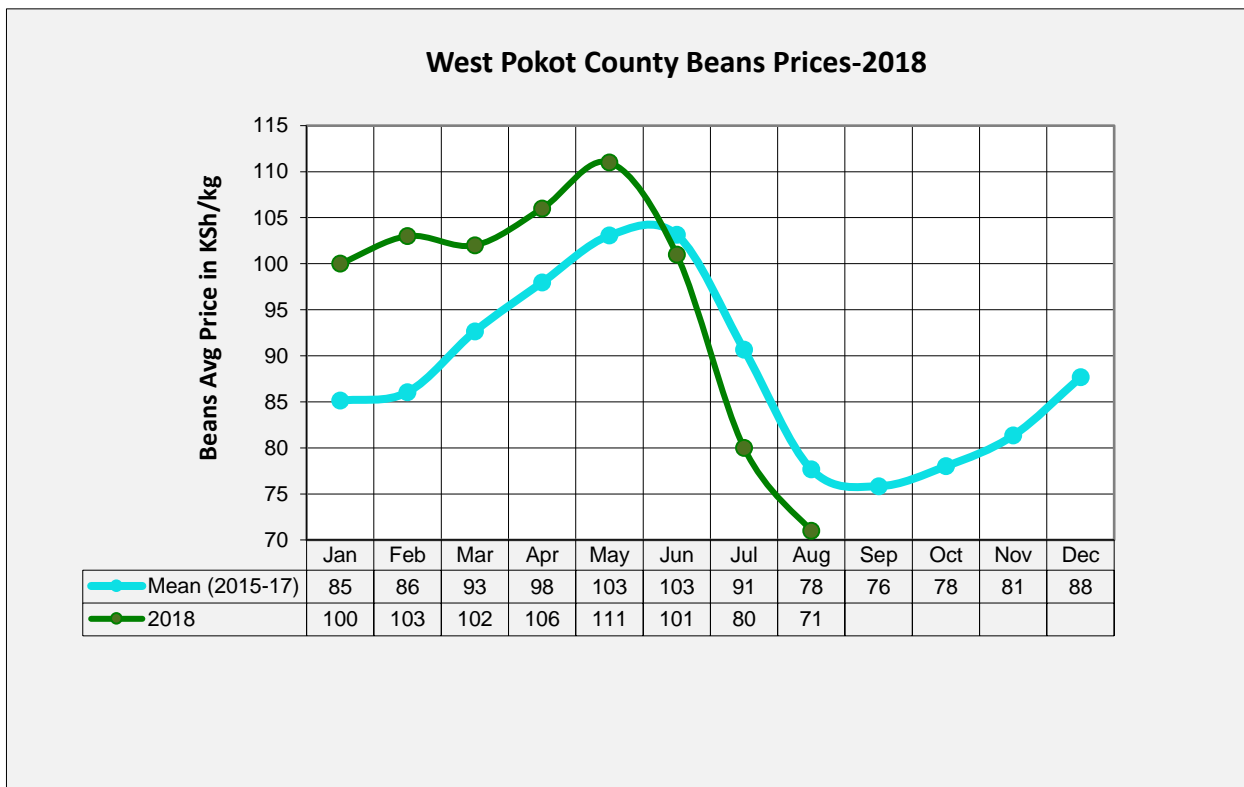
- The maize was sold at Kshs 29 per Kg in August. The price is stable compared to that recorded in July.
- The current price is 17 percent below the LTA price (Ksh35) for the month under review.



- The stability is mainly attributed to steady external supply of cheap maize available at local markets.
- Majority of households depend more on local markets to replenish their stocks, maize price is expected to drop as the external maize sources remain cheap (Uganda and Trans Nzoia County), which are suppliers to the County.

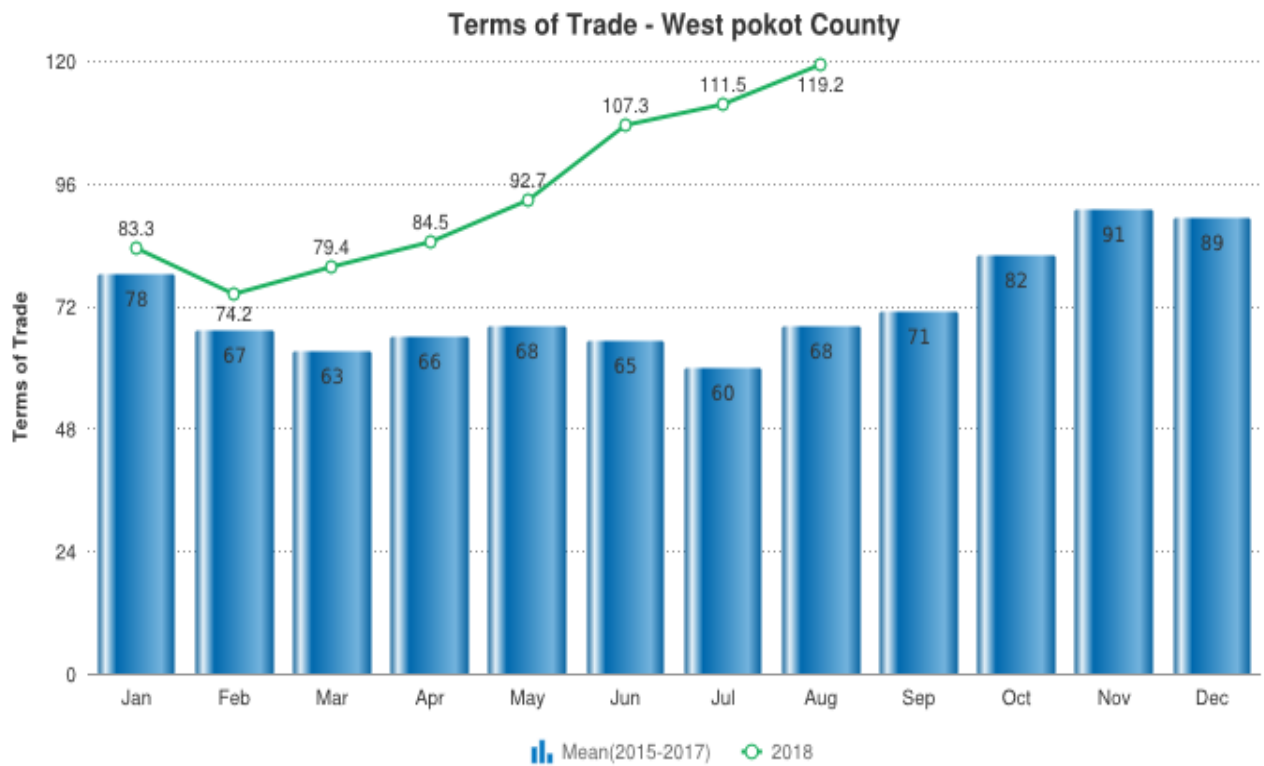
#### 4.2.2 Beans

- During the month, beans was traded at Kshs 71 per Kg; a decrease from Kshs 80 recorded in July.
- The price decrease is due to peak local harvesting period along with cheap external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supply.
- The current market price of beans is below the LTA price (Ksh.78) for a normal season during this time of the year by 9 percent.



### 4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

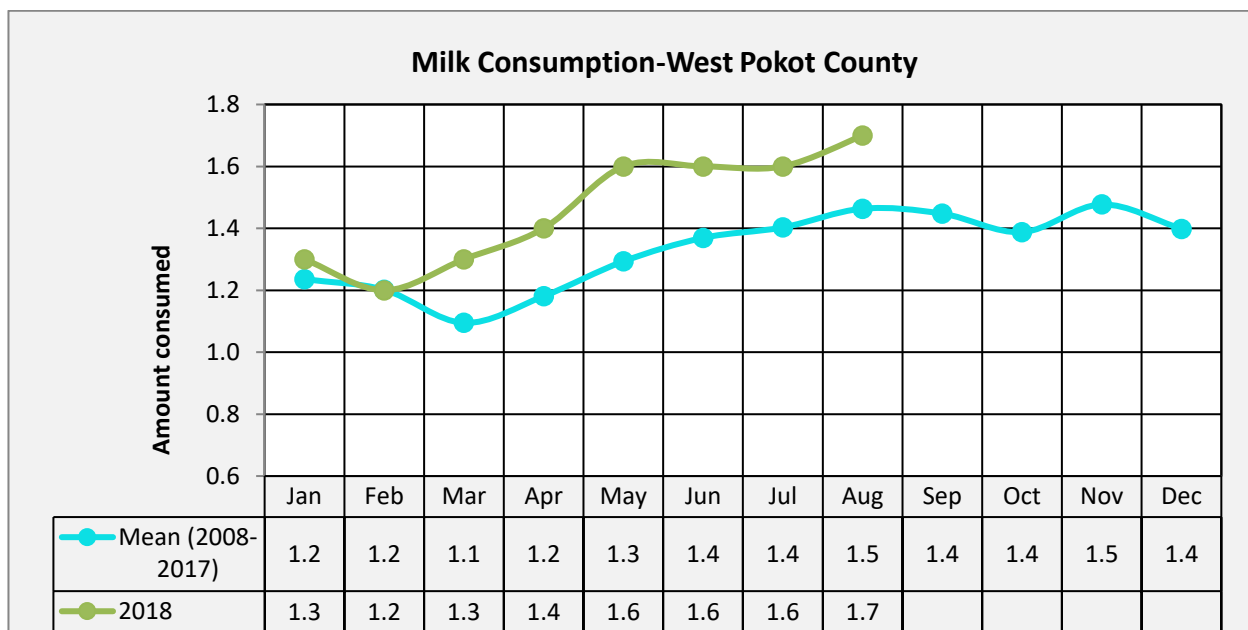
- In August, the Terms of Trade (TOT) was 119, after increasing from 112 recorded in the previous month. This shows that pastoralists would obtain more maize for the sale of a goat than they did in the previous month of July.
- The increase in ToT is attributed to increasing goat prices and the decreasing maize prices.
- The variation in TOT is projected over the next three months as the price of goat is expected to stabilize with the ongoing rains coupled with falling 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 1.7 litres of milk on average an increase from that recorded in July (1.6 litres).



- The increase in milk consumption level is owed to the sustained production resulting from good rejuvenation of forage as well as significant decrease in livestock trekking distances to water points.
- The amount of milk consumed is 13% above the LTA for the same period of the year.

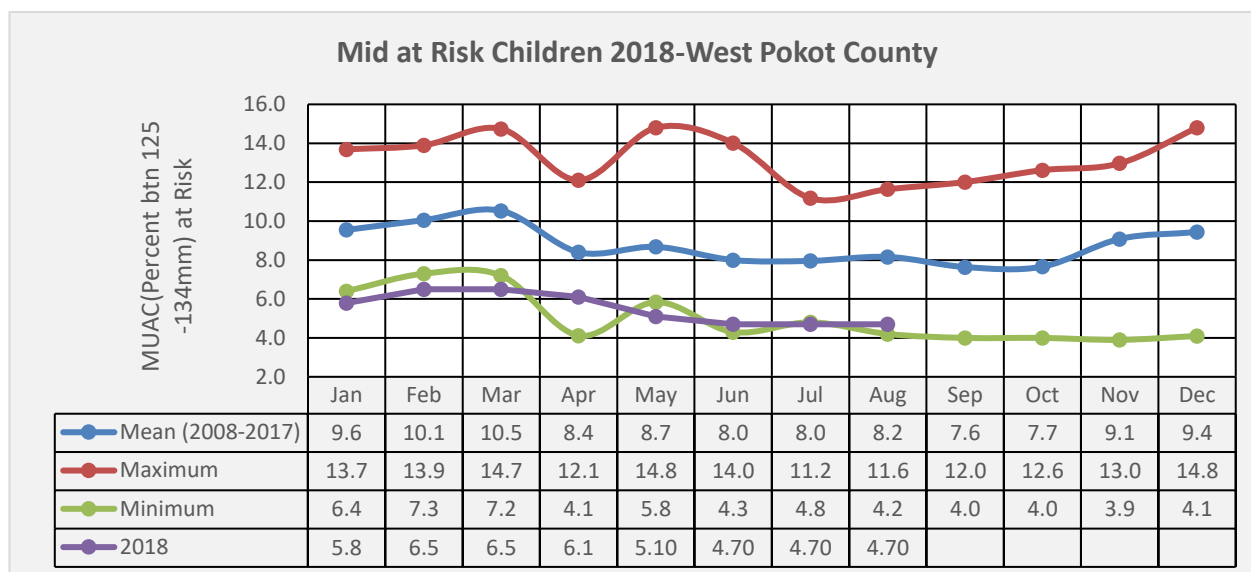
### 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The households' proportions of 73%, 25% and 2% were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively, during the month under review. The score increased from that recorded in the previous month. The FCS is generally acceptable within the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones during the month under review was 45; an increase from 43 that was recorded in July.
- There was a significant variation across the two livelihood zones with for instance 57% of households in the Pastoral zone being categorized as having Acceptable FCS in comparison with 98% households under the same category in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.

## 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- During the month, the proportion of 46 and 54 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled, where children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition were at 4.7 percent, same as that recorded in the previous month.
- The current proportion of children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition lies below the LTA value of 8.2 for the period in a normal year.



- The stability in nutrition status among the under-fives is attributed to increased consumption and access to milk, including other essential health and nutrition commodities within the County. These were the major contributors to the decrease in number of children 'at risk' of malnutrition.

### 5.3.2 Health

- In August, Malaria cases remained commonly reported ailments during the month among the sampled children.

## 5.4 COPING STRATEGY

### 5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- During August, the CSI was at 3.5, a drop from 5.3 recorded in July. The decrease in CSI shows that households employed fewer strategies to cope, which could be linked to stable food commodity availability and favourable prices in the markets.
- Pastoral livelihood zone recorded a CSI of 4.5 compared to 2 in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, which is mainly due to improved livestock productivity along the pastoral livelihood 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**

- County Government in Pokot Central and Pokot North Sub-County conducted ring vaccination.

## **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**

- Milk availability is expected to remain stable with the significant rejuvenation of pastoral resources supporting livestock production. In the event, malnutrition cases are likely to remain stable over the period, as children would have enough milk.
- Cereal prices are predicted to continue decreasing while that of goat expected to increase. As such, the terms of trade likely to improve over this period.
- The livestock productivity is anticipated to remain stable, since the forage conditions are likely to continue improving, resulting to good livestock body condition hence improved livestock prices and enhanced access to food due to better income.
- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is expected to continue dropping due to sufficient recharge of water sources expected from the likely persistent rains.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

- Upscale ring vaccination to curb PPR cases reported in Kapchok, Riwo and Masol and neighbouring wards.

### **2. WATER SECTOR**

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

### **3. 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.

### **4. PEACE AND SECURITY**

- Sustain 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.